

## This Girl Can Bianca Bugeja – Mildura Roller Derby League

"I have never been a sporty or naturally athletic person - I was always the chubby unco kid, but after years of building up the confidence to walk into training and admiring the sport, I was hooked instantly! What drew me in the most is that no 'labels' matter - age, ability, sexual orientation, cultural background, or any other stereotype being thrown at someone - the derby community is sure to break it down and accept each person for the awesome individual they are rolling next to and into! This includes me - I do Roller Derby and I also have Autism Spectrum Disorder. I am so proud to be a part of this inclusive sport. To be excluded throughout life due to being that bit 'different' and then to be welcomed into not only a social group but a family, was and is AMAZING.

Over the past two years I have fallen (A LOT), had melt downs, cried, bled, dislocated a knee and sweated a bucket load but NEVER have I felt more determined, strong, powerful and included than I do when I am on skates with my derby family around me cheering me on."

