



Sports CONNECT

Connecting Sport and People with Disabilities

Can you answer YES to any of the following questions?

- Are you involved with a disability service organisation that sees value for people with a disability participating in sport and physical recreation?
- Do you want increased health benefits for people with disabilities?
- Do you need fresh ideas for new, innovative programs?
- Do you want your clients to be physically active?
- Are you looking for funding opportunities?
- Do you want to link with sporting groups/ recreational facilities that are looking to be more inclusive?

If you answered YES to any of these questions then Sports CONNECT may interest you!

Through the work of Sports CONNECT, an Australian Sports Commission initiative, more people with disabilities are recognising the many social and health benefits resulting from involvement in sport. At the same time, sports organisations are increasingly becoming aware of the significant benefits of involving people with disabilities, either as participants, administrators, volunteers, coaches or officials.

Sports CONNECT involves a range of initiatives to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sport. One of these initiatives involves assisting state sporting associations to develop participation opportunities for people with disabilities, by developing strategies to help them better understand how to include people with a disability in their sport, presenting an opening for innovative program delivery within your organisation.

This also provides a great opportunity for disability organisations to create a demand for sporting opportunities among people they work with. The WA Sports CONNECT State Coordinator is committed to working with your disability organisation to investigate avenues for you to develop partnerships with sporting organisations to ensure that people with disabilities you work with are experiencing the many benefits of being involved in sport and physical activity.



www.dsr.wa.gov.au

Sport and recreation builds stronger, healthier, happier and safer communities.

For more information please contact sportsconnect@dsr.wa.gov.au

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Department of
Sport and Recreation



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

What benefits can Sports CONNECT bring to your organisation?

- **Free training** (Sports CONNECT Education) – this training will assist you to include people you work with in sport.
- **Advice guidance and support** to develop partnerships with the sport sector.
- Sports Ability Kit – an **inclusive games kit** designed to encourage people with disabilities to get involved in sport and physical activity and act as a medium for the interaction of people with and without a disability in a sporting environment.
- **Network Forums** including disability organisations (demand) and sporting organisations (supply) – Linking with (supply) sporting organisations that are looking for participants for their existing programs.
- **Assistance and ideas** on how to develop sport programs – simple ongoing programs to encourage people with disabilities to become physically active.
- **Support** with developing opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sport on a regular basis by providing current information from the sporting sector.
- **Links to volunteer** organisations – potential assistance with administration and program implementation and delivery.
- Access to **alternative funding** sources.

How Sports CONNECT may look at a local level

The Sports CONNECT State Coordinator working with a lawn bowls association is able to help the association identify lawn bowls clubs in a particular region that are willing to develop inclusive programs for people with a disability. The coordinator can then follow the same process with disability organisations that value sport and want the people they work with to be physically active. The Sports CONNECT State Coordinator can then begin connecting the willing lawn bowls clubs with the willing disability sector organisations to develop partnerships. The outcome is that the individual has the opportunity to participate in a sporting activity, develop networks and become a valued member of his/her local community club.

The development of sustainable inclusive sports programs for people with disabilities is dependent on sport organisations, sport organisations for the disabled and disability organisations developing links and partnerships to provide the best possible service delivery and sport opportunities for people with disabilities.

The ultimate aim: People with disabilities being able to access sport as members of the community in which they live.

Sports CONNECT



Sports CONNECT is a national framework that aims to build pathways for people with disabilities to get involved in sport, by creating and developing relationships between sports and disability organisations.

Through Sport CONNECT, the following sports are interested in including people with disabilities:

Athletics, Baseball, Football League, Shooting, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Volleyball, Basketball, Bowls, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Netball, Rowing, Softball, Surfing, Surf Life Saving, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Tenpin

