Dr Rochelle Eime is a Senior Research Fellow from the University of Ballarat and Victoria University; Rochelle’s research aims to provide evidence to inform sport and policy makers on how to grow participation in sport.

Through this Fellowship Rochelle is developing the Sport and Recreation Spatial project. The Sport and Recreation Spatial project provides a national geographic information system (GIS) for presenting spatial data relevant to all levels of the sport and recreation sector. This will provide the sport and recreation sector with increased capacity for research, strategic planning, and development of participation programs and facilities.

The four key areas to this Fellowship are identifying and investigating:

- participation levels and trends in sport
- influences on sport participation
- the value, including the health benefits of sports participation
- the nexus between facilities and sports participation

The Fellowship will allow for the integration of multiple large datasets to provide a strong evidence base for the sport and recreation sector. Capacity will be increased for strategic planning and development of participation programs and facilities and the national implementation of this system will provide social, health and economic benefits.

This project is a collaborative project involving State Sporting Associations, VicHealth, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Vicsport, the Australian Sports Commission, the University of Ballarat and Victoria University.

The support VicHealth provides through this Fellowship will greatly assist in building the capacity for Health through Sport research and building the Nexus between the sport and health sectors.