



ASAPD

AUSTRALIAN SPORTING ALLIANCE
FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Overview Report 2020/21

As part of the National Sport Plan (Sport 2030), the Australian Government committed to sport and physical activity becoming more accessible to people with a disability. Since 2019, nine National Sporting Organisations for people with a Disability (NSODs) have collaborated to create a collective vision to represent the needs of individuals with a disability, impairment, or limitation throughout Australia.

The NSODs formed a key peak agency for sport and physical activity for people with a disability – the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability, ASAPD. Its vision is that all Australians have an opportunity to engage in sport and physical activity in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

The NSODs involved represent lead organisations whose participant numbers, members and volunteers involve millions of people across Australia, and include Blind Sports Australia, Deaf Sports Australia, Disability Sports Australia, Disabled Wintersport Australia, Paralympics Australia, Riding for the Disabled Association Australia, Special Olympics Australia, Sport Inclusion Australia and Transplant Australia.

The members' history is rich dating back to 1954, with a combined experience of more than 430 years and have countless examples of improving lives. Sport Australia has worked with the Alliance since its inception by providing funding and staffing support to enhance its development and sustainability.

ASAPD focus includes:

- 01 Demonstrating the positive benefits to Australian individuals, governments and communities from participation by people with a disability in sport and physical activity;
- 02 Influencing public policy to better support access to sports participation for people with a disability;
- 03 Promoting demand among people with a disability to participate in sport and physical activity; and
- 04 Influencing Australian sporting organisations to better provide for access and participation in their sport by people with a disability.

The Alliance have set up four key working groups to drive its agenda, which is led by Project Coordinator (initially by Deidre Anderson and now by Garry West-Bail), these include:

PARTICIPATION & PATHWAYS:

Working to assist the 4.7m Australians with a disability to be active and participate in sport and physical activity.

GOVERNMENT & ADVOCACY:

Collectively achieving greater policy and funding outcomes with Governments that enhances the lives of individuals and their communities.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION:

Driving consistency in research and innovation to improve retention and overall experience of participants.

COLLABORATION & SHARED SERVICES:

Exploring cost efficiencies and delivering more funding to programs that change lives.

Alliance Partners



Following is a summary of some of our key outcomes achieved over the past year:

- > Employed a part-time ASAPD Project Coordinator.
- > Elected a Chair (Robyn Smith – Sport Inclusion Australia) and Vice Chair Phil Harper – Deaf Sports Australia).
- > Held monthly ‘Oversight group’ meetings with representatives from each of the nine member organisations.
- > Close liaison with Sport Australia to ensure governance matters and the future of the ASAPD are fully supported.
- > Finalised an information brochure and distributed to key stakeholders.
- > Developed a communications plan and stakeholder map.
- > Organised a research and innovation group comprised of experts in the disability and sport and physical activity field.
- > Improved efficiencies in sharing of resources between the agencies.
- > Developed a grant evaluation framework.
- > Promoted sport during and post COVID-19, including awareness of increasing opportunities for those with a disability.
- > Made submissions to the National Disability Strategy 2030, National Preventative Health Strategy, and National Employment Strategy.
- > Met with Ministers/Opposition for sport, health, NDIS/disability to advocate for people with a disability. The power of this collective group enabled the ASAPD Chairs to get an immediate response and reception with Ministers and governments.
- > Lobbying the federal Health Department regarding the Census and National Disability Survey, to include questions on ongoing participation rates/or lack of for people with a disability.
- > Developed (with KPMG) a submission to Government for a national economic and social impact survey on sport and disability to be completed within Australia.
- > Developed ASAPD social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), which were launched to coincide with the commencement of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.
- > Preparing a pre-Budget submission to Government for ongoing funding for the ASAPD to enable key projects/programs to develop.
- > Organised a speaking position at the plenary of the National Sports Convention in November 2021.
- > Working directly with Sport Integrity Australia to ensure all their policy documents are accessible to all of the people ASAPD represent.
- > Discussing the opportunity to share staff across the ASAPD (e.g., Integrity Manager).
- > Identifying a clear plan for events and inclusion activities through to 2032 and beyond to ensure *all* of the people our nine Alliance groups represent have access to sport and opportunities along the way.
- > Negotiating with the Office of Sport to encourage key international sporting events which have been awarded to Australia to adopt a National Inclusion Plan as part of their planning.