



DSA 2020/2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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DSA
delivers 12
Activate Inclusion
Sports Day events



Wheelchair Aussie Rules grows into NSW, NT, WA & QLD.



Activate Inclusion
Sports Days
delivered in NT for
the first time



Social media engagement increases by **25%** over COVID-19



Largest national broadcast deal for a domestic disability team sport secured for Wheelchair Rugby Nationals Disability Sports
Northern Territory
launches
participation
programs





Over **21,000**Australian's with a disability serviced by DSA's member organisations

DSA achieves **financial stability** through COVID-19

Disability Sports
Northern Territory
Ambassador, CJ
McCarthey-Grogan
announced

The most domestic athletes at a single Wheelchair Rugby Nationals



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH SPORT

MESSAGE FROM SPORT AUSTRALIA

Like so many Australians, sport has been a cornerstone of my life and has shaped me in ways I could never have imagined. I am passionate in my belief in sport's unrivalled ability to unite, inspire, and build healthier, stronger communities and I am committed to ensuring that every Australian who wants to be part of a sports community, in any role, enjoys the extraordinary benefits and grows as a result of their engagement with the sport of their choice.

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), comprising Sport Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), is proud to support Australian sport at all levels, on behalf of the Australian Government. We nurture and develop sport at the community level with the help of our partners across the industry. This support extends to our Australian athletes competing at the pinnacle of world competition.

The unprecedented challenge of the global COVID-19 pandemic since 2020 has required incredible resilience as a society and within our sport sector. We know, however, sport is playing a crucial role in the nation's rebuilding efforts, which presents us with great opportunities.

The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were shining examples of the hope and inspiration sport can provide to our elite athletes, but also the communities they represent. Postponed a year, it was

"WE NEED AUSTRALIAN SPORT TO CARRY FORWARD A LEGACY FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. THIS IS ABOUT BUILDING SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT AND SUCCESS ACROSS EVERYTHING WE DO."

wonderful to see our Australian athletes respond to this adversity with the equal-best gold medal haul in our Olympic history and a total of 46 medals across a myriad of sports. Our Paralympians also overcame the toughest of preparations to excel and inspire Australians, bringing home 80 medals including 21 gold across 10 sports. More so, it was inspiring to see how our Olympians and Paralympians represented us so proudly with humility and respect, reinforcing their status as important role models.

This is important, because we need Australian sport to carry forward a legacy from one generation to the next. This is about building sustainable improvement and success across everything we do.

We want to inspire a thriving participation base, recognise the invaluable contribution of our volunteers, build sport capability and give our elite athletes the very best chance to succeed to competition and life beyond.

We are immensely proud of our many programs and initiatives that support a connection and involvement with sport at all levels. Our national Sporting Schools program provides an important first step to get children active and engaged through sport, while the AlS's focus on wellbeing can ensure our athletes feel supported during their time in high performance sport so it is as positive and rewarding as it can be.

There is so much to look forward to with a golden runway of major sporting events on home soil over the next decade, leading to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Some of the world's biggest sporting events will converge on our shores, with World Cups or World Championships locked in for basketball, cricket, football, and netball, to name a few, presenting more wonderful opportunities for Australian sport to thrive.

South East Queensland's winning bid for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provides an incredible opportunity to unite the nation through sport and provide all Australian children the chance to dream of representing their nation on the world's biggest stage, right here at home.

2032 has become a giant target to aim towards, aligning our sports, our infrastructure, and our communities to leave a positive legacy for a post-COVID Australia.

This is a pivotal time for our sector and the future green and gold runway provides an opportunity to

MESSAGE FROM SPORT AUSTRALIA

consider the role that each of us can play in building a stronger, leaner and healthier sports industry.

On behalf of the ASC, thank you to everyone who contributes to Australian sport with the aim of making it better for all.

I could not be more excited for sport in Australia and the opportunities that will come our way.

JOSEPHINE SUKKAR AM
Chair
Australian Sports Commission





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

FY2020/21 has been a very successful year for Disability Sports Australia, despite the COVID 19 disruption. In November 2020, DSA employed a new CEO, Murray Elbourn and this has seen a number of successful programs delivered. These new programs have seen Disability Sports Australia enabling more Australians with a disability to be more active, more often, especially with the introduction of the Activate Inclusion Sports Days in partnership with Sport NSW and Variety – the Children's Charity.

Disability Sports Australia has vastly improved its financial position that will enable successful delivery of DSA's programs planned for FY2021/22. DSA has played a significant role in the formation of the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability (ASAPD). The ASAPD gathers the efforts of all nine (9) National Sporting Organisations for people with a Disability (NSOD) together, to improve the sporting and active recreation programs for Australians with a disability. Details of what has been achieved by the ASAPD is included in this report.

Through our various programs, such as the Sports Incubator, DSA has continued to support both the Wheelchair Aussie Rules and Frame Running programs in Australia. In face of the setbacks of COVID-19, the 2022 Wheelchair Aussie Rules National Championship is set to have representation from most state and territories across the country. DSA is also working successfully with Bowls Australia to transition the hosting of the National Championship to incorporate with the Bowls Australia Nationals. DSA will continue to work with Bowls Australia to support this program and promote opportunities.

The Activate Inclusion Sports Days saw twelve (12) events delivered in NSW and NT with over 1,900 students experiencing a range of adaptive sports. Wheelchair Rugby Australia had a spectacular year with excellent growth in participation, pathways and partnerships. The 2021 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship were held on the Gold Coast and it was the best iteration of the event to date. The Nationals reached more people with a ground-breaking broadcast deal with Kayo Sport and Foxtel and for the first time, a Division 2 competition was delivered, growing competitive pathways for developing athletes.

Disability Sports Northern Territory (DSNT) entered into its second year of operations. In FY2020/21, DSNT began delivery of Wheel NT and Balloon Football programs as well as doing significant groundwork to map the disability sports sector in the Northern Territory in preparation to launch the NT Disability Sport Inclusion Network in the coming year.

The DSA team are working on delivering an exciting project for people with a disability, the National Referral Hub. The National Referral Hub is a simple and easy to use platform to connect people with a disability to local sport and recreation opportunities, while also linking them to the supports to break down the barriers to participation, such as transport, allied health and equipment. The Hub is working collaboratively with sport, education, LGAs, NDIS Partners in the Community, community partners and allied health. DSA look forward to the launch of the National Referral Hub in FY2021/22.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Financially, DSA has seen a tremendous improvement in its position in FY2020/21. The investment made in hosting the Wheelchair Rugby World Championship had put a strain on the financial health of DSA. In FY2020/21, through good management and discipline we were able to deliver a \$96,769 profit and improve the Net Assets position on the Balance Sheet to \$86,122. This provides a much improved position to deliver future DSA programs.

DSA will host the 2021 CPISRA International Conference virtually with partners, CPISRA, Cerebral Palsy Alliance and Cerebral Palsy Foundation from 8 – 11 December 2021. We look forward to delivering this inaugural conference, bringing together the best minds internationally on cerebral palsy sport and recreation.

I would like to thank:

- DSA's employees who have delivered excellent programs and navigated a very difficult year with COVID-19 affecting multiple events;
- Our sponsors and partners, in particular Sport Australia and GIO. Sport Australia has continued to make a significant investment and the assistance of the team who have provided advice and guidance throughout the year. GIO has been an amazing partner for many years, supporting both DSA and Wheelchair Rugby Australia. Their commitment to sport for people with a disability has provided the investment to develop sports and events; and,
- The DSA Directors who volunteer their time and expertise to set the strategy for DSA and oversee the improvements in the organisation. Special mention to Michael Lane who retires as a Director after 10-years of service. Michael has seen the organisation go from strength to strength over this period of time.

We look forward to continuing to get more Australians with a disability more active, more often in the years to come.





JOHN CROLL AM Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I began my role as CEO with Disability Sports Australia in mid-November of 2020, I was excited about the many possibilities for the organisation and to continue the wonderful work that had been done by staff prior to my arrival.

Two days into the role, DSA had our Annual General Meeting and from there my first priority was to talk with and understand our member organisations in each state. It's extremely important to me, that our actions compliment those of our state members and that communication to achieve a strong national and state dual outcomes is our priority. From those initial meetings we have held two National workshops, this has allowed for open communication around the various opportunities that exist to support each other and establish an improved working relationship.

Wheelchair Rugby a division of DSA has flourished in the previous year, Chris Nay as General Manager has delivered our largest and most viewed Australian Championships in history. Our broadcast deal with Foxtel and Kayo Sports was only matched by the amazing support we received from Major Events Gold Coast and the publicity we received with the assistance of QLD members Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association. Chris has also forged an outstanding working relationship with Paralympics Australia to support the Australian Steelers program.

Disability Sports Australia has had advanced discussions with a number of sports around our Sports Incubator program. We have created a gold, silver and bronze level to support all mainstream National Sporting Organisations. GM – Sport Kelsey Singh has worked tirelessly to ensure that we remain a leader in assisting sport to understand and create opportunities for inclusion and adaption. Our mission continues to be that more Australians with disabilities are more active, more often.

Our organisation has also begun to deliver Activate Inclusion Sports Days in partnership with Sport NSW and Variety – The Children's Charity NSW/ACT with an expansion to support Northern Territory with Variety NT and Total Recreation. In total we have delivered adaption and inclusion to schools across 12 days and had 1,915 students with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities attend the program. In June we hired Kristy Rohrer who will deliver this program nationally in the next year taking over from Paralympian, Rae Anderson who delivered significant contributions in Term 1 and 2 this year.

In May, I had the pleasure of meeting Minister Kate Worden and Sasha Ryan at NT Office of Sport who agreed to extend the partnership with Disability Sports Australia to deliver adaptive and inclusive sport and recreation programs with the NT Community. This is a vital initiative supported by our coordinator James Little.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our major sponsors, who have supported the growth of Disability Sports Australia in the last year. Coloplast, GIO, Lifestyle Solutions, NDSP Plan Managers, NT Government, Sport Australia, Sport NSW and Variety – The Children's Charity.

In summary, the organisation has gone through significant challenges to deliver events through COVID-19. Our staff, board, members and partners have remained focused to continue to be a leader in the disability sporting and recreation sector. I look forward to launching significant nationally focused programs with our members in the next twelve months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my dedicated staff for their efforts through a challenging but rewarding year.



MURRAY ELBOURN
Chief Executive Officer

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

VISION

Active lives for all Australians with a disability.

MISSION

To enable more Australians with a disability to be more active more often.

COKE BUSINESS

Create more choice, through training, education & adovacy. Develop holistic participation & pathway models with all of sport and social active recreation.

STRATEGIC PILLARS



CREATE MORE CHOICE

Create more opportunities for Australians with a disability to get involved in sport and active recreation.



INFORM & CONNECT

Develop pathways and resources for Australians with a disability to build awareness and connect with sport and recreation opportunities.



IMPACT & SHARED SERVICES

Measure the impact of sport and active recreation for people with a disability to drive program development, evaluation and advocacy.



MEMBER & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Fostering collaboration and provide support to members and partners to help people with a disability to get involved in sport and active recreation and promote the benefits of sport & active recreation for people with a disability.



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA

Develop Wheelchair Rugby Australia (WRA) as a separate entity to lead the whole of sport delivery.

CREATE MORE CHOICE

WHAT IS CREATE MORE CHOICE?

Create more opportunities for Australians with a disability to get involved in sport and active recreation

ACTIVATE INCLUSION SPORTS DAYS (AISD)

In 2021, DSA partnered with Sport NSW and Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT to deliver 22 Activate Inclusion Sports Days across NSW. Activate Inclusion Sports Days are multi-adaptive sport come and try days delivered with the support of education, local councils, state and local sporting organisations, NDIS delivery agencies and allied health. Despite the impact of COVID-19 on delivery, eleven (11) AISD programs were held in NSW with over 1,707 students attending. These students were given the opportunity to try a range of different sport and social active recreation activities in a safe and encouraging



environment while being provided with the right adaptations to participate to the fullest extent. The program also provides a fantastic opportunity to seek feedback and understanding about the role of sport in the lives of each student through simple data collection before each event. More information about this research can be found on page 28.

AISD expanded nationally, with the first day outside of NSW being held in Darwin, Northern Territory in partnership with Disability Sports Northern Territory (DSNT), Total Recreation and Variety – the Children's Charity NT. The day was a huge success with over 100 students attending and two more days planned in late 2021 in Darwin and Alice Springs.

The program is set for national expansion in late 2021 and 2022 with events to be held in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales and Northern Territory.

Disability Sports Australia would like to thank Variety – the Children's Charity for their ongoing support of the AISD program and look forward to seeing over 10,000 students be able to try adaptive and inclusive sport and recreation in the coming year.

CREATE MORE CHOICE

SPORTS INCUBATOR

DSA aims to increase the range of sport and active recreation opportunities for Australians with a disability. Ensuring sustainable and effective inclusive and adaptive sport development is at the core of DSA's operations and the Disability Sports Incubator has continued to develop and grow to be the premier program assisting mainstream sports to develop their inclusive offerings.

Through further research and consultation with National Sporting Organisations (NSO), it was clear that further education, awareness and opportunities were required by mainstream sport to sustainably deliver inclusive and adaptive programs. DSA took this advice on board and re-worked the Disability Sports Incubator model to better create a stronger inclusive and adaptive Australian sporting landscape with increased participation and broader pathways.

The Disability Sports Incubator provides NSOs with the skills and opportunities to effectively and efficiently develop and implement their inclusive and adaptive sporting goals in partnership with Australia's national peak sporting body for people with a disability.

While the Disability Sports Incubator has been running at DSA for the past two years, the program will officially relaunch post the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games leveraging the momentum created.

Disability Sports Australia thanks Sport Australia for their ongoing support of this program.

"ENSURING SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE INCLUSIVE AND ADAPTIVE SPORT DEVELOPMENT IS AT THE CORE OF DSA'S OPERATIONS."



CREATE MORE CHOICE

SPORT & RECREATION PROGRAMS & DEVELOPMENT

Frame Running

Frame Running (formerly Race Running) continued to go from strength to strength in 2020/21. Given there was no opportunity for international or national competition, local club development became the priority for Frame Running Australia (a division of DSA).

Frame Running programs and initiatives are now being rolled out in each state and territory with opportunities to access equipment being provided.

The partnership with Athletics Australia has proven to be beneficial as internationally Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA) continues to work with World Para Athletics. Athletics Australia has taken significant steps to integrate Frame Running into its classification and events. DSA and Athletics Australia will continue to work together in a formal capacity to develop the sport across the country.

Wheelchair Aussie Rules

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on national competition, state and local development of Wheelchair Aussie Rules has proved to be an outstanding success.

Unfortunately, both the 2020 and 2021 Wheelchair Aussie Rules National Championships were cancelled due to COVID-19.

"THE NEXT NATIONALS ARE LOOKING TO BE THE LARGEST CHAMPIONSHIPS ON RECORD WITH EIGHT (8) TEAM REPRESETNATION." Established programs in South Australia (led by South Australia National Football League), Tasmania (led by member organisation, ParaQuad Tasmania) and Victoria (led by AFL Victoria) continued to grow with South Australia running their very first state league, the Novita SANFL Wheelchair Football League. The established states player pathways provide significant player funnels to interstate and national competitions.

New South Wales continued to develop their state program after a strong start in 2019. Wheelchair Aussie Rules programs were also started in Western Australia and Northern Territory. NSW, WA and NT are all looking to be represented at the next National Championship. Come and try events are planned for Queensland in the next 12 months. This would bring a full national presence to the sport.

DSA continues to work closely with the Australian Football League (AFL) to partner and grow the sport nationally and increase the public profile of the sport. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continues to champion the sport and the significant impact it has on the rehabilitation of current and ex-servicemen and women.

In the face of two cancelled National Championships, the next Nationals are looking to be the largest Championships on record with eight (8) team representation providing an invaluable opportunity to profile the sport to the wider Australian audience and get more people involved with the sport at a grassroots level.

CREATE MORE CHOICE

DISABILITY SPORTS NORTHERN TERRITORY



The financial year of 2020/2021 witnessed a steady progression in the continual development of creating a more inclusive Northern Territory for individuals with a physical disability. Since the establishment of the branch in 2019, Disability Sports Northern Territory (DSNT) has been able to get more people with a disability across the Northern Territory more active more

often.

Key areas of growth include the development of participation programs, formalising partnerships, mapping and sector engagement and increased brand identity and awareness.

Stakeholder Relationships

In late 2020, DSNT made a strong effort to build strong stakeholder relationships, increase brand awareness and be a voice for disability across sport, including supporting local events such as the Beloclusive Games Family Fun Day delivered by Clubhouse Territory and the Carnival of Fun delivered by the City of Darwin.

To get a better understanding of the disability sports space in the Northern Territory, DSNT undertook a significant mapping process of the Peak Sporting Body (PSB) to identify any barriers and opportunities for inclusive sport. The mapping process was able to analyse current inclusive sports programs in the territory, current inclusive sports policies and identified capacity through human resourcing and budget allocation for each sport. Of the 43 PSBs in the Territory, 70% were successfully engaged and evaluated with a wide variety of outcomes. By gaining this data, DSNT has been able to engage the sector in a more strategic framework and prioritise resources accordingly.



CREATE MORE CHOICE

DISABILITY SPORTS NORTHERN TERRITORY

Sport & Recreation Programs

The start of 2021 was exciting for Disability Sports Northern Territory with a new office space at the Sitzler Netball Centre, a brand-new facility with a high level of accessibility for Territorians and great amenities to deliver inclusive sport programs into the future.

In 2021, DSNT established the Wheel NT program in partnership with the AFL, AFL NT and NRL NT. The program was a four-week block of Wheelchair AFL and NRL with 15-20 participants attending each session. From this, DSNT was able to evaluate the needs of community members through feedback forms and also pilot a wide range of elements for each respective sport. This was a unique program that capitalised on the similar abilities levels required for both sports and allowed for increased participation holistically.

As stakeholder relationships continued to develop, DSNT was able to partner with Disability Service and Allied Health provider, Carpentaria to deliver a six-week Balloon Football Pilot Program. Targeted towards individuals with a high level of disability and multi-disabilities, DSNT was were able to provide participants with the opportunity to progress skills and participate in a Grand Final with a large audience and crowd supporting them.

Disability Sports Northern Territory also played an active role in supporting the Wheelchair Basketball competition with over 50 participants across the two-division structure. DSNT provided guidance and additional support to the junior wheelchair basketball program, Aussie Hoops.

Other Inclusive sports programs that were supported by DSNT include Frame Running delivered by Darwin Athletics Club, Wheelchair Rugby League delivered by Northern Territory Wheelchair Rugby League, All Abilities Touch Football delivered by Touch NT and Baseball5's delivered by Baseball NT.

Activate Inclusion Sports Day

The inaugural Activate Inclusion Sports Day in Darwin was delivered in June 2021. In partnership with Total Recreation, Variety Children's Charity – NT and Disability Sports Australia, a total of 130 students attended the day with a mixture of inclusive sports in attendance including, Golf NT, Basketball NT, Netball NT, Goalball, Volleyball NT and Wheelchair Rugby League. DSNT is excited at the prospect of delivering multiple AISDs in 2021/2022 in the Darwin Greater Region and regional centres, Alice Springs and Katherine.

Ambassador

DSNT appointed Clarence "CJ" McCarthy-Grogan as the official DSNT Ambassador. CJ is a Paralympic wheelchair basketball player who is a local Territorian. When CJ isn't training for wheelchair basketball, he is actively refereeing, coaching, and supporting the Darwin wheelchair basketball competition and other DSNT initiatives.

DSNT AMBASSADOR, CJ MCCARTHY-GROGAN ON WHAT HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR DSNT?

"INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES WHICH IS VERY EXCITING BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES THERE MIGHT BE LATER DOWN THE TRACK IN WHICHEVER SPORT THEY MIGHT CHOOSE!"

CREATE MORE CHOICE

DISABILITY SPORTS NORTHERN TERRITORY

Social Media Engagement



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS vs. FY 2019/20 + **50%**



WEBSITE
UNIQUE VISITORS
VS. FY 2019/20
+ 345%

Sponsors & Partners

DSNT would like to thank the sponsors and partners who make providing sporting opportunities to Territorians with a disability possible. DSNT would like to thank the Northern Territory Government for their ongoing contribution and support, Total Recreation for the continual cross-collaboration, Variety Children's Charity – NT for supporting Activate Inclusion Sports Days and all PSBs that have dedicated time and resources to increase opportunities for Territorians with a physical disability.

AS DSNT looks to the future, the focus will be on increasing brand awareness, building partnerships with key stakeholders in the Territory and supporting regional areas to access inclusive sport opportunities. DSNT will continue to break down barriers to participation, helping to aid Territorians in access to sport equipment and programs.



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA

2021 GIO WHEELCHAIR RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



The 2021 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship took place at the Gold Coast Sports & Leisure Centre in Carrara, the first time the event has been held on the Gold Coast. The event ran across three full days of competition from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 May in what is widely considered a world-class competition

venue.

COVID-19 had a significant influence over the event with the original dates set for a month earlier. However, the event was postponed to June 2021 due to an outbreak in south-east Queensland. Eight (8) teams were confirmed to participate in the Championship, however, on the eve of competition two (2) teams (Victoria Lightning and Australian Barbarians 1) were forced to withdraw from the event due to an outbreak in Melbourne and a change in border restrictions upon entry into Queensland.

Despite the impact of these events, this was a record-breaking National Championship on a number of fronts. For the first time, a Division 2 competition was introduced to the event which provided an avenue to see the return of the West Coast Enforcers and the South Australian Sharks to the National Championship. They were joined by the Australian Barbarians team in their pool; a team comprised of athletes from NSW and QLD who otherwise would not have competed in their respective Division 1 teams had this division not been introduced.

Additionally, the number of domestic teams competing at the Championship rose from four (4) at the previous event to six (6) in 2021, seeing an increase of 50% in Australian player participation at the Championship.

Wheelchair Rugby Australia was also able to secure a ground-breaking broadcast deal with official broadcast partners Foxtel and Kayo Sports, which provided a larger national platform for the sport than has previously been seen.

Whilst the 2021 event was a great start, Wheelchair Rugby Australia holds high hopes for the 2022 event. Although a location is undecided, it is hoped that a travel bubble between New Zealand and Australia will see the Wheel Blacks return to our competition, with the ultimate goal of a ten (10) team tournament a realistic possibility.

WRA would also like to take this time to thank its partners for the National Championship:











WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA

2021 GIO WHEELCHAIR RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - RESULTS

DIVISION 1 DIVISION 2

Gold: GIO NSW Gladiators Gold: West Coast Enforcers

Silver: QLD Cyclones Silver: SA Sharks

Bronze: Victoria Protect Thunder Bronze: Australian Barbarians

All Australian All Australian

High Point: Chris Bond (QLD) High Point: AJ Holloway (SA) Mid Point: Andrew Edmonson (NSW) Mid Point: Ben Leudais (AUS) Low Point: Ben Fawcett (VIC) Low Point: Damien Mortaud (SA) Glen Lebeau (NSW) Coach: Coach: Andy Phillips (SA)

MVP: Ryley Batt (NSW) MVP: Robyn Lambird (WA)

Quentin Fleischfresser Spirit of the Game Award: Aaron Camm (WA)



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA

PATHWAYS, PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Competition Pathways

An interrupted domestic club season in both 2020 and 2021 has impacted the continuity of state-based wheelchair rugby programs across the country. The 2021 National League was cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic, which is now two seasons in a row that there has been no domestic competition, apart from the National Championship.

As a priority, WRA and state/territory programs have developed a National League model which will ensure that there are domestic competition opportunities for all athletes ahead of the National Championship in 2022. This will ensure a competition structure that provides greater participation opportunities due to the shortage of domestic wheelchair rugby in the last two years.

Additionally, Wheelchair Rugby Australia offered support to the South Australian Sharks team for the National Championship, covering uniform cost and staff travel expenses for the team to compete, along with arranging staff and logistical considerations in support of the West Coast Enforcers and the Australian Barbarians.

Wheelchair Rugby Australia would like to take this time to thank the state/territory programs for all their valued participation and collaboration on a number of items in the past twelve (12) months. The sport of wheelchair rugby is more aligned at present than it has been for some years.

Coach and Referee Development

Wheelchair Rugby Australia appointed a new Head Referee in Terry Vinyard for 2021 and introduced three (3) first-time coaches to the National Championship in 2021. Further, in partnership with Paralympics Australia, a coach development program was developed and implemented for aspirational wheelchair rugby coaches to participate in. The program has been postponed until border restrictions are removed.

Wheelchair Rugby Australia in partnership with Paralympics Australia and Rugby Australia have engaged the Rugby Xplorer platform as the host platform for wheelchair rugby online learning modules moving forward. A Foundation Wheelchair Rugby course and Level One Coaching course are set to be uploaded by 31 December 2021 and further referee and coaching courses will be available in 2022.



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA

PARTNERSHIPS

Wheelchair Rugby Australia would wish to express its thanks to a number of partners who have supported the division across the past 12 months.











SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS VS. FY 2019/20 + 32%



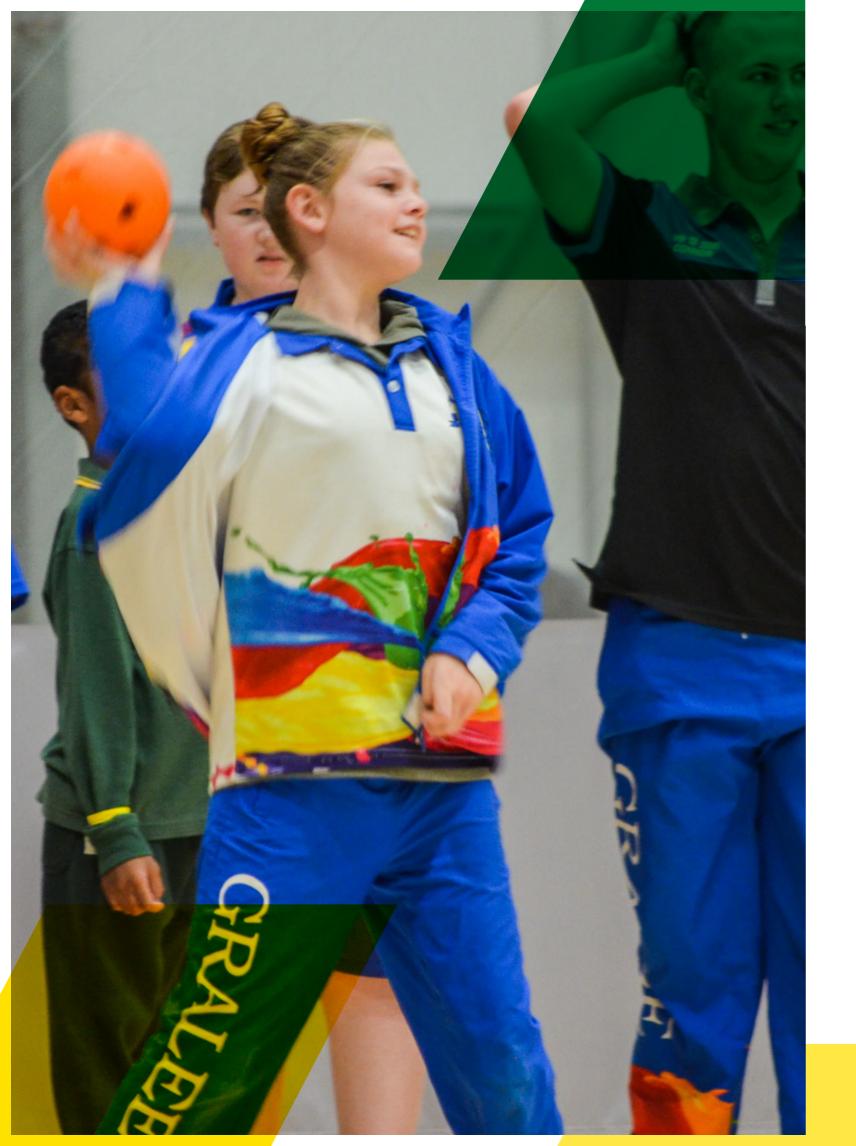
FUTURE PLANS

Minimal competition and match play in 2021 allowed time to develop areas of the sport that previously the division had lacked the capacity to address. Key initiatives for the following 12 months include:

- Establishment of an aligned National League, providing continuity of game-based participation opportunities ahead of the National Championship.
- Increase domestic participation at the National

 Championship from six teams to nine, with the addition of New Zealand to the competition
- Provide a national-scale broadcast of the sport as per the 2021 event to continue to grow public awareness and viewership of wheelchair rugby across the country
- Publicly list the foundation wheelchair rugby course, coaching and refereeing online courses on Rugby Xplorer and incorporate them into the governance of team entries to competition
- In partnership with Paralympics Australia, continue to search for additional new talent and reengaging past players to increase domestic competition
- Achieve a best-practice classification system to ensure easy implementation at national events and competition.





INFORM & CONNECT

WHAT IS INFORM & CONNECT?

Develop pathways and resources for Australians with a disability to build awareness and connect with sport and recreation opportunities.

NATIONAL REFERRAL HUB



The National Referral Hub (NRH) is an easy to use, self-service and referral hub to help all Australian athletes with a disability find the supports and programs they need to participate and compete in sport and active recreation activities.

Launching in November 2021 in partnership with NDSP Plan Managers, the NRH will be a simple and efficient platform for

individuals, healthcare providers, teachers and parents to find activities and programs in their local areas. Providers of sport and active recreation programs will be able to be added to the national database and accessed by all Australians with a disability.

Working closely through established partnerships with the Australian Physiotherapy Association, Occupational Therapy Australia, Sport Medicine Australia and Exercise Sport Science Australia, the NRH will ensure that even the most complex of enquiries can be managed expertly.

Disability Sports Australia thanks NDSP Plan Managers for the invaluable support of the NRH and partners the University of Sydney and Elite Edge Physiotherapy. DSA look forward to being able to connect Australians with a disability to sport and active recreation programs in November 2021.

CPISRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



DSA has partnered with the Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA) to deliver the inaugural 2021 CPISRA International Conference on Physical Activity and Health for People with Cerebral Palsy or Acquired Brain Injury (aka the 2021 CPISRA International Conference). The Conference aims to provide a forum for

knowledge exchange and enhance interaction between researchers, healthcare professionals, sporting experts, individuals and families to address the unique matters in the interdisciplinary area of adaptive physical activity and sport for individuals with cerebral palsy and acquired brain injury. The CPISRA International Conference was originally slated to be held in December 2020 in Sydney, Australia in partnership with the University of Sydney Institute for Musculoskeletal Health, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Cerebral Palsy Sport and Recreation Association, Cerebral Palsy Sport and Recreation Association and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, however, due to COVID-19 and the impact of international travel the decision was made to move the event to 2021 and transition to a virtual conference.

The 2021 CPISRA International Conference is to be held from 8 - 11 December 2021. While necessary to move to the Conference online for global health reasons, it also provides the opportunity for greater international engagement and attendance.

Disability Sports Australia is proud to be the event host for this first of its kind international event and look forward to delivering meaningful and collaborative discussions about sport and physical activity for people with cerebral palsy and acquired brain injury.



INFORM & CONNECT

CENTRAL INFORMATION SOURCE

Disability Sports Australia has continued to develop and utilise its digital channels to be a "one-stop-shop" for information about sport and active recreation for people with a disability. The DSA website houses an up to date database of thirty (30) sport and active recreation opportunities. Each sport listed on the website has key information about what the sport is, how to get involved, who can participate and the key contacts around the country. This will continue to grow as more opportunities and sports become available.

DSA has continued to use its social media channels to profile existing programs and opportunities with significant growth being made across all social media channels.

DSA's bi-monthly newsletter showcases DSA updates, community news stories, upcoming events and updates from member organisations. Similar to previous years, the DSA newsletter open and click-through rate continued to be well above both sporting and non-profit industry averages.



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS VS. FY 2019/20 + 9.3%



INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS
VS. FY 2019/20
+ 39.2%



WEBSITE
UNIQUE VISITORS
VS. FY 2019/20
+ 9%



LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS VS. FY 2019/20

+ 130%



NEWSLETTER

OPEN RATE
VS. INDUSTRY AVERGE

+ 5.97%





IMPACT & SHARED SERVICES

WHAT IS IMPACT & SHARED SERVICES?

Measure the impact of sport and active recreation for people with a disability to drive program development, evaluation and advocacy.

RESEARCH & DATA

In 2020/21, DSA focused on improving the quality of data collection through its programs in order to measure the impact and behaviours of sport and active recreation.

Through the AISD program, DSA collected pre-event surveys from each participant. This survey focused on collecting the child's current participation in sport and recreation, access to equipment and funding and their interest level in future participation and specific sports. Key insights included:

of students currently would like to participate in community sport beyond an AISD event

In 2021/22, DSA will expand this data collection as the AISD program rolls out nationally.

With the implementation of the National Referral Hub in late 2021, data collection will form a key outcome of the success of the Hub.

DSA continues to work with University partners to deliver and support quality research projects to better build understanding and capacity in the disability sports sector.

AUSTRALIAN SPORTING ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY (ASAPD)

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.



IMPACT & SHARED SERVICES

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.

Disability Sports Australia continues to work closely with the ASAPD with representation on the Oversight Committee and a number of key working groups.

The ASAPD, in partnership with Sport Australia, has achieved initial success:

- Developing a four-year strategic plan
- Developing a communications plan with joint ASAPD social media channels
- Identifying a clear plan for events and inclusion activities through to 2032 and beyond to ensure all of the people the nine Alliance groups represent have access to sport and opportunities
- · Collectively lobbying and liaising with government departments: Health, NDIA/Disability and Sport to advocate for people with a disability.
- Improved efficiencies between the agencies

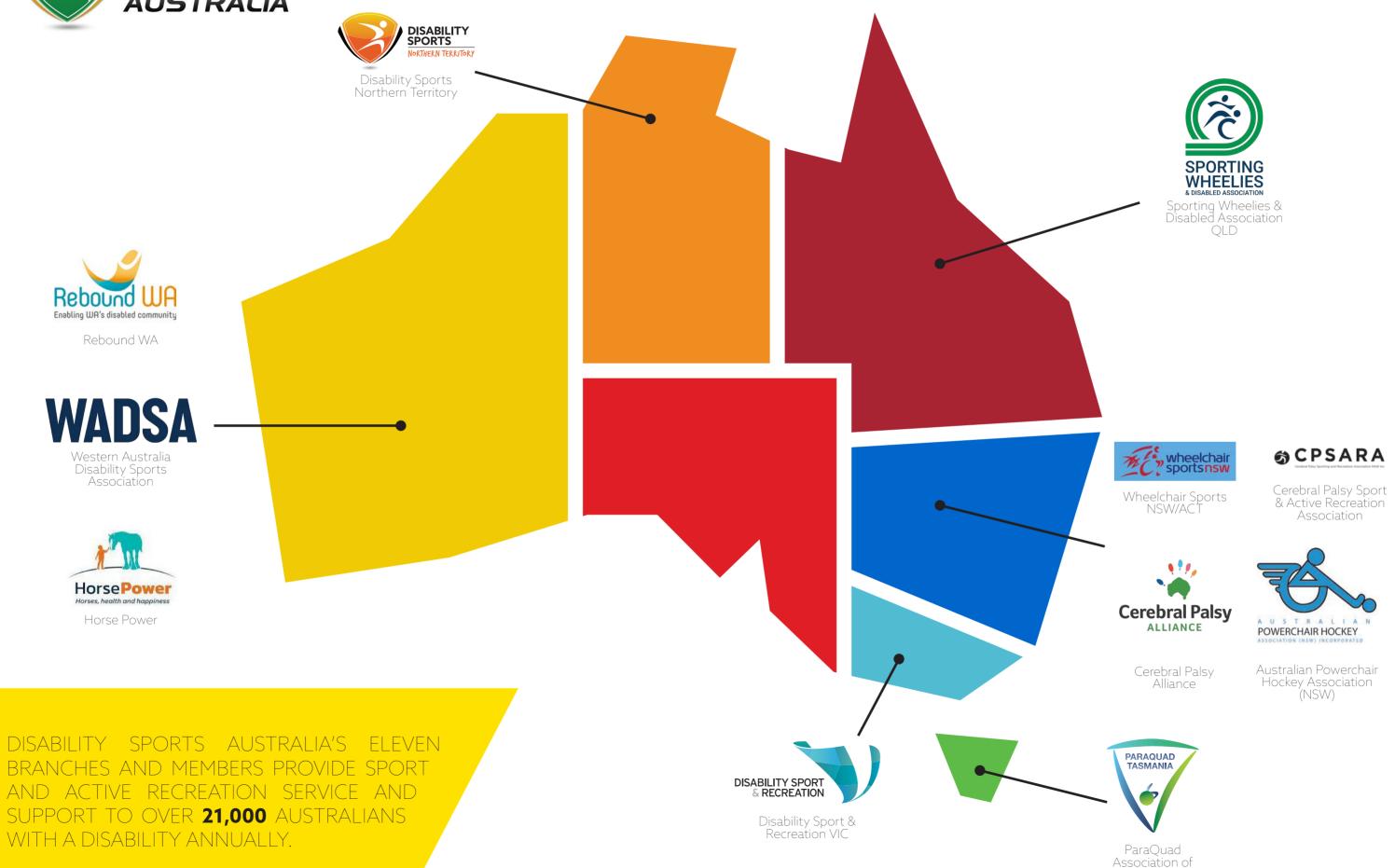
DSA is looking forward to improving the Australian sporting landscape for people with a disability in collaboration with the other eight NSODs.





MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Tasmania



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIR JOHN CROLL AM

John has worked in the media industry for more than 30 years and is currently the Co-founder and CEO of Truescope, a media intelligence technology company. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Media Monitors in 1999, which subsequently became Isentia. He led the company through private ownership, private equity with Quadrant Private Equity and finally an Initial Public Offering on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2014. John is a Life Fellow of the International Association for the Measurement and Evaluation of Communications (AMEC), a Life Fellow of the Public Relations Institute of Australia and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. John was previously the Vice President of the Australian Paralympic Committee. He was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2019 for his services to people with a disability.



DEPUTY CHAIR STEVE LOADER

Steve has worked in sport for over 25 years and is the Deputy Chair of DSA. He is currently the Director of Corporate Relations for Rex Airlines and was the Chief Executive Office of Sport NSW. Through his own consultancy, Steve provides sport and major event-related consultancy in Australia and overseas and is a Visiting Fellow with the World Academy of Sport, facilitating and lecturing in courses to sporting federations and governments. Steve is Chair of the Advisory Board of Wheelchair Rugby Australia and a member of the DSA Governance Committee. He is also a Non-Executive Director of World Wheelchair Rugby. He is a recipient of the Australian Sports Medal and has served on the Boards of Paralympics Australia, Snow Australia and Rowing Australia.



LEEANNE GRANTHAM

Leeanne has over 25 years' experience in the sport and major event industries and 4 years as a global sports recruitment consultant. Leeanne's career includes roles as CEO, Women's National Basketball League; World Masters Games 2002; Australian Maior Events (Events S.A.); The Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame: Adelaide 36ers and Community Football (SA) & Head of Women's Football for Football Federation Australia. Leeanne led successful bids for significant major events in SA including: Rugby 7's; Australian Masters Games; World Cycling and BMX events; international football (soccer) and oversaw events owned by the SA Government including the UCI Tour Down Under, Tasting Australia, the Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive and others. Leeanne is a currently Chair, CEO Oversight Committee - Coober Pedy Council SA, Board Director - Table Tennis Australia, FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup LOC 2022 and Vice President Commonwealth Games

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR LIZ RUSHBROOK

Dr. Liz Rushbrook is a registered Medical Practitioner as a specialist Medical Administrator. Her medical interests include sports medicine, clinical governance, disaster response and operational management. With 25 years of experience in the Navy and Australian Defence Force, she reached the rank of Commodore. Liz transitioned from Defence in 2016 and currently works within Oueensland Health as the Chief Medical Officer at Metro North Hospital and Health Service in Brisbane. Liz is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators. She is also the Chair of Disaster Relief Australia. Her passions include Medicine, Sport and Governance.



KEVIN REINERT

Kevin is a chartered accountant with extensive experience in strategic finance and business development as well as being responsible for financial and investment management topics across the real estate industry. Before being the Chief Financial Officer for Central Element, Kevin worked with the publicly-listed DEXUS Property Group in a range of senior roles. He is also a former Chief Financial Officer for DNW Group and a Director of Deloitte. He is a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is also Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for Disability Sports Australia.



MICHAEL LANE

Michael has over 30 years' experience in both retail and the commercial property industry having worked for organisations such as Coles Myer, Lend Lease and DEXUS Property Group. Michael is currently General Manager - Developments at Vinta Property Group, Michael has held positions on various property committees at both State and National level and has previously held senior roles in Corporate Responsibility, has been a member of the City of Sydney Better Buildings Partnership Leadership Panel and continues to lead corporate stakeholder and community engagement. Michael has completed various management courses with the Australian Graduate School of Management.

Australia.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ILONA ALSTERS

Ilona has over twenty years' experience as a corporate lawyer, having held a number of senior leadership positions in publicly listed organisations such as 3M, ResMed, Medtronic, Ruralco Holdings Ltd and Computer Associates, providing advice on legal matters, compliance, corporate governance & industrial relations throughout Asia Pacific. Ilona is currently the General Counsel & Company Secretary -Head of Legal & Compliance (ANZ) for the pharmaceutical Boehringer Ingelheim Group of companies in Australia & New Zealand.

Ilona holds a Bachelor of Laws, Masters in Law & Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Queensland University of Technology, a Certificate in Corporate Governance from the Governance Institute of Australia and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ilona is also Chair and Non-Executive Director of Karting (New South Wales) Inc as well as the President and Non-Executive Director of Hoxton Industries Limited. Ilona is Chair of the Governance Committee for DSA.



CHRIS BOND OAM

Chris has been a member of the Oueensland and Australian Wheelchair Rugby team since 2011 and has tasted success with gold medals at the national championships, world championships and the Paralympic Games. For the last 5 years Chris has worked as a partnership manager with the Australian Sports Foundation to support in raising funds for Australian sport. Chris has previously served as a director on the board of Canteen. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his partner Bridie and young daughter on the Sunshine Coast and lends himself to various causes in an ambassador role to promote living an active life.

COMMITTEES 2020 - 2021

BOARD AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE		
Chair	Kevin Reinert	
Non-Executive Director	John Croll	
Non-Executive Director	Michael Lane	
Independent Member	John Hart	

BOARD NOMINATION AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE		
Chair	Leeanne Grantham	
Non-Executive Director	Liz Rushbrook	
Non-Executive Director	John Croll	

BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	
Non-Exeutive Director (until March 2021)	Ilona Alsters
Chair (from March 2021)	
Chair (until March 2021)	Steve Loader
Non-Executive Director (from March 2021)	
Non-Executive Director	Liz Rushbrook

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA ADVISORY BOARD	
Steve Loader	
Quentin Fleischfresser (until July 2020)	
Mim Haysom	
Katie Bourke (from January 2021)	
Bruce Cook	
Cameron Carr	
Stan Battock	



FINANCIAL REPORT

Disability Sports Australia Limited Responsible Entities' Declaration For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

The Responsible Persons declare that in the Responsible Persons' opinion:

- a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Notfor-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

John Croll Director – Chair 12 October 2021 Sydney, New South Wales

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Disability Sports Australia Limited
Responsible Entities' Declaration under the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

The Responsible Persons declare that in the Responsible Persons' opinion:

- a) the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and associated notes gives a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of the organisation with respect to fundraising appeals for the financial year ended 30 June 2021;
- the statement of financial position and associated notes gives a true and fair view of the state
 of affairs of the organisation with respect to fundraising appeals conducted by the
 organisation as at 30 June 2021;
- the provisions of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Regulations and the conditions attached to the authority have been complied with during the financial year ended 30 June 2021; and
- d) the internal controls exercised by the organisation are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the organisation from any of its fundraising appeals during the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

John Croll Director – Chair 12 October 2021 Sydney, New South Wales

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FINANCIAL REPORT



SDJ Audit Pty Ltd t/a SDJA

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W: www.sdja.com.au

Disability Sports Australia Limited

Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Board of Directors of Disability Sports Australia Limited For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of Disability Sports Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and*Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

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Simon Joyce Director

12 October 2021

Sydney, New South Wales

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FINANCIAL REPORT



SDJ Audit Ptv Ltd t/a SDJA

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Disability Sports Australia Limited

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Disability Sports Australia Limited For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

Opinio

We have audited the financial report of Disability Sports Australia Limited (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Disability Sports Australia Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Subsequent Event

We draw attention to Note 17 which highlights a subsequent event relating to COVID-19. The potential financial effect of this subsequent event cannot be made at the time of this financial report. Our opinion is not modified further with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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Full copy of Financial Report can be found on the ACNC website or upon request

FINANCIAL REPORT

Disability Sports Australia Limited Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Disability Sports Australia Limited For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

In preparing the financial report, responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report of the requirements of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

We have audited the financial report as required by Section 24(2) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991. Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2015.

Because of the inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instance of non-compliance with the requirements described in the above-mentioned Acts and Regulations as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit report expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Disability Sports Australia Limited
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Disability Sports Australia Limited
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) the financial report of Disability Sports Australia Limited has been properly drawn up and associated records have been properly kept during the financial year ended 30 June 2021, in all material respects, in accordance with:
 - i) sections 20(1), 22(1-2), 24(1-3) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991; and
 - ii) sections 10(6) and 11 of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2015.
- b) the money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted by the entity during the financial ended 30 June 2021 has been properly accounted for and applied, in all material respects, in accordance with the above-mentioned Act and Regulations.

SDJA

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Simon Joyce

Director

12 October 2021

Sydney, New South Wales

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SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

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Special thank you to Paul Bedbrook for his ongoing support to Disability Sports Australia

SPORT PARTNERS













PARTNERED INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)
International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)
International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWASF)
International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD)
Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA)

CONTACT

DISABILITY SPORTS AUSTRALIA ABN 96 104 461 814

PO Box 4083, Homebush South, NSW 2140

Sports House, Level 2, Quad 1, 8 Parkview Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127, Australia



DONATE TO DSA

Disability Sports Australia thanks our generous supporters for their continuous contribution to helping more Australians with a disability be more active, more often.



Visit www.sports.org.au/donate to make a donation. You can donate one time or set up a recurring gift. As DSA is a Registered Charity and a Deductible Gift Recipient, all donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. An official receipt will be provided for your donation.

Donations can also be made in honour or memory of a friend or loved one.

Thank you for investing in Disability Sports Australia. Your contribution will make a difference in changing the lives for Australians with a disability through sport and active recreation.

The images contained in this document have been kindly provided by Playsport, Disability Sports Australia, Disability Sports NT, Tom Brassil & Joep Buijs.

