

Victorian Regional Sport 2014 to 2018

A Regional Sport Victoria statement to State Government

“We must support, maintain and strengthen existing regional club-based structures so they have a solid governance platform to maximise participation levels through quality programming which will inevitably lead to closing the rural/regional – metro health gap.”

Regional Sport Victoria

“The Access for All Abilities Program plays a critical role in supporting state government policy that promotes individual choice, the use of inclusive community settings and bridging the regional-metro gap in terms of physical activity and health outcomes for people with disabilities.”

Regional Sport Victoria

Inside:

State Government - Support for Regional Sport Victoria Affiliates

Regional Sport & Recreation Program

Access for All Abilities Program

Rural/Regional – Metro Health Gap

The State’s Regional Growth Agenda

State Government - Regional Sport and Recreation Policy Opportunities

Regional Sport and Recreation Lens

- Legislative change affecting regional sport and recreation
- Regional legacies from marquee major events based in Melbourne
 - Significant Sporting Events Programs

Regional Statement

Conclusion

Commitments sought from State Government

Regional Sport Victoria’s work



Regional Sport Victoria (RSV) is the peak body that provides advocacy and leadership for nine Regional Sports Assemblies (RSA) across the state of Victoria. RSV provides a platform for collaborative strategic thinking and RSA program development, which supports the transfer of information, support and club development opportunities for the sports sector in regional Victoria.

With a unified position RSV is able to positively support our funding partners and provide a service not replicated in any other state or territory across Australia. By supporting community sport and recreation in regional Victoria, sporting clubs have access to training, information, advice, skill development, linkages and advocacy support.

RSV works across **48 local government authorities** in Victoria that covers a population of **1.5 million Victorians**. The RSV membership has **8,500 community based sport and recreation clubs** with a geographic coverage of **90% of Victoria**

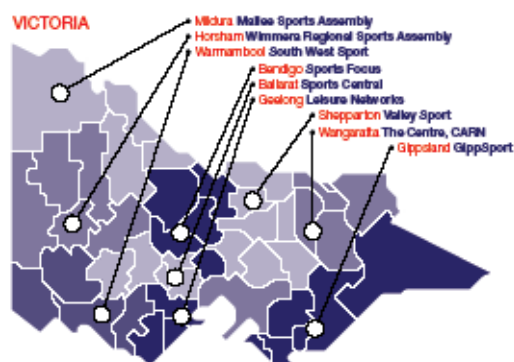
In regional Victoria our network is:

- Connected to local sport and recreation clubs
- Delivering State Government and peak body funded programs
- Facilitating and delivering training, support and advice to community sport and recreation clubs and their volunteers
- Advocating and contributing to local sport and recreation planning
- Independent and stand alone

This level of support and assistance is a unique asset for Victoria. No other sporting body in the nation has the capacity to deliver services in this coordinated manner.

Regional Sport Victoria through its affiliate members is well placed to support state policy to promote, support and grow regional Victoria through community building.

Geographical Coverage:	214,500 Square Kilometres (90% of Victoria)
Population Reach:	1,500,000 Victorians
Regional Presence:	9 Regions with 17 regional offices across Victoria
Club Connections:	8,500 sporting & recreation clubs within the regional catchment
Partnerships:	State & regional partnerships across sport, health, education, business and government
Skills:	Training (delivering, co-ordinating, developing); providing advice & information; advocacy; networking & project delivery
Capacity:	Able to reach out to grass roots clubs, develop club & volunteer capacity, promote health benefits of physical activity & foster new partnerships, across regional Victoria



State Government Support

The Victorian State Government currently provides funding to the network members to deliver two key and essential regional programs:

- Access for All Abilities (AAA) Program
- Regional Sport and Recreation (RSR) Program



Access for All Abilities Program

“Access for All Abilities is a Victorian Government initiative coordinated by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

The program supports and develops inclusive sport and recreation opportunities for people with a disability throughout Victoria.

Families, friends, carers, clubs, sporting associations, leisure centres and community groups can get involved. Everyone involved benefits from Access for All Abilities”

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/sport/inclusive-sport/Access-For-All-Abilities>

The AAA Program aligns with the Victorian Disability Act 2006 and the principles of current and emerging disability reforms under the Victorian State Disability Plan 2013–2016 and the National Disability Strategy 2010–2020 (that aims to increase determination, choice and access to the mainstream community for those with a disability).

State Context:

The Victorian state disability plan 2013–2016

Vision: An inclusive Victorian society that enables people with a disability, their families and carers to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.

The proportion of all people with a disability is higher in rural and regional Victoria (22 per cent) than in the major cities (17 per cent).

The same trend applies for people with the need for assistance with a core activity, which is 4.3 per cent in metropolitan Melbourne, compared with 5 per cent outside Melbourne.

Source: p13 State Disability Plan 2013 – 2016 Companion Document

National Context:

National Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020

It is a national approach to enabling people with a disability to fulfil their potential and participate as equal citizens in society.

It has a strong focus on making the mainstream system more responsive to people with a disability and their families and carers.

Outcomes

1. Inclusive and accessible communities

Policy Direction 1

Increased participation of people with disability, their families and carers in the social, cultural, religious, recreational and sporting life of the community.

"64 per cent of people without disabilities take part in sport or physical activities or attend sporting events as a spectator, compared with only 50 per cent of people with disabilities and 28 per cent of those with a profound or severe core-activity limitation" (ABS, 2006).

Areas for future action

- 1.1 Improve access and increase participation of people with disability in sporting, recreational, social, religious and cultural activities whether as participants, spectators, organisers, staff or volunteers.

National DisabilityCare Australia (NDIS)

Guiding principles

We believe people with disability have the same right as others to develop, pursue their goals, participate in society, have respect and dignity, exercise choice and control, be equal partners in decisions that affect their lives, and be certain they will receive the support they need over their life.

Connecting with the mainstream

Inclusion of and access for people with disability to mainstream services, community based activities and other government initiatives, is a shared responsibility.

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disabilit>

"The Access for All Abilities program plays a critical role in supporting state government policy that promotes individual choice, the use of inclusive community settings and bridging the regional-metro gap in terms of physical activity and health outcomes for people with disabilities."

Regional Sport Victoria

Regional Sport & Recreation Program

Regional Sport and Recreation Program

“Sport and recreation plays a vital role in strengthening communities, particularly in rural and regional Victoria. The Victorian Government recognises that small populations and distance can make sustaining local sport and recreation groups difficult.

Sport and Recreation Victoria funds the Regional Sport and Recreation program (previously known as the Supporting Country Sport program) to help provide volunteer support, information and training and development opportunities to local clubs in rural and regional Victoria.”

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/sport/Grants-and-Funding/supporting-country-sport-program>

The Regional Sport and Recreation Program is well placed to support state policy to promote, support and grow regional Victoria and promote healthy, inclusive and sustainable communities.

State Context:

Sport and Recreation Victoria Strategic Framework 2013-2015

Participation

Participation in sport and active recreation offers numerous benefits to individuals and the community by improving health and well being, increasing social inclusion and shaping community identity. Sport and active recreation also provides opportunities for life-long participation and the development of life skills such as leadership, team work, self confidence and self worth. Making participation fun, safe and accessible will maximise the opportunities for all Victorians to gain the benefits of sport and active recreation.

Outcome

Victorians gain greater health and wellbeing, and Victoria's prosperity and liveability is enhanced, through participation in sport and active recreation.

Strategies

- Support the sport and active recreation sector to increase capacity so participation opportunities are available to all Victorians
- Build community confidence in understanding sport and recreation provides a safe and welcoming environment.

System Sustainability

The Victorian sport and active recreation sector is a system made up of a multitude of organisations that deliver and support activities at the state and local level. A collaborative, closely-aligned and highly capable system will ensure the sustainability of the sector.

Outcome

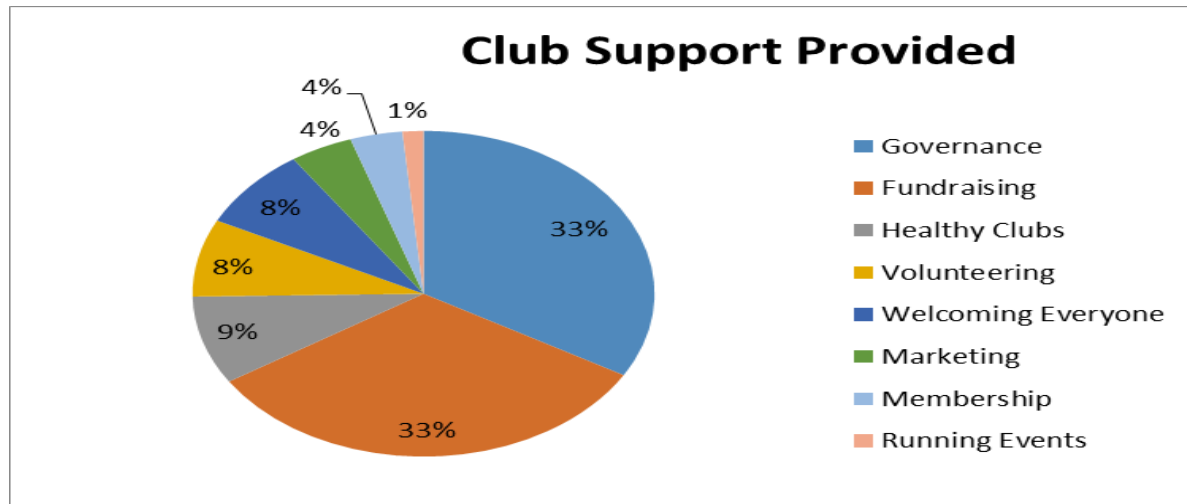
Well planned investment into people and systems.

Strategies

- Support improved governance, capacity, financial viability and efficient administration of sport and recreation organisations including their ability to deliver participation opportunities and events.

Current Service

Snapshot of assistance provided by the RSV network to clubs by category:



Latent demand

Assessments, facilitated by the RSV network members, using the ClubHelp online tool reveal some major trends with respect to club assistance requirements. With respect to the club assessments (broad sample of 292 Governance reports) we can determine the following:

- ~ Over half clubs assessed do not have a current constitution that is relevant and reviewed – 142 do 150 don't
- ~ 1/3 of clubs have issues with financial reporting – lack of financial literacy amongst COM members or poor reporting mechanisms
- ~ 2/3 of clubs report that the COM members do not understand their legal responsibilities in full
- ~ Only 26% have adequate policies and procedures that are understood by key people
- ~ Only 31% have risk management processes that bring key risks to the attention of the COM
- ~ Only 1/3 report to have documented Complaints processes whereas they nearly all have them in the Constitution but just don't know about it
- ~ Only 1/3 have role descriptions of COM and less for other roles
- ~ Less than 10% of clubs assessed have any COM succession plan
- ~ Less than 10% have any COM member induction

The above-mentioned trends indicate that whilst the RSV network is currently servicing many clubs there is a latent demand for additional support for clubs at the grassroots level and that further targeted support is required.

Why do we need strong regional sports clubs?

Regional sports clubs provide environments that facilitate social, economic and importantly health and well-being benefits to regional communities.

Well run club environments provide quality, inclusive and accessible participation opportunities that result in improved community health and wellbeing

“We must support, maintain and strengthen existing regional club-based structures so they have a solid governance platform to maximise participation levels through quality programming which will inevitably lead to closing the rural/regional – metro health gap.”

Regional Sport Victoria

Closing the regional (and rural) – metro health gap:

Health status of regional Victoria

As described in the Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-2022: Rural and Regional Health Plan 2011 Figure 4 show the life expectancy at birth is lower for both males and females than for their metro counterparts whilst Figure 13 indicates the growing prevalence of chronic disease in rural and regional Victoria.

Figure 4: Life expectancy at birth by gender: metropolitan and rural and regional areas, 1996-2007

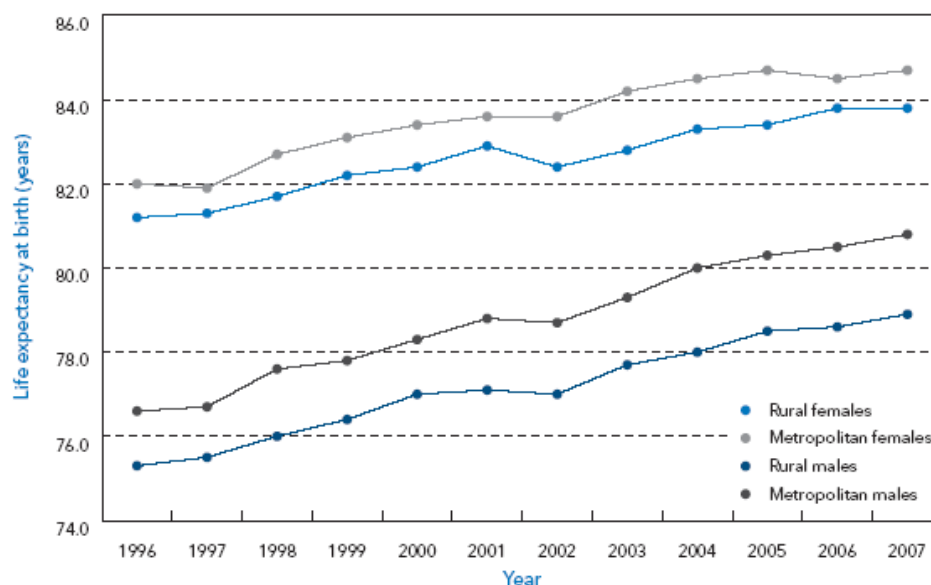
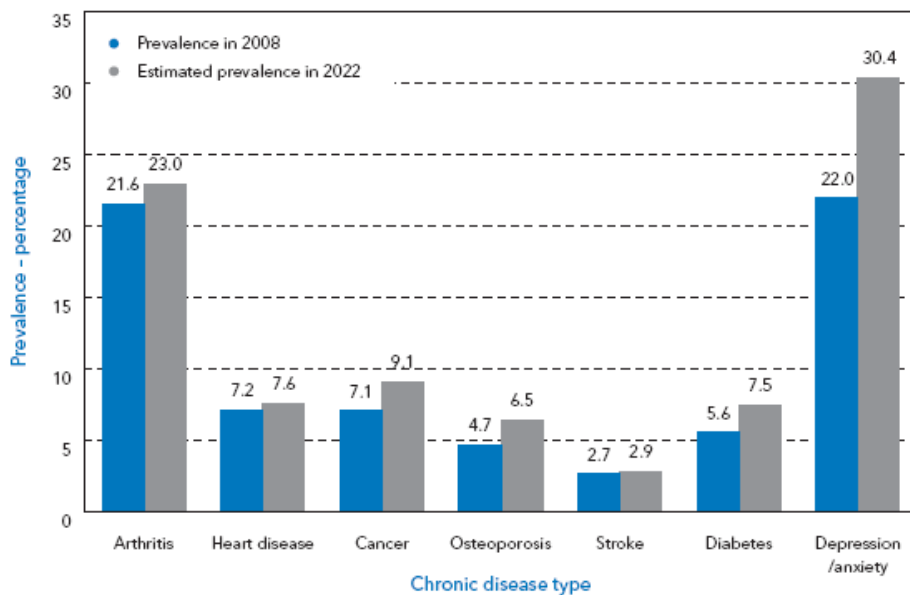


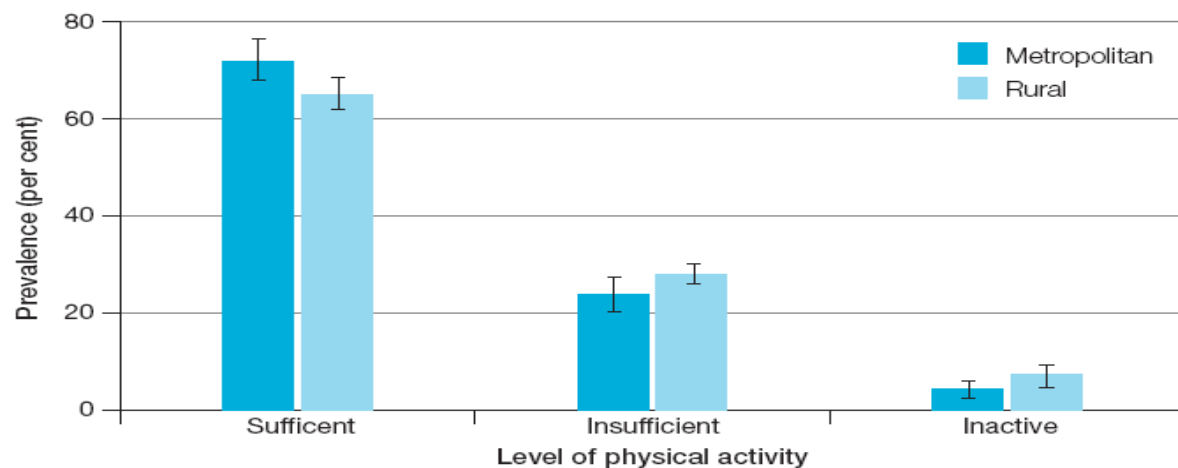
Figure 13: Projected prevalence of selected chronic diseases in rural and regional Victoria in 2022



Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-2022: Rural and Regional Health Plan 2011 Victoria State Government

Department of Health: The Victorian Health Monitor indicates the prevalence of Victorians undertaking sufficient levels of physical activity was higher among metropolitan Victorians than in rural Victorians

Figure 1.2 Prevalence and 95% CI of physical activity levels according to locality



The error bars represent the 95 per cent confidence interval.

Data are weighted to the age and sex distribution of the 2008 estimated residential population of Victoria and standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Refer to pages xiii-xvi for definition of terms.

Table 1.8 Prevalence of physical activity levels according to locality

	Metropolitan			Rural		
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI	
Sufficient	71.6	67.4	75.4	65.3	61.2	69.1
Insufficient	24.0	20.7	27.5	27.9	25.6	30.4
Inactive	4.4	3.0	6.4	6.9	4.8	9.6

Department of Health: The Victorian Health Monitor - Revised 2013, State of Victoria

The social model of health is preferable and more economical than the costly medical model of health that is reliant on treatment rather than prevention.

It is clearly demonstrated that the health gap between metro and regional communities is significant and therefore the importance of communities increasing participation levels is critical for the well-being of regional Victoria.

Club-based sport provides existing infrastructure and the volunteer base to provide affordable participation opportunities.

Trends indicate that further support is needed for the volunteer-based club structures, particularly in the areas of governance, planning and education.

Significant work is currently being undertaken by the RSV network, but enhanced funding is required to provide adequate support to build strong and sustainable club structures that facilitate programming that can help address the participation levels required to reduce the gap between regional and metro Victoria.

Regional Growth Agenda

Regional Sport Victoria supports the state government's regional growth agenda and believes that club sport and recreation is a critical factor in promoting resilient and liveable communities built on volunteerism, social connection and community development.

The Regional Sport Victoria network provides the mechanism to work with the community to build capacity. It is essential that the current Victorian State Government funded programs (Access for All Abilities Program, and Regional Sport and Recreation Program) are continued and enhanced to support a state regional growth agenda.

Regional Sport Victoria supports the government of the day to grow regional Victoria and believes with the appropriate level of support it can achieve its aspirations of not only a state of cities, but more importantly a state of liveable cities.

Maximise the growth potential of Victoria by developing a state of cities which delivers choice, opportunity and global competitiveness.

With Victoria's population projected to rise to 8.4 million by 2051, regional cities will need to take a greater share of population growth. This will enable regional cities to offer more opportunities to their residents and mitigate some of the population pressure on Melbourne.

Plan Melbourne: State of Capital Cities

Victoria's 10 largest regional cities are forecast to grow by more than 288,000 people during the next 20 years.

Regional Cities could be home to as many as 1,030,500 residents by 2031 – up from 742,000 in 2011

<http://www.regionalcitiesvictoria.com.au/growing-regional-victoria/4-growing-regional-victoria>

State Government – Regional Sport and Recreation Policy Opportunities

Regional Sport and Recreation Lens

Legislative change affecting regional sport and recreation

Regional Sport Victoria seeks the 'Minister for Sport of the day' to ensure, as part of any legislative changes that potentially affects sport and recreation, that a formal process is utilised to assess such changes through a regional lens to consider the social, economic, environmental and logistical impact on regional community-based sport and recreation clubs and their communities.

Further to the 'Minister for Sport of the day' using a regional lens internally, Regional Sport Victoria requests that a MOU is developed with other ministers to ensure a regional sport and recreation lens is utilised during all legislation development affecting regional and rural sport.

It is requested that an adaptation of the Thinking Regional and Rural (TRR) guidelines <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/thinking-regional-and-rural> is developed to consider sport in regional and rural settings given the importance of sport in regional and rural communities

It is suggested that consultation would be one of the underpinning principles of the regional lens.

Examples recent of legislative change that have occurred and impacted on regional sport include smoking and junior sport and food handling.

Regional legacies from marquee major events based in Melbourne

Regional Sport Victoria seeks the 'Minister for Sport of the day' to ensure, as part of any funding to marquee major events in Melbourne, that a regional Victoria legacy criteria is embedded in the assessment.

This policy direction would be to ensure that all Victorians benefit directly from state investment in marquee major events in Melbourne such as the Grand Prix, Australia Open etc.

The legacy could take the form of the funded organisation resourcing a club development program (education/training) and/or contributing a percentage of their funding into supporting specific regional significant events via mechanisms such as state facilitated Significant Sporting Events program or through an established independent trust fund.

Significant Sporting Events Programs

Many regional events have significant community benefits but additional layers of burden in terms of cost, distance and isolation.

RSV requests that the **Significant Sporting Events Program** is retained with a specific regional category that focuses on community and sports tourism outcomes in recognition of the need to support regional community-based events that are exposed to regional factors.

Regional Statement

RSV is aware of the development of a 'Regional Statement' and supports the inclusion of a reference to 'the social, economic and health benefits of sport to regional Victoria and the importance of supporting volunteer-based clubs'.

Conclusion

Regional Sport Victoria and its affiliate members, through its current programming, is well positioned to continue to support the broader state agenda of linking sport to health, social, event, education, regional growth and volunteering outcomes.

The Access for All Abilities and Regional Sport and Recreation programs play a critical role in delivering many of the state government's policy agendas. The importance of supporting regional sport and recreation clubs cannot be overlooked given many state sporting associations are metropolitan based or have limited dedicated regional resources.

Volunteer-based community clubs play a significant role in sustaining and promoting the liveability factor in regional areas and the welcomed state government policy agenda of regional growth needs to be backed up by resourcing programs that facilitate important social capital.

In a broader context, the notion of applying a regional sport and recreation lens over policy and legislative reform will also help the state with its agenda of governing and delivering for all Victorians including regional Victoria.

The pending State Government's 'Regional Statement' provides an opportunity to acknowledge the social, economic, health and volunteering benefits derived from sports in regional areas.

Commitments sought from State Government

Regional Sport and Recreation Program

3 year Extension of the RSR Program
@ \$100,000 per RSA Provider per annum (plus annual CPI)
Commencing: 01/07/2014

*Gippsport (services 2 provider areas therefore x 2)

Access for All Abilities Program

3 year Extension of the AAA Program
@ Current Provider Indexed levels plus annual CPI
Commencing: 01/07/2015

*Gippsport (services 2 provider areas therefore x 2)

State Government – Regional Sport and Recreation Policy

Regional Sport and Recreation Lens:

~ Legislative change affecting regional sport and recreation
(possible adaptation of the Thinking Regional and Rural (TRR) guidelines for sport specific setting)

~ Regional legacies from marquee major events based in Melbourne

~ Significant Sporting Events Program
(retention and specific regional category)

Regional Statement:

~acknowledgement of the importance of sport and volunteer participation in regional Victoria

Regional Sport Victoria's work



Hampden Hurricanes All Abilities Footy Team
AAA Program – South West Sport



Grant Writing Assistance: new boat for the Golden
Dragon Boat Club
RSR Program – Sports Central



Sports Leadership Training
RSR Program – Wimmera RSA



All Abilities Netball
AAA Program – Leisure Networks



Sailing Program
AAA Program – Sports Focus



Governance Training
RSR Program – The Centre



Code of Conduct for Community Sport Program
RSR Program – Gippsport



Annual AIM Swimming Carnival
AAA Program – The Centre



Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball Stars - Benalla Festival
AAA Program – ValleySport



Bannockburn Golf Club – Targeted Planning Support
RSR Program – Leisure Networks



Volunteer Recognition
RSR Program – Sports Focus



Better Beach Access
AAA Program – GippsSport



Croquet for All – Charlton
AAA Program – Mallee Regional Sports Assembly



Governance Training
RSR Program – South West Sport



Bowls without Bias
AAA Program – Sports Central



Inclusive Clubs
AAA Program – Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly



Mansfield Sport and Recreation Planning Day
RSR Program – Valley Sport



RSR Program – Mallee Sports Assembly