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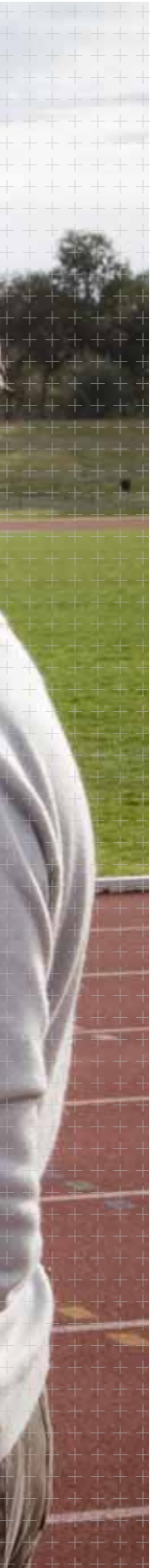
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## Foreword

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Australians place a high value on sport and active recreation. Australia's federal system has many strengths including its capacity to work collaboratively to achieve national outcomes. In relation to national outcomes for sport and active recreation, it is important that all Australian governments work together to achieve optimal outcomes from the investment of public funds.

Following the release of the Independent Sport Panel Report *The Future of Sport in Australia* in December 2009, Commonwealth, state and territory Sport Ministers agreed that a holistic and strategic approach to the organisation and development of sport and recreation policy initiatives at both community and elite levels was crucial to Australia's continuing success as a sporting nation.

In a landmark agreement highlighting the collaborative approach to Australian sporting system reform, the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council agreed to establish the first National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework (the Framework) to help guide the development of sports policy across Australia.

The Framework, developed in consultation with sport and active recreation sectors, provides a mechanism for the achievement of national goals for sport and active recreation and sets out the agreed roles and responsibilities of governments and their expectations of sport and active recreation partners. Its purpose is to assist Australian governments to achieve a consistent approach to the development and adoption of policies that support increased participation; success in international competition; strong national competitions; and contribute to whole of government objectives.

The Framework is not a policy document but provides a guide for the development of policies by all governments. It is intended that coordinated strategies and initiatives that flow from the Framework will lead to greater alignment of sport and active recreation funding and programs in pursuit of an improved sport and active recreation system.

We, the Sports Ministers of Australia, commit to the principles and priorities outlined in the Framework and to working with our partners in sport and active recreation sector to achieve national outcomes for the benefit of all Australians.

Ministers confirmed their commitment on 10 June 2011.

**Signed** for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by  
**Senator the Honourable Mark Arbib,**  
Minister for Sport



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by  
**The Honourable Graham Annesley MP,**  
Minister for Sport and Recreation



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by  
**The Honourable Hugh Delahunty MP,**  
Minister for Sport and Recreation



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by  
**The Honourable Phil Reeves MP,**  
Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by  
**The Honourable Terry Waldron MLA,**  
Minister for Sport and Recreation, Racing and Gaming



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by  
**The Honourable Tom Kenyon MP,**  
Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by  
**The Honourable Michelle O'Byrne MP,**  
Minister for Sport and Recreation



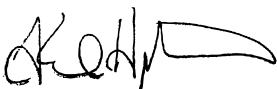
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**Signed** for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by  
**Mr Andrew Barr MLA,**  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation



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**Signed** for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by  
**Mr Karl Hampton MLA,**  
Minister for Sport and Recreation



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## Purpose

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The Framework provides a guide for the development and alignment of policies, strategies and programs by governments within their own jurisdictions in pursuit of a high performing sport and active recreation system that delivers:

- + increased participation;
- + success in international competition;
- + strong national sporting competition;

and contributes to whole of government objectives including improved health and education outcomes (including sport in schools and higher education institutions), enhanced social inclusion and community development.

The Framework does this by identifying the agreed national priorities in sport and active recreation for the next 10 years and establishing a set of core principles that define the basis for action and alignment across governments.







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## Scope

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The Framework is a guide for government activity and resource allocation. It provides a mechanism for engaging the whole sport and recreation industry in the achievement of national goals for sport and active recreation. It also sets out the agreed roles and responsibilities of governments and expectations of sport and active recreation system partners.

For the purposes of this Framework:

+ "Sport" is defined as:

*A human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport.*

+ "Active recreation" is defined as:

*Active recreation activities are those engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.*

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## Principles

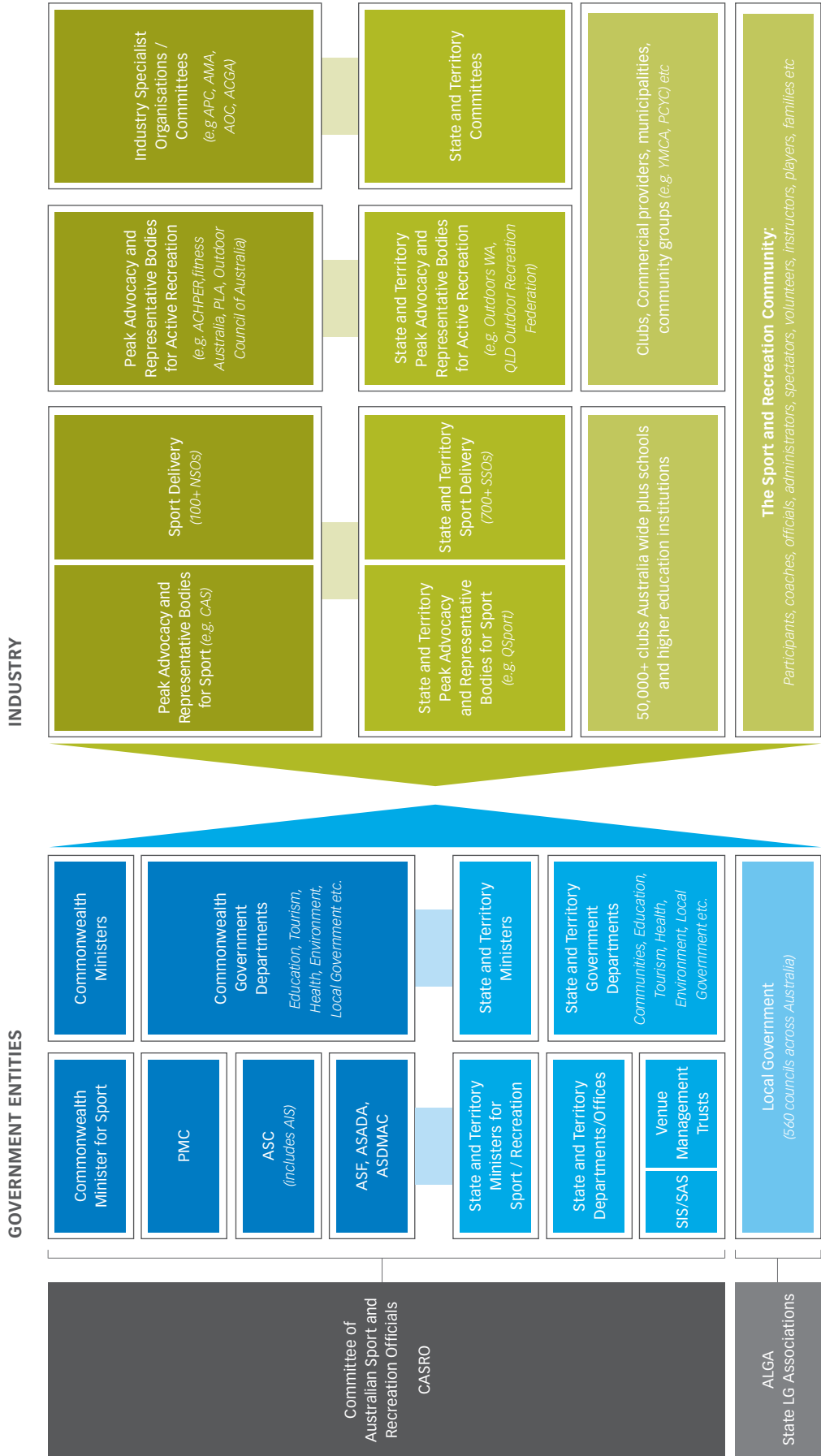
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All governments will play their part to progress priorities under the Framework in line with the following principles:

- + Fostering a federal, state/territory partnership with a shared approach to investment, responsibility and accountability;
- + Committing to strategic policy alignment to achieve outcomes of shared national significance;
- + Retaining flexibility to respond to localised needs and environments;
- + Focussing on partnership approaches to shared agendas and public policy;
- + Ensuring a long term strategic approach applicable across governments;
- + Adopting the ethos of continuous improvement and evidence based policy and practice; and
- + Respecting that each national sport and active recreation organisation has the primary responsibility for the determination of the direction and plans for their sport or active recreation.



# SYSTEM GOVERNANCE MAP – SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION





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# Roles and Responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments within the Sport and Active Recreation System

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## Commonwealth Government

- + Providing leadership to the sport and active recreation system.
- + Collaborating, consulting and partnering with state and territory governments in system leadership.
- + Formulating and coordinating policy that prioritises the intrinsic value of sport and active recreation and promotes sport and active recreation as tools to achieve whole of government objectives.
- + Collaborating with sport and active recreation organisations on national policy approaches.
- + Developing the national research agenda and resourcing national research and evaluation projects including an independent evaluation of the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework.
- + Facilitating a strategic approach to the provision of sporting and active recreation infrastructure.
- + Investing in outcomes and providing programs covering the whole of sport pathways.
- + Investing in sport and active recreation infrastructure.
- + Improving governance and management of sport and active recreation organisations through capacity building and appropriate accountability.
- + In partnership with state and territory governments, coordinating a national approach for bidding and staging of major international sporting events.
- + Partnering with service providers to improve participation outcomes to targeted populations (e.g. disabled, Indigenous, rural/remote, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, women and socially disadvantaged).
- + Working to improve research and statistical information available on the sport and active recreation industry.
- + Collaborating, engaging and partnering across government departments on shared policy agendas.

## State and Territory Governments

- + Providing leadership to the sport and active recreation system in jurisdictions.
- + Collaborating, consulting and partnering with the Commonwealth Government in leadership of the sport and active recreation system.
- + Formulating and coordinating policy that prioritises the intrinsic value of sport and active recreation and promotes sport and active recreation as tools to achieve whole of government objectives.
- + Investing in outcomes and providing programs covering the whole of sport pathways.
- + Providing leadership, policy development, funding and program delivery in high performance sport.
- + Facilitating a strategic approach to the provision of sporting and active recreation infrastructure.
- + Investing in sport and active recreation infrastructure.
- + Developing and resourcing research and evaluation projects.
- + Facilitating hosting sport and recreation events.
- + Supporting service providers through consultation, advice and capacity building.
- + Facilitating and encouraging active recreation through sustainable partnerships across the public, private and non-government sectors, supportive policy and legislation, physical and social environments.
- + Partnering with service providers to improve participation outcomes to targeted populations (e.g. disabled, Indigenous, rural/remote, culturally and linguistically diverse, women and socially disadvantaged).
- + Working to improve research and statistical information available on the sport and active recreation industry.
- + Collaborating, engaging and partnering across government departments on shared policy agendas.

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# Commonwealth, State and Territory Government Expectations of Other Stakeholders

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## Regional/Local Government

- + Facilitating a strategic approach to the provision of sporting and active recreation infrastructure including open space, and other needs.
- + Establishing local management and access policies to sport and recreation facilities.
- + Supporting and coordinating local and regional service providers (venues and programs).
- + Liaising and partnering with state and territory governments on targeted program delivery.
- + Supporting and partnering with non-government organisations that enable sport and active recreation participation.
- + Incorporating sport and recreation development and participation opportunities in Council plans.
- + Collaborating, engaging and partnering across government departments on shared policy agendas.
- + Investment in sport and active recreation infrastructure.

## Sport and Active Recreation Organisations

### National Organisations

- + National leadership including: development of national plans (including whole of sport plans for sporting organisations); alignment of their state and territory organisations and clubs; advocacy; capacity and capability building; commercial opportunities; governance; events; and workforce (including coaching and officiating) development.
- + Building and sustaining international affiliation and linkages.
- + Collaborating with governments on policy formulation and coordination.
- + Developing and coordinating participation and national high performance programs (includes talented development and ID) (sport only).
- + Coordinating and managing national competitions (sport only).

- + Developing and coordinating national training pathways and international collaborations, to enable recognition of sport and recreation leader training.
- + Collection, collation and provision of statistical data on their sport or active recreation.
- + Contribute to whole of Government planning for healthy communities and sport and recreation pathways.

### **State Organisations**

In collaboration, alignment and partnership with their national sport and active recreation organisation

- + State leadership of the sport and active recreation sector including state and regional facility planning, development of state plans, advocacy, capacity and capability building, commercial opportunities, governance, events and workforce (including coaching and officiating) development.
- + Collaborating with state and territory governments on policy formulation and coordination.
- + Development and coordination of game/ activity development/initiatives.
- + Coordinating state level high performance programs (includes talent development ID).
- + Partnering state and territory government in infrastructure provision, use of open space, delivery and management (in some instances).
- + Partnering service providers to improve participation outcomes to targeted populations (e.g. disabled, Indigenous, rural/remote, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse).
- + Development of state based delivery mechanisms for national programs and initiatives.
- + Assisting regions and clubs in the provision of membership services and the delivery of sport and active recreation.
- + Promote the health and wellbeing benefits of sport and active recreation participation.

### **Regional Associations/Clubs/Commercial providers/Community Groups**

In collaboration, alignment and partnership with their national sport and active recreation organisation

- + Operating localised competition structures and participation opportunities.
- + Implementing activity/game development initiatives.
- + Contributing to implementing where appropriate talent development/ID program initiatives.
- + Partnering in planning and management of localised sport and active recreation infrastructure.
- + Providing membership services and delivery of sport and active recreation.
- + Effective and skilled clubs will endeavour to increase participation and encourage new members.



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## Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

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- + Recognising the fundamental importance of improving alignment and collaboration across and within the sport and active recreation system, rigorous and ongoing evaluation will be required to ensure that the actions taken under this Framework are succeeding and that changes in approach are initiated if necessary.
- + Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials (CASRO) will facilitate Parties to the Framework establishing processes to monitor progress on elements of the Framework. Progress reports will be collated in a format which will enable ready analysis. A report on progress under the Framework will be provided annually by CASRO to all Ministers for Sport and Recreation.
- + The Framework will be reviewed after two years, and thereafter every four years.
- + The objectives and measures identified for the next decade across 'priority areas of cooperation' will evolve and be refined during the life of the Framework.



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# Priority Areas for Cooperation

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## Participation

Participation in sport and active recreation offers numerous benefits to the individual and the community through improvements in health and well being, development of confidence and social skills, social inclusion, community development and diversion from anti-social behaviour. Sport and active recreation provide opportunities for life-long participation.

It is known that some sections of the population participate in sport and active recreation less often than the general population. Measures need to be taken to increase the rates of participation amongst under-represented groups.

Objectives	Success will be measured by:
Increase participation in sport and active recreation	+ An increase in the number of Australians participating regularly in sport and active recreation; this would include membership of paid, events-based, school-based and program-based activities.
Increase participation of particular sub-groups under-represented in sport and active recreation	+ An increase in the number of people within specific population groups participating regularly in sport and active recreation; this would include membership of paid, events-based, school-based and program-based activities.

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## International Performance

Australia has a proud history in sport performance on the international stage. Australians are accustomed to and will continue to expect our athletes to be highly competitive on the world stage in a variety of sports that are most important to Australians culturally and for which there is an expectation of future success based on historic results and the quality of current performance and well being programs.

Objectives	Success will be measured by:
Australia continues to excel in international sporting competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Increased number of medals at Olympic, Paralympic Games and Commonwealth Games, and maintenance of Australia’s relative high position in the overall medal tally in these events.</li> <li>+ Improved average for World rankings/results at significant benchmark events including World Championship and World Cup results as appropriate.</li> </ul>

## National Competitions

Objectives	Success will be measured by:
Australian national sporting competitions are viable and prepare athletes for international success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Effectiveness and efficiency (including viability) of national competitions.</li> <li>+ Competition opportunity               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– An increase in the percentage of all athletes from each of the four categories (world-class, international-class, developing international, and potential international) who compete in national competitions – by open and under age.</li> </ul> </li> <li>+ Competition quality               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– An increase in the percentage of all athletes from each of the four categories (world-class, international-class, developing international, and potential international) who compete in national competitions – by open and under age.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Showcase the sport and provide a revenue stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Media coverage of event and financial return to sport.</li> </ul>

## System sustainability

Local clubs are the primary deliverers of sport and active recreation in the community and as such deliver outcomes under this Framework.

There is a clear need to enhance the capacity and capability of many sport and active recreation organisations from club level through to national level thereby enabling self sufficiency. Better utilisation of the available expertise of these organisations will ensure that they have the right people providing the right services at the right time in the right place.

In addition to considering the sustainability of individual organisations or clubs, it is important that the sport and active recreation system as a whole remains relevant to Australian society. This means moving with the times, taking account of current and emerging societal trends and responding appropriately so that the products and services being delivered by organisations meet consumer needs and achieve the desired results in terms of international performance, increased participation and broader community benefits.

Objectives	Success will be measured by:
Increase number of paid and unpaid workforce	+ An increase in the number of skilled paid and unpaid workers in sport and active recreation organisations.
Increase the capacity, diversity and capability of organisations within the sport and active recreation system	+ Evidence that National Sporting Organisations, State Sporting Organisations and Active Recreation Organisations are financially viable.
Ensure sport and active recreation is valued and viable	+ Community perception of the value of sport and active recreation.
Operate successful sport and active recreation events	+ Economic, social return and sports development outcomes attributable to sport and active recreation events.
Safeguard integrity in sport and active recreation	+ An increased proportion of National Sport Organisations, State Sport Organisations and Active Recreation Organisations adhering to good governance principles.
Support participation through well planned, designed and managed facilities and open space	+ The extent to which the provision of facilities (including school facilities) meets the needs of communities.

## System alignment and collaboration

The Australian sport and active recreation system is made up of a multitude of organisations delivering and supporting sport and active recreation at the national, state and local level.

Improving alignment and collaboration across the system, particularly in relation to Commonwealth, state and territory governments and within sporting organisations from the national to state and local levels, is critical to the future success and relevance of the system. This will avoid duplication of services and result in a positive use of resources.

Objectives	Success will be measured by:
Improved collaboration and alignment within the sport and active recreation system	+ Commonwealth, state and territory government sport and active recreation strategic and business plans are aligned to the goals and objectives of the Framework.

## Helping to meet broader objectives

Sport and active recreation should have shared policy agendas with multiple other portfolios across government, including but not limited to urban planning, Indigenous, tourism, education, climate change, justice, social policy, communities, health, natural resource management and economic development.

Being socially included means having the opportunities, the resources and the capabilities to participate fully in community life—to learn, work, engage in the community and have a voice. Because of its near universal popularity, sport and active recreation are particularly effective tools for connecting with socially excluded groups.

There is strong evidence that physical education (PE), sport and active recreation play a key role in developing a child's intellectual, social, emotional, physical and linguistic skills. Quality PE programs provide the essential foundation for motor skill development. Intra- and inter-school sport and sport and active recreation in the community provide opportunities to further develop these motor skills along with broader life skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership and core principles such as tolerance, cooperation and respect. The systematic adoption of sport within all Australian schools and higher education institutions is central to achieving better education and health outcomes for Australian youth and will also provide the opportunity for links to be established with local sporting and active recreation clubs that facilitate long term participation.

Objectives	Success will be measured by:
Increase use of sport and recreation to achieve wider public policy and social inclusion outcomes	+ An increased proportion of Australian (state and territory) portfolios using sport and active recreation activities, aligned appropriately with sport policies and programs in the same target group and /or geographical area, to achieve broader government and social development outcomes.

## Research and data review

### Objectives

A robust evidence base for activities in the sport and active recreation system

### Success will be measured by:

The availability and accessibility of statistical information and evidence based research appropriate to the Australian sport and active recreation system.





