

Active Your Way
GLENELG



Sport & Active Recreation Plan Background Report

GLENELG SHIRE
Victoria's Birthplace



The Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional lands and waters of the Gunditjmara people, Bunganditj people, Jardwadjali people and their respective cultural heritages.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People provide an important contribution to Australia's cultural heritage and identity. We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community living throughout the Glenelg Shire and the contribution they make to Glenelg Shire's prosperity and wellbeing.



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Introduction

Glenelg Shire Council is developing the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan* to inform the planning and provision of sport and active recreation over the next ten years. The project builds upon Council's long-term commitment to sport and active recreation, which was previously outlined in the Recreation and Open Space Strategy (ROSS) developed in 2007.

There have been some significant changes in Glenelg Shire since the development of the ROSS – for example, our population is now smaller and more urbanised, the incidence of obesity and related diseases has increased, and our infrastructure is ageing. Accordingly, Council is changing the way it plans for sport and recreational activities and the provision of open space.

Under this new approach, the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan* will focus on promoting participation in sport and active recreational activities, while the newly developed Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy (GSOSS) will provide strategic direction for the future planning, provision, design and management of open space across the Shire. Together, these two strategic documents will guide Council in the delivery of sport and recreational activities and the management of the spaces where these activities occur.

Project Aims

Through the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan*, Council aims to:

- Increase the physical activity level of Glenelg Shire residents to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Improve opportunities to participate in active recreation and sporting activities within the Shire.
- Develop an evidence base to inform Council's future investment in sport and active recreation programs and facilities.
- Establish a framework for the delivery of sport and recreation services by Council.

Scope

The application of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan* will inform Council's approach to:

- Sport and active recreation activities;
- The clubs, groups and organisations (not for profit and commercial) that provide these activities;
- Council owned or managed sport and active recreation facilities;
- Community and government sport and active recreation facilities;
- Open space, pathways and trails used for sport and active recreation;
- Recreation programs and events;
- Recreation planning; and
- Club and committee development activities.

Methodology

The project to develop and implement the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan* occurs in three parts:

Active Your Way Glenelg Sport and Active Recreation Background Report

This report presents information to help inform the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan*, including updated demographic data, trends in sports participation, and consultation data.

The report considers relevant state and federal government policies, Council's broader strategic directions, and identifies key issues to be considered in the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan*.

Active Your Way Glenelg Sport and Active Recreation Plan

The plan will outline Council's response to key issues identified in the background report. As a high-level strategic document, the plan will define Council's role in the planning and provision of sport and active recreation, establish key priorities for sport and active recreation, and identify opportunities to improve health outcomes through increased participation in sport and active recreation across the Shire.

Active Your Way Glenelg Sport and Active Recreation Implementation Plan

The implementation plan will outline how Council will give effect to the strategic directions established in the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport & Active Recreation Plan. The implementation plan will include:

- A new service framework for Council's Recreation Services;
- Operational action plans;
- A high-level funding strategy; and
- A monitoring and evaluation framework.

It is intended that the implementation plan will be a 'living document' that is updated to reflect progress and emerging issues relevant to the strategic objectives established under the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport & Active Recreation Plan.

A young boy is shown from the back, wearing a white cricket helmet with a face guard, a white long-sleeved shirt, white trousers, and white cricket gloves. He is holding a cricket bat with a green handle and a red and white blade. He stands on a green grassy field with trees and a blurred car in the background.

Acknowledgements

During the development of this report, we have heard from a wide cross section of the Glenelg community about their involvement in sport and active recreation and what can be done to improve opportunities for participation in physical activity across the Shire. Many sports clubs also shared their stories with us, providing insights into the challenges confronting organised sporting groups across the region. We would like to acknowledge how valuable this information has been in the preparation of this report.

We would also like to recognise the hundreds of volunteers who give their time so generously to provide opportunities for residents of the Shire to participate in an incredible variety of sports and active recreational pursuits. Your efforts are helping to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for thousands of residents, establish social connections, and instil a sense of belonging in communities across the Shire.

Finally, we would like to thank Sport and Recreation Victoria for funding this project; and the many Council officers, *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport & Active Recreation Plan project control group members, and Councillors who have supported the project with the aim of achieving better outcomes for residents of Glenelg Shire.

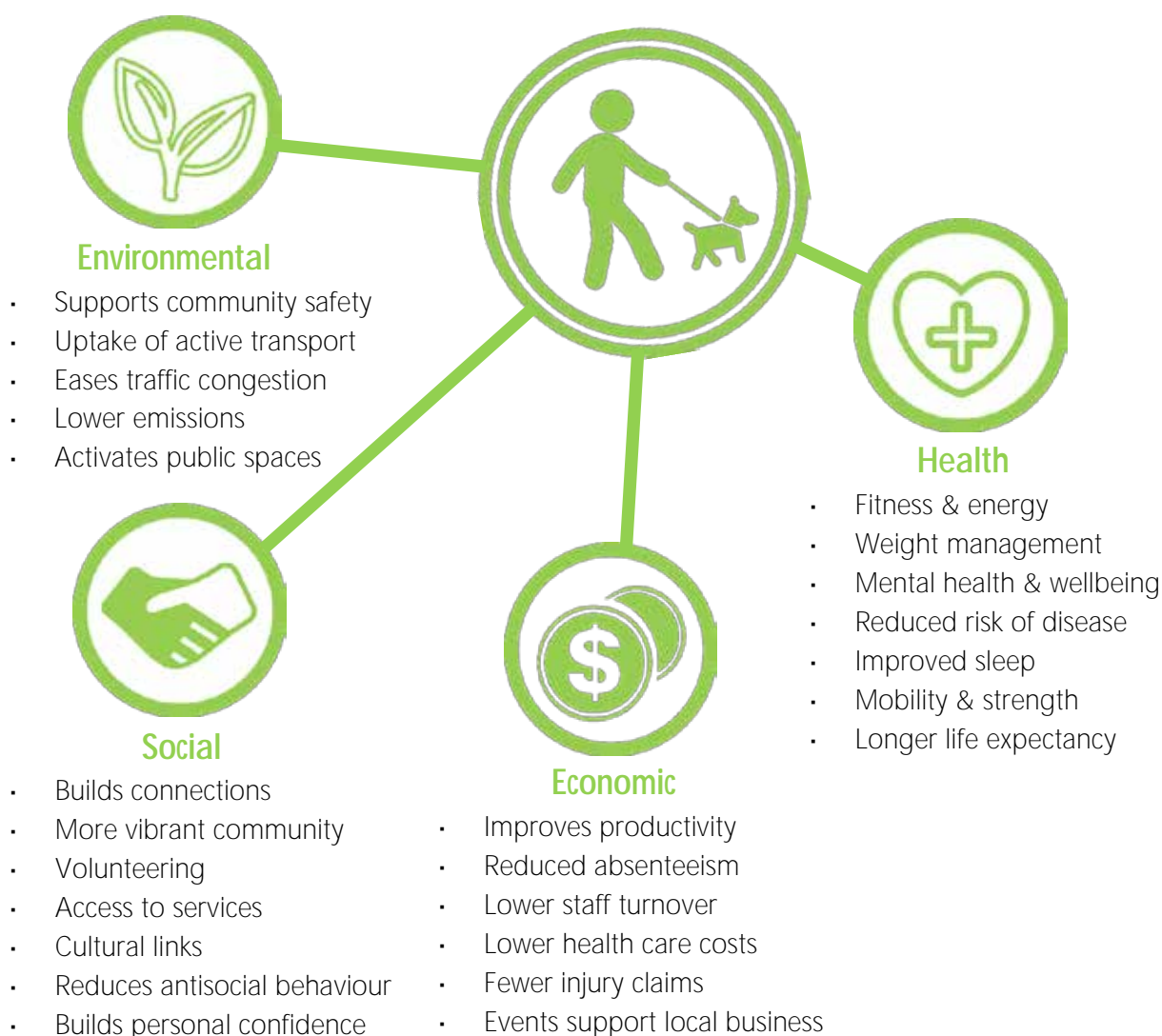
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The Benefits of Being Active

Regular participation in physical activity is a key determinant of health and wellbeing outcomes. Some of the benefits associated with adequate physical activity include reduced risks of heart disease, cancers and type 2 diabetes, as well as improved mental health and a greater sense of wellbeing.¹

VicHealth's *Action Agenda for Health Promotion* reports that regular physical activity is ranked second only to tobacco control as the most important factor in promoting good health and preventing chronic illness.² Despite these benefits, national health research shows that nearly 70 percent of Australian adults are either sedentary or have low levels of physical activity.³ As a result, rates of obesity and other chronic health problems associated with sedentary lifestyles are on the rise, at an estimated annual cost of \$13.8 billion to the Australian economy.⁴ By increasing participation in physical activity, we can realise a wide range of significant benefits for individuals and our community.



¹ Australian Government, Department of Health, Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-active-evidence.htm>, accessed February 2019.

² VicHealth 2013, *Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2013-2023*, Melbourne.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2015, *National Health Survey, First Results 2014/15: Exercise*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

⁴ VicHealth, *Action Agenda for Health Promotion*.

How Active Should We Be?

The Australian Government's National Physical Activity Guidelines outline how much physical activity is needed for children, adults and older Australians to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The most recent update also makes recommendations for muscle strengthening activities and establishes limits on the amount of time we should spend sitting or lying down, other than when we are sleeping (sedentary behaviour).⁵

While more exercise is usually better, the guidelines show the *minimum* amount of physical activity needed to avoid negative health impacts. To gain a health benefit from physical activity, the intensity of the activity should cause a noticeable rise in a person's heart rate and breathing.



0-5 years

At least 3 hours of physical activity spread across every day.
Should not be sedentary for any more than 1 hour at a time.
Under 2 years – no screen time.
From 2 to 5 years – limit screen time to 1 hour per day.



5-12 years

60 mins moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.
Strength building exercise at least 3 times per week.
Limit screen time to 2 hours per day.
Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible.



13-17 years

60 mins moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.
Strength building exercise at least 3 times per week.
Limit screen time to 2 hours per day.
Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible.



18-64 years

5 hrs moderate physical activity each week.
Strength building exercise twice per week.
Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible.



65+ years

30 mins moderate physical activity every day.
Incorporate a variety of activities.

⁵ Adapted from Australian Government, Department of Health, *Australian Movement Guidelines*, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines>, accessed February 2019.

Trends in Participation

Although Australians are generally more health conscious, they are also more time poor. This phenomenon is thought to be contributing to a trend away from traditional organised sports towards less formal recreational activities that do not require participants to attend weekly training sessions or fixed match times. Data from the Australian Sports Commission shows that, in 2018, the most popular active recreational activities in Victoria were recreational walking, workouts at a gym, running, swimming, cycling, golf, yoga and bushwalking.⁶

While the rate of participation in organised sports is frequently higher in rural and regional areas than in metropolitan centres, rapidly ageing populations and a shift towards urban living is impacting participant numbers in many smaller towns. By comparison, ‘pop-up’ events like Park Run and other informal recreational activities are more popular than ever.

The trend towards less formal recreational activities has been partially obscured by rapid growth in the number of women and girls now playing traditionally male-dominated sports, such as Australian Rules Football and Cricket. Popular sporting codes have also worked to develop more accessible ‘short-forms’ of traditional games – such as AFL X and 20-20 cricket – to appeal to potential participants who cannot commit the time needed to take part in conventional competitions.

⁶ Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission 2018, *AusPlay Vic Data Tables*.

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Glenelg Shire Snapshot

Glenelg Shire is located along Victoria's Great South Coast in the state's south west region, spanning an area of approximately 6,215 square kilometres. As of the 30th of June 2017, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for Glenelg Shire was 19,695 – a fall of around 0.32 percent since the 2016 Australian census.⁷ The Shire's largest population centre is Portland, with approximately 9,835 residents. Other significant population centres in the Shire include Casterton (1,670 residents) and Heywood (1,739 residents).



The Shire offers a tremendous variety of reserves and facilities for formal recreation. These spaces make an invaluable contribution to the fabric of local communities, where sports clubs and recreational groups are often a focal point for social activities, friendships and community connections.

In addition to Glenelg Shire's many sporting facilities, the region boasts some of Australia's most spectacular natural landscapes that include the pristine Cape Bridgewater, Glenelg River, Cobboboonee National Park and Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. The Great South West Walk – a 250-kilometre-long circuit hike to the south of the Shire –

⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0).

takes visitors through three national parks, hardwood forests, aboriginal heritage sites and rugged cliffs facing the Southern Ocean.

Relative to its population, the Shire is serviced by a large number of sport and recreational facilities. As identified in the GSOSS and the ROSS before it, the Shire provides facilities for 'traditional' sports – Australian rules football, cricket, netball, tennis and swimming – at a rate per head of population that is significantly higher than other rural municipalities and industry benchmarks. Conversely, indoor multi-purpose facilities and outdoor pitches for soccer and hockey are under-provided.

In part, this relatively high rate of 'traditional' sports facility provision can be explained with reference to the formation of Glenelg Shire through the amalgamation of the former City of Portland with the Shires of Heywood and Glenelg in 1994; a process that resulted in Glenelg Shire inheriting the sport and recreation assets of three municipalities. Having regard to the distances that separate population centres across the Shire, it is also understandable that some replication must occur in order to ensure residents can access recreational facilities without unreasonably long travel times.

As the population of Glenelg Shire is forecast to become more urban, the number of residents living in smaller towns will continue to decrease. This trend has already resulted in some facilities being repurposed as resident populations fall below the level needed to sustain their ongoing use.

It is important to acknowledge, however, that many recreational facilities fulfil multiple purposes in small towns – a football oval may be used by informal exercise groups or personal trainers, dog walkers, and be designated a 'Neighbourhood Safer Place' for use in times of bushfire. Accordingly, consideration should be given to the many ways communities make use of recreational facilities when assessing their ongoing viability.

Access to Facilities

The availability of recreational facilities plays an important role in promoting participation in sport and active recreation. As previously noted, the Shire provides access to some types of recreational facilities at a rate exceeding that of many other rural municipalities.

As part of the current project, an audit was conducted to gauge the availability of sport and active recreational facilities across the Shire. While the audit shows that Portland, Casterton and Heywood are generally well serviced by a good variety of facilities, sporting infrastructure in smaller towns is frequently disused and no longer fit for purpose.

This observation, which is consistent with the GSOSS, most often relates to facilities established in towns where populations have declined to a level that cannot support the ongoing use of the facility for its intended purpose. In relation to promoting participation

in physical activity, these facilities are now of very limited value. A summary of the audit is presented at Appendix A.

It is also noted that most of the Shire's sport and recreational facilities are intended to support participation in traditional organised sports. This is largely due to the age of these facilities, which were developed at a time when participation in organised sports was at its peak and these activities were a central focus of community life in country Victorian towns.

With changes in Shire demographics, participation trends and an increased emphasis on participation – regardless of ability – as a means to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes, this style of facility is often poorly suited to contemporary active recreational pursuits. For example, an ageing population is more likely to be interested in good footpaths to walk around their towns than access to football grounds; while younger, time-poor residents are known to be looking for ways to incorporate more physical activity in their daily routines by adopting active transport alternatives, such as cycling to work on a safe trail network.

This observation is not intended to diminish the important role organised sports facilities play in communities across the Shire. However, it is considered that there is currently an undersupply of facilities and infrastructure to support active lifestyles outside organised sports.

Demographics

Like many Victorian municipalities, Glenelg Shire's population is aging. With a median age of 47 years, the resident population of Glenelg Shire is significantly older than that of Regional Victoria (43 years), Victoria (37 years) and Australia (38 years).⁸

The demographic profile of households in Glenelg Shire varies from one part of the municipality to another. For example, the median age of residents in Casterton (55 years) is substantially higher than in Heywood (48 years) and Portland (44 years) – a result that is influenced by the far higher proportion of the population aged seventy-years or more in Casterton (26.8 percent) compared to Heywood (15.1 percent) and Portland (14.6 percent). Conversely, the proportion of the population aged under eighteen-years in Portland (20.5 percent) and Heywood (20.1 percent) is somewhat larger than in Casterton (16 percent).⁹

From 2011 to 2016, the proportion of Glenelg Shire's population aged sixty-five years or more rose from 17.6 percent to 22.2 percent; since 2001, the number of residents aged

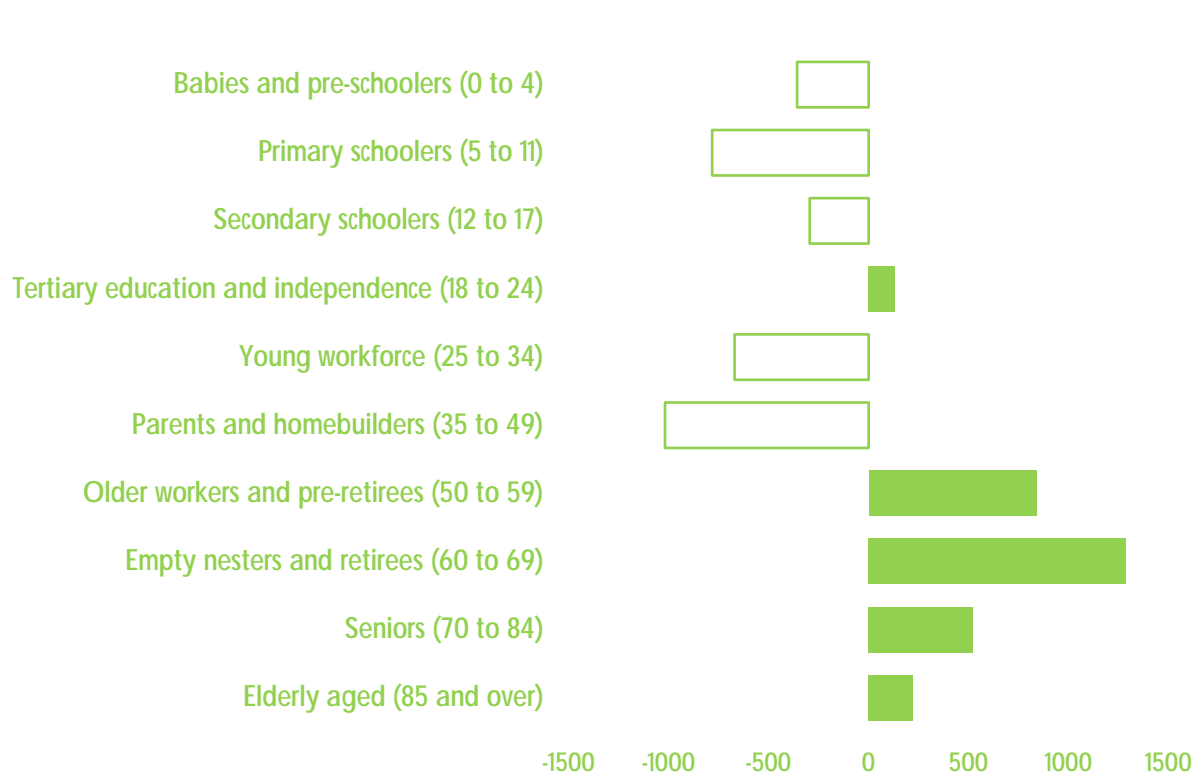
⁸ Profile.id Community Profile, Glenelg Shire, Population Highlights, 2016.

⁹ .id Community Profile, Glenelg Shire, Service Age Groups, 2016.

sixty-five years or more has increased by nearly 50 percent.¹⁰ At the same time, the proportion of residents aged under twenty-five years has fallen from 33.6 percent in 2001, to 26.9 percent in 2016 – at present, the ABS estimates that there are around 5,270 residents aged under twenty-five years living in Glenelg Shire.¹¹

Over the next eighteen years to 2036, the population of Glenelg is forecast to grow by only 6.41 percent, to 20,989 residents.¹² Most new residents will live in Portland and surrounding areas, which are expected to accommodate an additional 1,478 residents. More modest growth is tipped for Casterton and Heywood, which are each forecast to increase by around seventy residents. At the same time, the resident populations in rural areas of the Shire are tipped to fall by just over 350 people.

Change in Service Age Groups – 2001 to 2016



While an additional 142 children aged under twelve-years are expected to be living in Glenelg Shire by 2036, by far the greatest growth relates to the over seventy-year-old age group, which is projected to increase by 1,655 residents. By 2036, the single biggest service age group in Glenelg Shire is expected to be ‘seniors’ aged seventy to eighty-four-years, who will make up 18.2 percent of the resident population. The next biggest service age group – the thirty-five to forty-nine-year-old ‘parents and homebuilders’ – is expected to comprise 17 percent of the population.

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2001 and 2016.

¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census Community Profile, Glenelg Shire.

¹² .id Population and Households Forecasts (Glenelg Shire) 2016-2036, December 2017. Available at <https://forecast.id.com.au/glenelg>

Socio-economic Indicators

The ABS Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within a geographic area. The IRSAD is one of several Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFAs) produced by the ABS. IRSAD scores are derived from socio-economic indicators such as household income, level of educational attainment, unemployment rate and employment in occupations of different skill levels. The index is intended to measure the availability of material and social resources within a community, and the capacity for community members to participate in society. Lower IRSAD scores are associated with relatively *greater* levels of disadvantage and a general *lack* of advantage; conversely, higher IRSAD scores are indicative of *lower* levels of disadvantage and *greater* advantage in general.

The IRSAD score for Glenelg Shire derived from 2016 Australian census data is 925, which places it on the 18th percentile nationally. Put simply, this means that 82 percent of Australian municipalities have a higher IRSAD score (*less* disadvantage and *greater* levels of advantage) than Glenelg Shire. As often occurs, IRSAD scores differ considerably from one part of the Shire to another. Semi-rural areas surrounding Portland scored 987.5 on the IRSAD, at the 47th percentile; the balance of rural areas in the Shire scored 978.6 at the 42nd percentile; Portland and Casterton are both on the 11th percentile with IRSAD scores of 898.6 and 898 respectively; while Heywood scored 892.9 at the 10th percentile. For context, 'Regional Victoria' sits at the 32nd percentile with an IRSAD score of 959; Australia's national score is 1003.1.

While the IRSAD and other SEIFA indexes provide a useful 'snapshot' of an area's socio-economic grading, it must be noted that, because the indexes are derived from combined metrics within survey area, particularly high scores produced by some households may mask lower scores in neighbouring households. Similarly, a high score for one metric may offset a lower score on another. The IRSAD represents the *general* level of socio-economic disadvantage of *all* the people in an index area – it cannot be used to infer an individual household's level of socio-economic advantage or disadvantage.

Health & Wellbeing

The relationship between regular physical activity and better health outcomes is now well recognised. VicHealth's *Action Agenda for Health Promotion* identifies encouraging regular physical activity as one of its five top priorities for improving the health of Victorians.¹³

Glenelg Shire Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21 also recognises the value of regular exercise and the need to increase physical activity levels in residents to reduce the incidence of chronic health problems. Data from the Great South Coast Health and Wellbeing Profile shows that residents in Glenelg Shire have one of the highest rates of overweight and obesity in Australia and are 25 percent more likely to suffer from type 2 diabetes than the Victorian average. Avoidable deaths in people aged less than 75 years due to cancer, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory diseases were also higher in Glenelg Shire than the state-wide average.

Relatedly, VicHealth participation data shows that only 16 percent of children (around 21 percent of boys and 10 percent of girls), 40 percent of women and 46 percent of men in the Shire meet the Australian Government's National Physical Activity Guidelines.¹⁴

It was also observed that physical activity participation trends within the Shire are not uniform. Only 22 percent of women report participating in organised physical activity, compared to 28 percent of men and a Victorian average rate of almost 29 percent. In addition, residents living in areas with higher rates of socio-economic disadvantage are 11 percent less likely to take part in organised physical activity than those from areas that are less disadvantaged.

¹³ VicHealth 2013, *Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2013-2023*, Melbourne.

¹⁴ VicHealth LGA Profile 2015, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/vichealth-indicators-lga-profiles-2015>.

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Policy Context

As the relationship between physical activity and community health outcomes has become better defined, government policy has focused on ways to increase levels of physical activity by promoting participation in sport and active recreation and incorporating active living into our daily routines.

Federal Government

The National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework is a cooperative agreement established in 2011 to better align Commonwealth, state and territory governments in their work to develop sport and active recreation policy initiatives at both elite and community levels.

The framework, which will remain in effect until 2021, clarifies the roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and commits all parties to work cooperatively toward the achievement of seven 'Priority Areas of Cooperation' – the first of which is to foster increased participation.

Although local government is not a signatory to the agreement, the framework clarifies the expectations of local government in relation to the delivery of sport and active recreation facilities, policy and programs. These are:

- 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

Victorian Government

In line with the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework, state government sport and active recreation policy is principally focused on increasing participation to generate health benefits for individuals and the Victorian community.

Active Victoria: A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017-2021 outlines the Victorian State Government's vision for sport and active recreation, which is focused on increased participation, inclusivity, collaboration, sustainability and connectedness. The framework recognises the role of sport and active recreation in making Victorians healthier, creating economic growth and jobs, building community cohesion and contributing to our state's liveability.

Importantly, the Victorian framework establishes five strategic directions:

- Meeting demand: the capacity of our sporting programs and infrastructure will need to increase to accommodate greater participation.
- Broader and more inclusive participation: aims to increase participation regardless of personal attributes, circumstances or abilities.
- Additional focus on active recreation: recognises that increasing participation in active recreation presents the greatest opportunity improve health outcomes.
- Build system resilience and capacity: creating and increasing opportunities for participation relies on having the right systems and structures.
- Connect investment in events, high performance and infrastructure: strategic investment in an integrated network of facilities to support high-performance teams and events can generate broader community benefits.

The framework's focus on increasing participation in physical activity is consistent with the health vision for Victoria presented in the *Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015–2019* (VPHWP).

Of particular relevance to the provision of sport and active recreation, the VPHWP recognises the challenges presented by increasingly high rates of chronic diseases linked to diet and sedentary lifestyles and identifies 'healthier eating and active living' as the first of six priorities aimed at improving health outcomes for Victorians.

VicHealth's *Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2013-23* identifies five strategic imperatives for improving health and wellbeing, the second of which is to 'encourage regular physical activity' as a mechanism to tackle chronic disease and improve physical and mental health. The *Physical Activity Strategy 2018-23* has been developed by VicHealth to give effect to this imperative, with the overarching aim of increasing the number of Victorians who are physically active.

Local Government

Local government has traditionally focused on the delivery of local sport and recreational infrastructure. The Municipal Association of Victoria estimates that local councils manage 15,000 recreational facilities around the state. Consistent with the shift in national and state sport and recreation policy, however, this role is evolving to give greater emphasis to the need to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.

In its 2018 submission to the Australian Senate's Select Committee *Inquiry into the Australian Obesity Epidemic*, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) noted the need for councils to move beyond their traditional facility-focused role to develop programs, policies and initiatives that respond to local health issues.

Although local government retains principal responsibility for the planning, delivery and management of community sport and recreation infrastructure, the emphasis now given to participation in physical activity as a pathway to better health has caused many councils to rethink their approach to the provision of traditional sports facilities. While there is no doubt that the provision of these facilities is consistent with the purposes and authorities of councils established under the *Local Government Act 1989*, there is no statutory requirement for them to do so. In an environment of rate capping and shrinking budgets, many councils are shifting their attention toward the provision of infrastructure and programs that benefit a broader cross section of the community.

Glenelg Shire Council

The *Glenelg Shire Council Plan 2017-21* and *Glenelg Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21* establish the overarching strategic direction of Glenelg Shire Council. Both the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan recognise the key role of physical activity in improving health outcomes for residents of the Shire.

Since 2007, Council's approach to the planning, management and delivery of open space, sport and active recreation was outlined in its ROSS. The ROSS established a wide range of initiatives and key directions, some of which have been implemented in full, while others represent ongoing work or are no longer relevant. This strategy has been considered in detail during the preparation of this report.

The recently completed GSOSS provides a detailed view of the Shire's open space assets and outlines how the effective management of these spaces can contribute to social connectedness and better mental and physical health outcomes by facilitating participation in sport and active recreation. Together the GSOSS and the *Active Your Way*

Glenelg Sport and Active Recreation Plan will guide Council in the delivery of sport and recreational activities and the management of the spaces where these activities occur.

The following Council strategies and policies were considered during the development of this report, along with regional initiatives related to sport and active recreation. A summary of the relevance of these documents to the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport and Active Recreation Plan is presented at Appendix B.

Regional strategies and plans:

- Great South Coast Regional Strategic Plan
- The Great South Coast Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2013 - 2017
- Great South Coast Regional AFL, Cricket and Netball Strategy (draft) 2018
- Victorian Regional Sport 2014 to 2018, 'A Regional Sport Victoria Statement to State Government'
- Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Management Plan May 2015

Glenelg Shire Council strategies and plans:

- Glenelg Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021
- Glenelg Shire Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021
- Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy Final Background Report 2018
- Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy (draft) 2018
- Glenelg Shire Council Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2007
- Glenelg Services Aquatic Strategy 2014
- Glenelg Tourism Strategy 2015
- Glenelg Aboriginal Partnership Action Plan 2019 – 20
- Glenelg Environment Strategy 2010 - 2020
- Glenelg Sustainability Settlement Strategy 2012
- Glenelg Shire Community Development Department Plan 2008
- Glenelg Shire Municipal Early Years Plan 2006
- Glenelg Shire Youth Strategy Action Plan 2008 – 2012
- Glenelg Shire Council 'Including All' Disability Action Plan
- Ageing Well in Glenelg Positive Ageing Strategy
- Health & Wellbeing in the Glenelg Shire 2017

Location specific strategies and plans:

- Portland Safe Bike Path Strategy: Executive Summary
- Portland Foreshore Masterplan: Phase 2 Community Consultation Report
- Portland Strategic Framework Plan – Issues and Opportunities Paper
- Portland Leisure and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study (draft) 2017+
- Casterton Structure Plan 2018
- Heywood Active Transport Strategy 2010
- Glenelg Multisport Synthetic Report

- Glenelg Shire Council Indoor Recreation Facility Feasibility Study 2010
- Yarraman Park Feasibility Report 2014
- Glenelg Shire Reserve Master Plans: Hanlon Park, Cavalier Park, Yarraman Park 2008
- Alexandra Park Master Plan (draft) 2018

Operational guidelines:

- Glenelg Shire Council Parks & Gardens Operational Landscape Service Standards
- Special Conditions for Use of Glenelg Shire Council Recreational Reserves and Facilities 2014

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Consultation



An extensive program of consultation was undertaken to support the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan*. These engagement activities were aimed at establishing local trends in sport and active recreation, including issues impacting participation and challenges confronting local sports clubs and active recreation groups.

Consultation Activities

The consultation program incorporated a variety of engagement mechanisms to capture information from key stakeholders and community members.

Community

- *Your Say Glenelg* community survey
- Portland community meeting
- Casterton community meeting
- Casterton community listening post
- Heywood community breakfast

Sports Clubs and Active Recreation Groups

- Sport and active recreation club survey
- Portland-Heywood sports forum
- Portland-Heywood active recreation forum
- Casterton sport and active recreation forum

Schools

- Glenelg Shire school survey¹⁵

Service Providers

- Health service provider focus group
- Children and youth service provider focus group
- Local business focus group
- Sporting associations and peak body sports forum

Council

- Councillor interviews
- Council executive team consultation
- Council department team interviews

¹⁵ Results from the school survey are not publicly available as survey responses are readily attributable to individual schools.

Reach

Through the consultation program, detailed information was gathered from:

- 62 sports clubs and active recreation groups;
- 116 community members;
- 25 community agencies, organisations and businesses; and
- 11 schools.

A list of clubs and organisations that participated in the consultation program to inform the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan* appears at Appendix C.

Key Themes

Through the consultation program, key themes related to sport and active recreation in Glenelg Shire were identified and the views expressed are summarised below. Detailed information gathered through the consultation program appears at Appendices D to L.

At the outset, it is important to acknowledge the vital role of organised sports in Glenelg Shire. Sports clubs are focal points for community activity that have helped to define local identities for generations. The process of exploring options for the future of sport and active recreation is not intended to detract from the importance of these organisations to communities across the Shire.

Theme 1 – Participation

- Increase in social sport and informal physical activity
- People are thinking differently about what they can do to get active
- Strong demand for active transport and better connectivity
- Lifestyle choices mean that some people have no interest in physical activity
- Busier lifestyles are impacting participation in organised sport
- Perception of poor standard of facilities in the community is deterring participation
- The travel involved in competitive sport is a major impediment to participation
- Cost of participation is a major issue for many families
- While chronic health issues may improve with increased physical activity, in the short term they may deter participation
- Service providers report that it is very difficult to engage people with complex needs in programs designed to increase physical activity
- Poor self-esteem / being self-conscious deters participation for some residents
- It is difficult to identify what options exist to participate in active recreation outside of organised sports

Theme 2 – Facilities & Infrastructure

- Existing facilities are not able to meet current / rapidly emerging needs (e.g.: needs of women & girls are not well catered for in traditionally male-dominated sports)
- There is a sense of 'planning fatigue' – endless plans that are not delivered
- Perception that cricket, football, netball and tennis receive most attention from Council while other sports miss out
- Confusion over roles and responsibilities expressed by clubs and council officers
- Incompatible uses at some facilities
- Perception that some types of facility are oversupplied
- Some facilities are no longer fit for their intended purpose
- Very strong demand for a well-lit safe footpath network for walking
- Strong view from community members that facilities for many sports are sub-standard
- Connectivity within and between towns is poor for pedestrians, cyclists, etc.
- Limited network of sealed paths in some towns is impacting physical activity, especially for older residents and mothers with young children

Theme 3 - Clubs

- Clubs reported that they were moderately happy with their facilities
- Competing with each other for shrinking participant / volunteer pool
- Membership declining in some traditional sports, difficulty fielding teams
- Many clubs are experiencing financial hardship
- Regulatory and administrative burden is becoming overwhelming
- There is a shortage / lack of properly trained coaches and officials
- It is getting harder to attract volunteers
- There is a perceived lack of support and advocacy from peak bodies and associations, which are seen as very metropolitan focused

Theme 4 – The role of Council

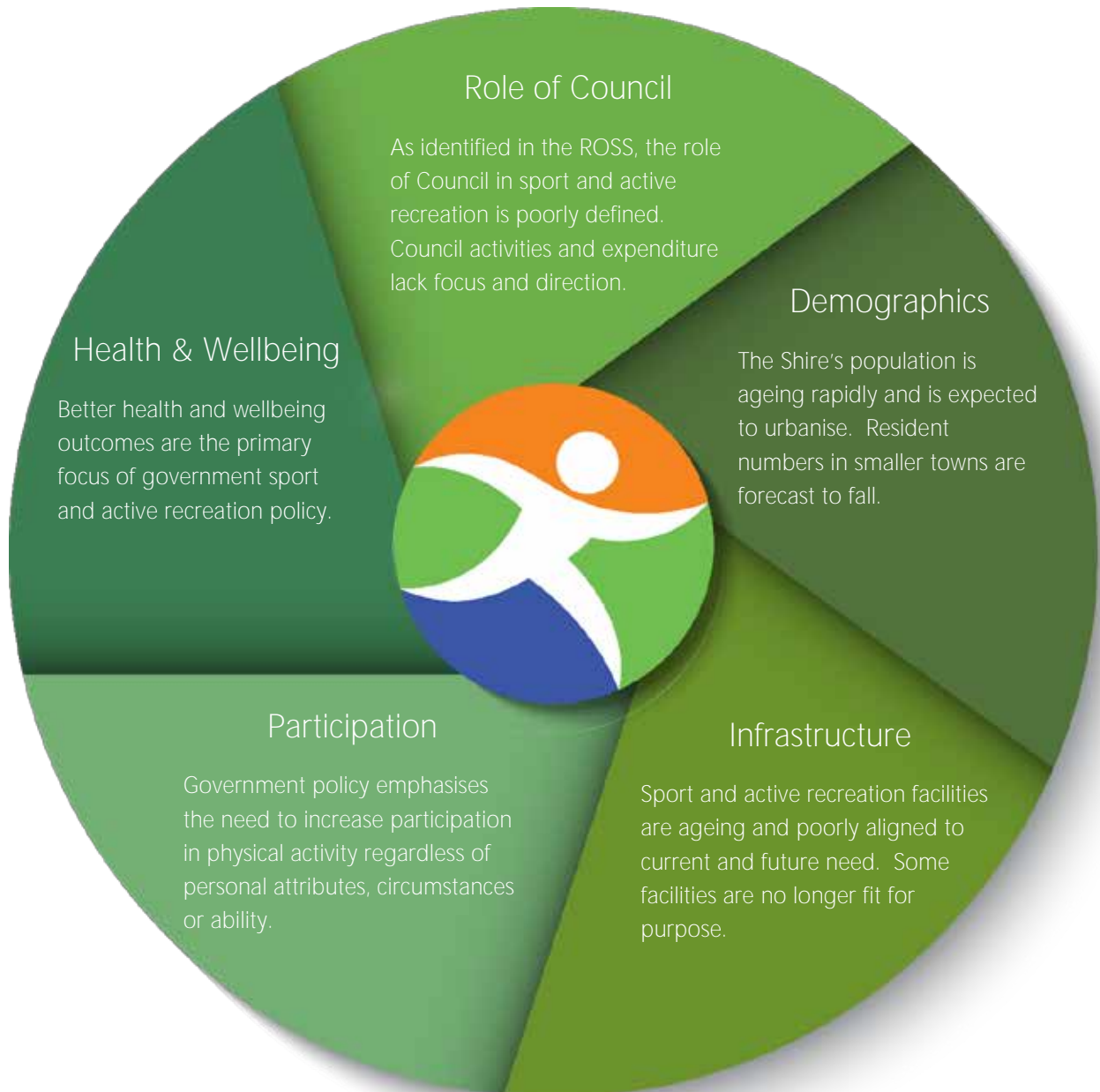
- There is confusion about the role of Council in sport and recreation
- Strong desire for greater level of support being offered to clubs by Council
- Significant emphasis on Council as the provider of infrastructure
- Support for identifying new ways to get people active that are fun and social
- There is a need for Council to build capacity in the community and collaborate with clubs / groups to promote more active lifestyles
- Interest in developing partnerships with Council
- There is a role for Council in advocating on behalf of local clubs and sporting codes
- Focus on getting people active
- Council should aim to make physical activity accessible for everyone

Active Your Way
GLENELG



Key Issues

From the evidence gathered through the development of this report and input from community members and key stakeholders, five key issues have been identified. These issues will be address through the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport & Active Recreation Plan*.



A person with long brown hair, seen from behind, wearing a black wetsuit with red accents on the sleeves and legs. They are holding a yellow and black surfboard under their left arm. They stand on a rocky, moss-covered shore looking out at a blue ocean with white-capped waves under a clear blue sky.

Appendices

Appendix A – Facility Audit

LEGEND		SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN GLENELG SHIRE																																						
		Amenities / Infrastructure Available																																						
FACILITY NAME	Reserve / facilities at a reserve are no longer fit for purpose	School facility available for community use	School facility NOT available for community use	Pavilion / hall / club room	Public Toilets	Sports Oval	Australian football goals	Cricket pitch	Cricket nets	Netball courts (outdoor)	Netball courts (indoor)	Basketball court (outdoor)	Basketball court (indoor)	Indoor multi-purpose / gymnasium	Swimming pool	Tennis court	Golf course	Soccer	Hockey	BMX circuit	Athletics	Equestrian activities	Skate activities	Squash / badminton / racquetball	Gymnastics	Croquet	Lawn bowls	Volleyball	Motorsports	Archery	Gun sports	Other								
	BOLWARRA																																							
Bolwarras Recreation Reserve																✓																								
Bolwarras Primary School				✓			✓	✓	✓			✓							✓																					
CASTERTON																																								
Island Park Reserve				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓							✓																	
Casterton Skate Park																																								
Casterton Leisure & Sporting Centre (within Casterton Secondary College)														✓																										
Casterton Polocrosse Field																																								
Casterton Racecourse																																								
Casterton Golf Club																	✓																							
Casterton Primary School																																								
Casterton Secondary College						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																								
CONDRAH																																								
Condah Recreation Reserve																																								
DARTMOOR																																								
Dartmoor Recreation Reserve				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																															
Dartmoor Golf Club																																								
Dartmoor Bowling Club																																								

LEGEND		SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN GLENELG SHIRE																																			
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	DIGBY																																				
Memorial Park				✓												✓																					
DRUMBORG																																					
Drumborg Recreation Reserve				✓	✓											✓																					
DUNROBIN																																					
Dunrobin Recreation Reserve				✓	✓											✓																					
HEATHMERE																																					
Heathmere Hall & Recreation Reserve				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓																					
HEYWOOD																																					
Heywood Recreation Reserve				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓																					
Heywood Youth Park																																					
Heywood Sports Park																																					
Heywood Pool																																					
Heywood Bowling Club																																					
Heywood Golf Club																																					
Heywood & District Secondary College						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓																					
HOMERTON																																					
Homerton Recreation Reserve				✓												✓																					

LEGEND		SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN GLENELG SHIRE																																		
		Amenities / Infrastructure Available																																		
FACILITY NAME	Reserve / facilities at a reserve are no longer fit for purpose	School facility available for community use	School facility NOT available for community use	Pavilion / hall / club room	Public Toilets	Sports Oval	Australian football goals	Cricket pitch	Cricket nets	Netball courts (outdoor)	Netball courts (indoor)	Basketball court (outdoor)	Basketball court (indoor)	Indoor multi-purpose / gymnasium	Swimming pool	Tennis court	Golf course	Soccer	Hockey	BMX circuit	Athletics	Equestrian activities	Skate activities	Squash / badminton / racquetball	Gymnastics	Croquet	Lawn bowls	Volleyball	Motorsports	Archery	Gun sports	Other				
	Hotspur Recreation Reserve			✓																																
MERINO																																				
Merino Recreation Reserve		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓																				
Merino Pool																																				
Merino Golf Club																		✓																		
MUMBANNAR Recreation Reserve			✓																																	
MYAMYN																																				
Myamyn Recreation Reserve				✓																																
NARRAWONG																																				
Narrawong Recreation Reserve			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																											
Narrawong Primary School			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																										
NELSON																																				
Nelson Tennis Court																	✓																			
PORTLAND																																				
Alexandra Park			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																											
Botanical Gardens			✓																																	

Appendix B – Policy Overview

The following table identifies Council and regional policies, strategies and plans considered during the development of this background report and the relationship between these strategic documents and the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport and Active Recreation Plan.

Regional Strategies and Plans
Great South Coast Regional Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017
<p>Identifies challenges and opportunities that the region will face in the areas of economic development, connectivity, environment, health and wellbeing, land use and liveability. The plan provides a shared vision and an agreed framework to plan for the future of the region.</p> <p><u>Aspirations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A family friendly region with equitable, attractive and affordable lifestyles • We are well connected • The healthy lifestyle region <p><u>Emerging Challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town population decline • Equitable access to services • Disadvantaged population and places • Health and wellbeing outcomes <p><u>Strategic Goals:</u></p> <p><i>Improving Connections</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for an older population • Strengthening community networks in declining small towns <p><i>Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and community transport <p><i>Social Networks and Infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community strength • Access to services • Community infrastructure • Volunteering <p><i>Strengthen the Communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liveability • Strong volunteer networks <p><i>Health and Wellbeing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places and spaces for an active lifestyle • Community partnerships <p><i>Healthy Liveable Communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Recreation

The Great South Coast Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2013 - 2017

Recognises the key role sports clubs can play in establishing positive and empowering environments for women and girls – both on and off the field. Glenelg Shire Council is identified as a strategy partner.

Aspirations

- For our sporting clubs to welcome girls and boys, women and men equally, for them to be equally represented in coaching, officiating and leadership, and to have equal and fair access to facilities such as change rooms, equipment and playing fields
- For our daughters and sons to be able to play the sports they choose, regardless of gender or age. We want the sports that our daughters choose to be valued as highly as the sports that our sons choose

Priority Work Areas and Settings:

- Prevention of violence against women and children activities led by sporting clubs can potentially reach large numbers of adults and young people, particularly men and boys, and build a positive and violence-free sporting (and wider) culture.
- Promoting women's and girls' access and participation in diverse sports is central to building equitable and non-discriminatory sporting cultures.

Great South Coast Regional AFL, Cricket and Netball Strategy (draft) 2018

Provides a strategic framework to guide the future development of AFL, cricket and netball to ensure clubs are viable and sport remains strong in the Region. Project partner LGAs are recommended to use actions and strategic directions from within the strategy to inform facility investment priorities, internal LGA planning, policy and capital works programs and securing partner investment.

Priorities:

1. Achieve agreed facility standards and functionality and maximise the use and carrying capacity of existing facilities
2. Plan and develop regional facilities in key areas, considering regional needs, innovation in facility provision and support for talent pathways, programs and competitions
3. Develop the capacity of clubs, their people and their culture
4. Continue to enhance the relationship between AFL, cricket, netball and government in the planning, provision and funding of facilities and programs

Facility classifications and identified gaps are provided in the Appendices for relevant facilities in the Shire of Glenelg.

Victorian Regional Sport 2014- 2018: A Regional Sport Victoria Statement to State Government

Identifies the role of Regional Sport Victoria and outlines specific challenges facing sport and recreational clubs and services across regional Victoria. Advocates the important role that the 'Access for All Abilities' and 'Regional Sport and Recreation' programs play in delivering many of the current state government's policy agendas and seeks support for rural areas in anticipation of the delivery of the state government's pending 'regional statement'.

Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Management Plan 2015

Serves as a strategic guide for managing and protecting over 130 parks, reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas in south-west Victoria. The plan acknowledges the wide range of recreation activities across more remote through to the more developed natural settings in the forests, rivers, estuaries and beaches of the region.

The plan identifies the how the key features of the south-west landscape such as the river and coast support many popular water-based recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, boating and water-skiing, river cruising, fishing, surfing, swimming and diving. The volcanic stone country and limestone formations also provide unique settings for walking and caving. Some activities are common and widespread such as walking, camping, sightseeing and scenic driving. There are a range of other more localised activities such as dog walking, horse riding, hang gliding, hunting, trailbike riding and dune buggy use that have specific management restrictions in place to ensure the activities are compatible with the natural and cultural environment and other visitors. It recognises that recreational activities have important social and economic benefits for the community and identifies a number of activities are also offered by commercial providers contributing to a growing local nature-based tourism industry.

Strategic Goal:

- To ensure a diverse range of recreational opportunities are facilitated ensuring impacts on environmental and cultural values and the enjoyment of other visitors are minimise

A suite of strategies and implementation activities are outlined in the document to support this goal.

Glenelg Shire Council Strategies and Plans

Glenelg Shire Council Plan 2017 - 2021

The Glenelg Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021 is prepared in accordance with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 and identifies Council's direction for the next four years. Listed below are the five focus areas of the Plan, with objectives relevant to the development of *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport and Active Recreation Plan.

Growing Glenelg

- Promote natural and recreation assets

Connecting Glenelg

- Improve connection of public places within the shire
- Support the creation of all-abilities access in the shire

Liveable Glenelg

- Promote a welcoming, caring and participative community
- Improve health outcomes for all ages

Creative Glenelg

- Promote innovative thinking in the community

Leading Glenelg

- We will advocate on behalf of the community for better outcomes for the shire
- Promote capacity building within the community

The current project will make an important contribution towards the achievement of these objectives in a manner that is consistent with Council's established actions, indicators and measures

Glenelg Shire Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021

The Health and Wellbeing Plan is prepared in accordance with Section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and aligns closely with the Glenelg Municipal Strategic Statement and the Glenelg Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021. The Plan outlines Council's commitment to protect and support the health and wellbeing of all people who live, work, learn and play in the Glenelg Shire. It identifies that Council has an important role to play in supporting active and organised recreation activities and maintaining public facilities, including parks, paths and footpaths to ensure people have the best possible chance to stay active in their community. The plan is informed by health and wellbeing data as identified in The Great South Coast Health and Wellbeing Profile (The same data source has been used to inform this background report – see Health & Wellbeing).

The plan identifies three focus areas and a series of strategies under each:

Connecting People

- Provide recreation spaces to meet the needs of the community

Healthy Living

- Support initiatives that promote active transport
- Continue to support and promote participation in structured physical activity
- Support community initiatives and programs that address overweight and obesity in our community
- Support initiatives that promote consumption of healthy food among children and adults consistent with the Australian dietary guidelines

Access and Inclusion

- Support and advocate for increasing accessibility in our communities
- Support participation in structured physical activity by people with a disability

Health & Wellbeing in Glenelg 2017

Health & Wellbeing in Glenelg 2017 is the background report and statistics that support the Glenelg Shire Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021. Supported by a large number of data sources, some not publicly available, the report provides a comprehensive community well-being profile. The report also provides data around local participation rates in physical activity.

Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy (draft) 2019

The recently completed Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy (GSOSS) provides a detailed view of the Shire's open space assets and outlines how the effective management of these spaces can contribute to social connectedness and better mental and physical health outcomes by facilitating participation in sport, active and passive recreation. The strategy considers the shire's demographics and the implications for open space planning, which in turn impact the provision of sport and active recreation facilities. The GSOSS provides a detailed audit of the current open space network - investigating accessibility, functionality, connectivity and management issues.

A vision and guiding principles have been developed to guide the future planning and ongoing management of Council's open space network, with six outcomes identified to assist Council to realise the vision. These outcomes are explored through an action plan which identifies the benefits of a cohesive and integrated planning framework and sets several actions for consideration in the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport and Active Recreation Plan.

Glenelg Shire Council Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2007

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy (ROSS) was undertaken in 2007 to assess the sport, recreation and open space (parks and reserves) needs and aspirations of residents and community groups across the Shire of Glenelg, and to formulate new directions and priorities for the provision of leisure facilities and services. The planning process for the document involved an extensive review of background material, industry trends, demographic data, population projections and community engagement. The main report presents a discussion of key shire-wide issues under the following themes or topics:

- Open Space,
- Recreation Programs and Activities,
- Recreation Infrastructure,
- Potential Facility Gaps,
- Policy and Procedures, and
- Other issues

The ROSS provides a vision, core values, principles, key objectives and an implementation plan, detailing almost 200 recommendations for specific recreation and open space projects, tasks and actions. Some of these initiatives have been implemented in full, while others represent ongoing work or are no longer relevant. This strategy has been considered in detail during the preparation of this report and outstanding issues will be carried over to this project. Once endorsed by Council, the Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy 2019 and the *Active Your Way Glenelg Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2019* together will supersede the ROSS.

Glenelg Aquatic Services Strategy 2014

There are four aquatic facilities in the Shire of Glenelg – Portland Leisure and Aquatic Centre, Heywood Outdoor Pool, Merino Outdoor Pool and the Casterton Outdoor Pool. The strategy was developed to inform Council on the planning, provision, development, maintenance and management of each facility and provide recommendations, strategic directions and policy outcomes to address the immediate (up to 10 years) and longer-term (10 – 50 years) needs of the community.

Glenelg Tourism Strategy 2015

Provides a framework to explore the capacity of the Shire as a tourist destination - identifying strengths and potential challenges of this emerging industry. The document looks at current and potential market position, investigates the tourism product offered and conducts an analysis of the visitor market.

Opportunities:

- Sporting and physical adventure events - that capitalise on the area's natural assets, such as multi-day sports and organised adventures
- Nature based tourism – investigating and promoting the opportunity for recreational activities that complement the high-quality nature-based assets of the area

Glenelg Environment Strategy 2010 - 2020
<p>Centred on the vision ‘Everyone acting together to ensure a healthy natural environment supporting a sustainable future for our communities’ the strategy identifies nine key areas for action, outlining an aim and strategies for implementation under each of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision Making • Environmental Awareness • Biodiversity • Coastline and Sea • Waterways, Lakes and Wetlands • Soil and Farmland • Resource Efficiency • Target and Transparency <p>This document provides important considerations as the Shire experiences growth in active recreation pursuits that take advantage of local nature-based assets, as identified in the Tourism Strategy.</p>
Glenelg Sustainable Settlement Strategy 2012
<p>The Glenelg Sustainable Settlement Strategy provides a clear direction for the strategic planning of Glenelg Shire settlement for the next 25 years. To manage the forecast demographic changes, the strategy identifies the importance of planning effectively to ensure a vibrant and alternative future and suggests facilitating access to diverse recreation opportunities, amongst other things, to help stimulate economic and population growth.</p> <p>The strategy identifies a number of key initiatives to be implemented on a ‘town by town’ basis – of key importance to the delivery of active recreation is the recommendations relevant to upgrading connectivity across the shire, both for recreation purposes (walking and cycling) and for township amenity – improving connectivity between residential areas, recreational facilities and town centres. In addition, there are several site-specific recommendations related to the development of potential tourism initiatives, many based on recreational activity and also some strategies related to the assessment and potential upgrade of existing recreational facilities in the smaller rural townships across the shire.</p>
Glenelg Shire Community Development Department Plan 2008
<p>Identifies key issues impacting the delivery of Recreation Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial implications of maintaining ageing infrastructure • Increasing expectations from community groups and clubs for assistance • Diminishing volunteer pool to service community groups and clubs • Increasing volume of capital works requests • Level of maintenance/refurbishment required for aquatic facilities across the Shire • Need for whole-of-organisation approach to support the delivery of recreation in the community

Glenelg Shire Municipal Early Years Plan 2006

The Municipal Early Years Plan focuses primarily on the 0-6 age group, providing a documented approach to the provision of services and programs to children and families across the Shire. Although well out of date, the strategic action plan provides several strategies still relevant to increasing the physical activity levels of young children, and have been included below for consideration:

- Ensure that early years are taken into consideration in recreation and open space planning
- Advocate for children in the development of new estates in regard to playgrounds, open space, walkability, etc
- Identify spaces that can be developed with appropriate baby change and family areas within community facilities
- Ensure that programs for early years are accessible and inclusive
- Review walking access to all early years' facilities
- Improve the connection of walking trails in the Shire of Glenelg
- Work collaboratively with other agencies to establish a walking school bus program
- Investigate improvements to aquatic facilities for children and families by provision of water play

Glenelg Shire Youth Strategy Action Plan 2008 - 2012

Following the development of a Youth Issues Paper and a Youth Policy Framework, Council endorsed the Youth Strategy Action Plan in 2009. Guided by the vision: *'Glenelg Shire Council is committed to ensuring that the young people of the municipality experience a community in which they feel accepted, supported and encouraged'* the Action Plan's purpose is to guide Council resource allocation, initiatives and priorities in relation to addressing identified youth issues. One of the key issues / themes identified is Recreation and Leisure:

Key Objective:

'Young People in Glenelg Shire have access to a range of innovative, creative and appropriate recreation and leisure opportunities that respond to identified community needs.'

The objective is to be actioned through six key recommendations designed to facilitate direct or indirect access to recreational activities. The Youth Strategy Action Plan identifies Council to have a leadership role in the implementation of these initiatives.

Glenelg Shire Council Access and Inclusion Disability Action Plan 2014 - 2017

Under Victoria's Disability Act 2006, all Victorian Councils are required to develop a Disability Action Plan. The overall objective of the plan is to improve the physical and social environment of the Shire for residents with a disability. The plan identifies four key outcomes, each complemented by a number of objectives and actions. Three of the key outcomes are pertinent to the provision of sport and recreation services and have been listed below with the relevant objective(s):

Outcome 1: Reduce barriers to people with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities

- Increase access for people with a disability to Council owned infrastructure
- Increase access for people with a disability to Council run, or supported, events

Outcome 3: Promote inclusion and participation in the community of people with a disability

- Increase access for people with a disability to Council run, or supported, events

Outcome 4: Achieve tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against people with a disability

- Increase Councils awareness about people with a disability

'Ageing Well in Glenelg' Positive Ageing Strategy 2008 - 2013

An in-depth look at Glenelg's rapidly ageing population and the challenges this brings with it, the strategy is developed on three platforms:

'**Confident Ageing**' – so that older people in Glenelg feel safe, supported and confident in their homes, neighbourhood and community.

'**Healthy Ageing**' – to ensure older people in Glenelg are well informed about healthy lifestyles, active, mobile, connected and included.

'**Positive Attitudes to Ageing**' – making sure older people in Glenelg are valued, respected, considered and consulted.

Each platform is supported by a detailed action plan with several recommendations relevant to increasing the physical activity levels of older residents, including

- Provision of a safe footpath network to enhance the mobility of older residents and reduce their fear of falls
- Recreation, sporting and open spaces that are safely accessible and amenable to ageing residents
- Council sport and recreation facilities that target the needs of an ageing community
- Promotion of healthy, active ageing

Glenelg Aboriginal Partnership Action Plan 2019 - 20

The Glenelg Aboriginal Partnership Agreement was developed by Council in partnership with Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. This is the third plan to be developed in accordance with the Glenelg Aboriginal Partnership Agreement 2011 – 2020, and builds on past agreements to promote recognition, healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents in the Glenelg Shire.

The plan outlines a shared vision focused on sustainable partnerships and identifies six key themes:

1. Early Childhood
2. Schooling
3. Economic Participation
4. Engaged, Safe and Healthy Communities
5. Governance and Leadership
6. Country and Culture

An action plan detailing agreed tasks, timeframes and allocating responsibility for completion of the work, under each theme is provided. All actions are closely linked to the strategic directions of the Korin Korin Balit – Djak 2017 – 2027, the Victorian Government's Strategic Plan for Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety.

The strategies and plans listed below are location based, facility specific or operational documents of Council. They have also been considered in the development of this background report and in conjunction with Council Officers, specific actions will be reviewed for inclusion in the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport and Active Recreation Implementation Plan.

- Portland Safe Bike Path Strategy: Executive Summary
- Portland Foreshore Masterplan: Phase 2 Community Consultation Report
- Portland Strategic Framework Plan – Issues and Opportunities Paper
- Portland Leisure and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study (draft) 2017
- Glenelg Shire Council Indoor Recreation Facility Feasibility Study 2010
- Casterton Structure Plan 2018
- Heywood Active Transport Strategy 2010
- Glenelg Multisport Synthetic Report
- Yarraman Park Feasibility Report 2014
- Glenelg Shire Reserve Master Plans: Hanlon Park, Cavalier Park, Yarraman Park 2008
- Alexandra Park Master Plan (draft) 2018
- Glenelg Shire Council Parks & Gardens Operational Landscape Service Standards
- Special Conditions for Use of Glenelg Shire Council Recreational Reserves and Facilities 2014

Appendix C – Consultation

The following clubs and organisations participated in the consultation program to inform the development of the *Active Your Way Glenelg* Sport & Active Recreation Plan:

All Saints Parish School
Bolwarra Primary School
Bundarra Primary School
Casterton Bowling Club
Casterton Cricket Club
Casterton Croquet Club
Casterton District Tennis Association
Casterton Primary School
Casterton Secondary College
Casterton Squash Club
Casterton Swimming Club Inc
Casterton Vice Regal Band
Casterton-Sandford Football Netball Club Inc
Dartmoor and District Association/Dartmoor Show Society
Far Western Victorian Indoor Bowling Association Inc.
Friends of the Great South West Walk Inc
Glenelg Pony Club
GSC Youth Development Officer
Heywood and District Secondary College
Heywood Bowling Club
Heywood Football Netball Club
Heywood Junior Basketball Assoc.
Heywood Junior Football Club
Heywood Netball Club
Heywood Pony Club
Heywood Rural Health/Kyeema Support Services
Lawn Tennis/Colts Cricket Club
Little Shop of Workouts
Merino Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Club Inc.
Mpower Inc
Narrawong District Association
Narrawong Primary School
North Portland Junior Football Club
Portland Hockey Club
Portland and District Adult Riding Club
Portland and District Karting Club

Portland and District Pony Club
Portland and Far South West Poultry Club
Portland Auskick
Portland Basketball Association
Portland Bay School
Portland BMX Club
Portland Bowling Club
Portland Colts Cricket Club
Portland Croquet Club
Portland Cycling Club
Portland Dance and Social Club
Portland Danz X-tensions
Portland District Cricket
Portland District Health
Portland District Health
Portland District Health
Portland Dog Obedience Club Inc
Portland Football Netball Cricket Club
Portland Golf Club
Portland Gymnastics Club
Portland Harbour PROBUS Club
Portland Indoor Cricket/Sports
Portland Junior Football Association
Portland Kyokushin Karate Club
Portland Lawn Tennis Club
Portland Light Harness
Portland Little Athletics
Portland Netball Association
Portland Park Run
Portland Polocrosse Club
Portland Rhoo Tae Kwon Do Club
Portland Rifle Club
Portland Rifle Club
Portland RSL Memorial Bowling Club/PFNCC
Portland Runners Club
Portland Secondary College
Portland Snap Fitness
Portland Soccer Sport and Recreation Club
Portland South Primary School
Portland Sport Fishing Club
Portland Squash and Racquetball Club
Portland Touch Association

Portland Triathlon Club
South Portland Cricket Club
South Portland Hall Committee
South Portland Junior Football
South West Academy of Sport
South West Sport
Southern Grampians and Glenelg PCP
Tennis Victoria
Tyrendara Cricket Club
Victoria Police - Youth Resource Officer
West Portland Junior Football
Westerns Football Netball Club
Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West

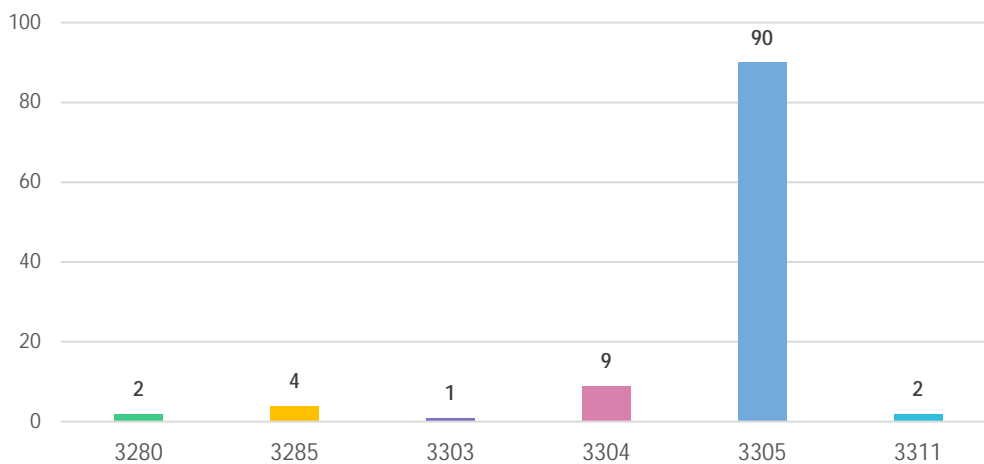
Appendix D – Community Survey

NOTE: Information that would tend to identify an individual respondent, club or other person has been redacted.

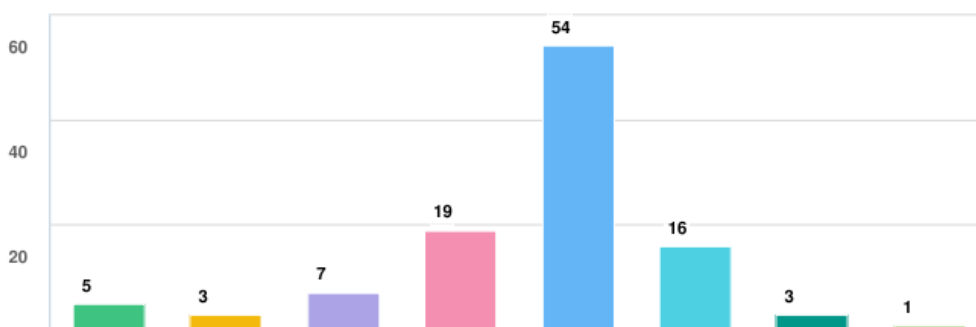


Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q1 | What is your postcode



Q2 | What is your age?

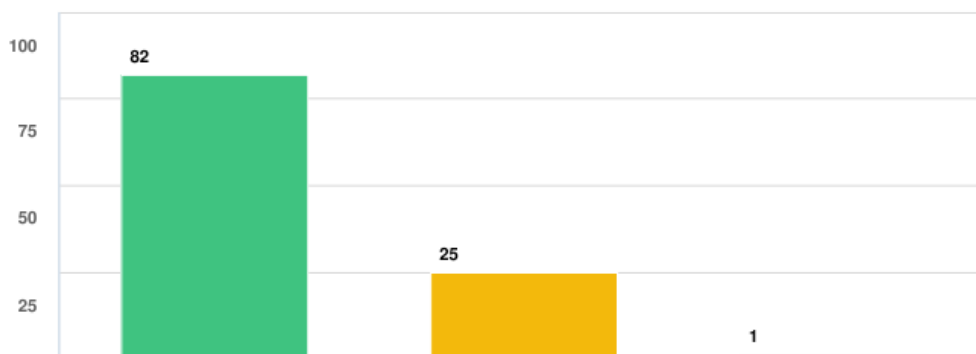


Question options

- Under 12 Years
- 12-17 Years
- 18 to 24 years
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 49
- 50 to 59
- 60 to 69
- 70 to 84

(108 responses, 0 skipped)

Q3 | Which gender do you most identify with?



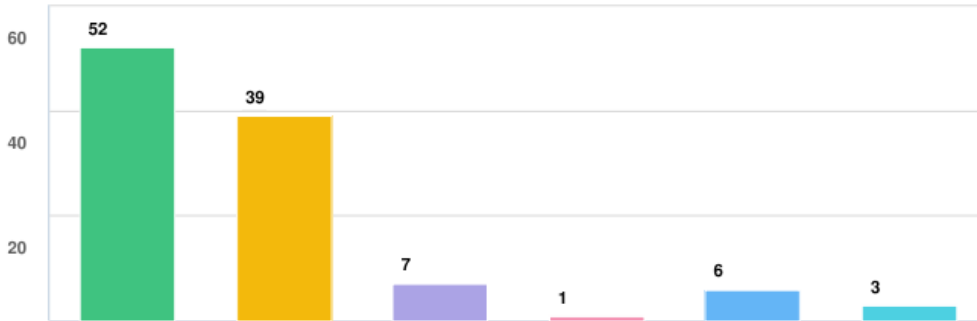
Question options

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Optional question (108 responses, 0 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

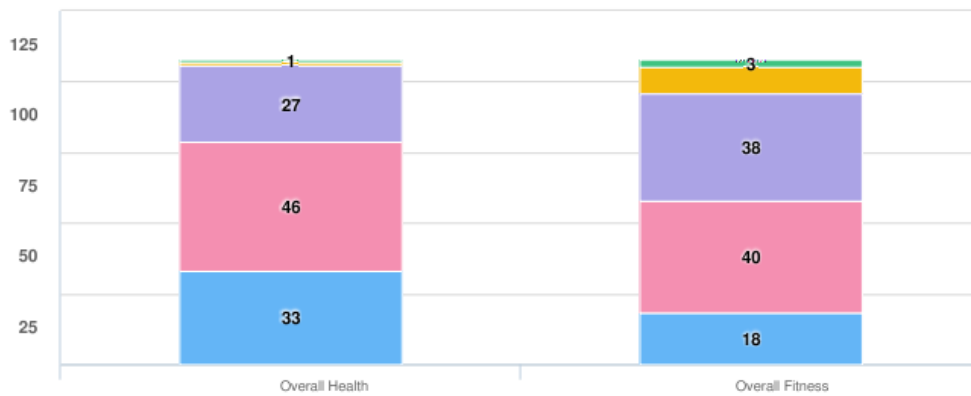
Q5 Which of the following best describes you work status?



Question options

- Employed – full-time
 - Employed – part-time or casual
 - Student – primary or secondary
 - Student – tertiary or further education
 - Not employed – not looking for work
 - Retired
- (108 responses, 0 skipped)

Q6 How would you rate your overall health and fitness?

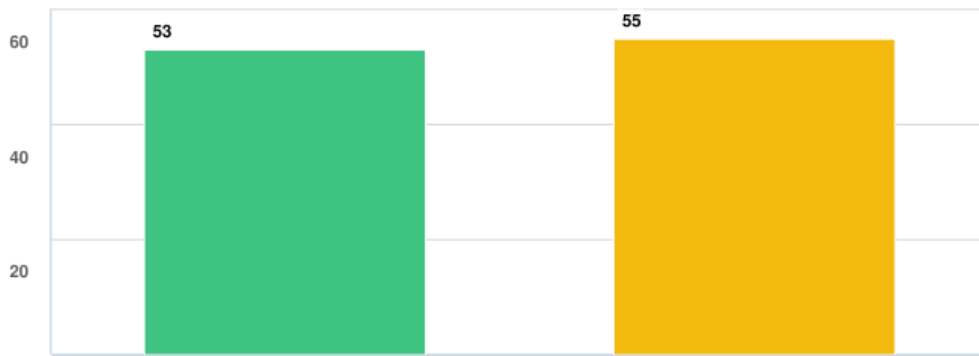


Question options

- Very poor
 - Poor
 - Ok
 - Good
 - Very good
- (108 responses, 0 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q7 Do you play competitive sport at any level?

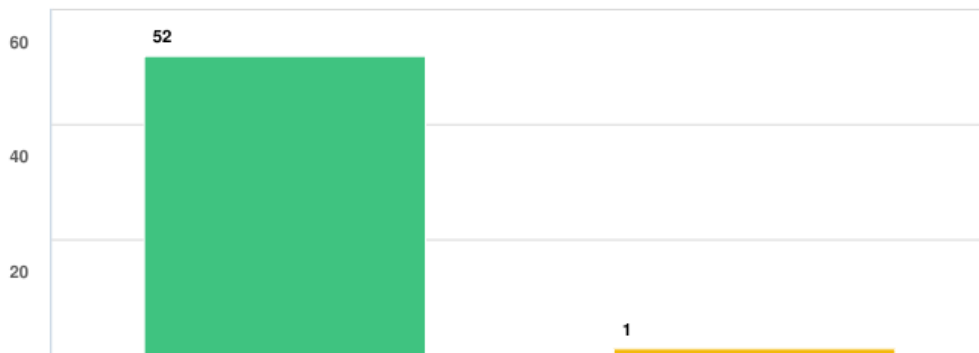


Question options

- Yes
- No

(108 responses, 0 skipped)

Q8 Are you currently a member of a sport club or group?

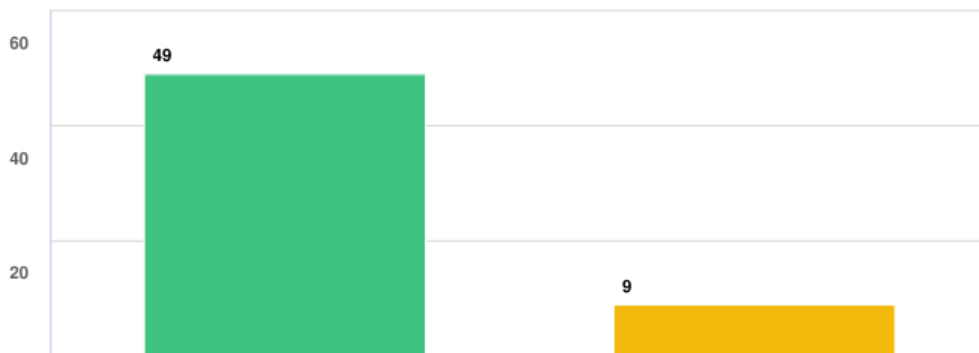


Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (53 responses, 55 skipped)

Q9 Have you ever played competitive sport at any level?



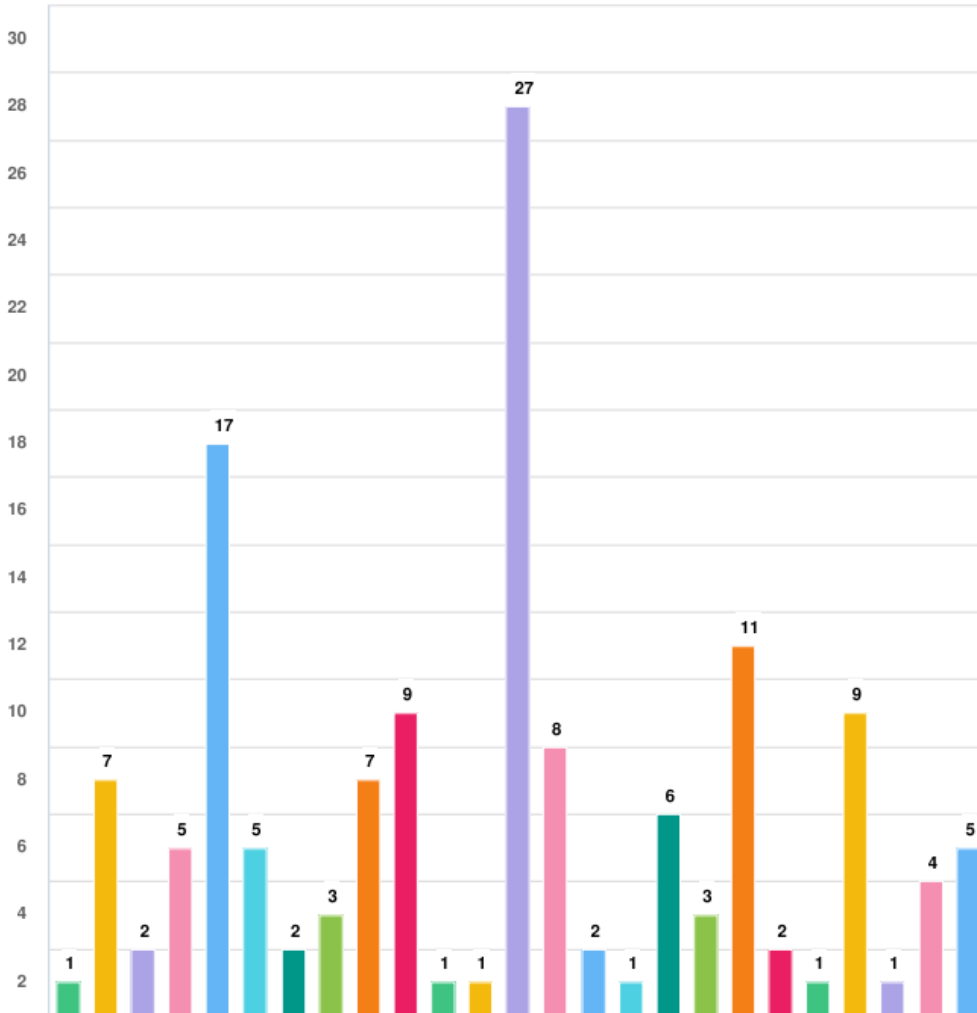
Question options

- Yes
- No

(58 responses, 50 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q10 In which of the following sports did you compete?



Question options

- Archery ● Athletics ● Australian Rules Football ● Badminton ● Basketball ● Cricket ● Equine sports
- Golf ● Gymnastics / Calisthenics ● Hockey ● Lawn bowls ● Martial arts ● Netball ● Running
- Sailing ● Shooting sports ● Soccer ● Surfing ● Swimming / Diving (pool) ● Swimming (open water)
- Table tennis ● Tennis ● Triathlon / Biathlon ● Volleyball ● OTHER

(49 responses, 59 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q11 If other please specify

Rock climbing, walking

Race Walking

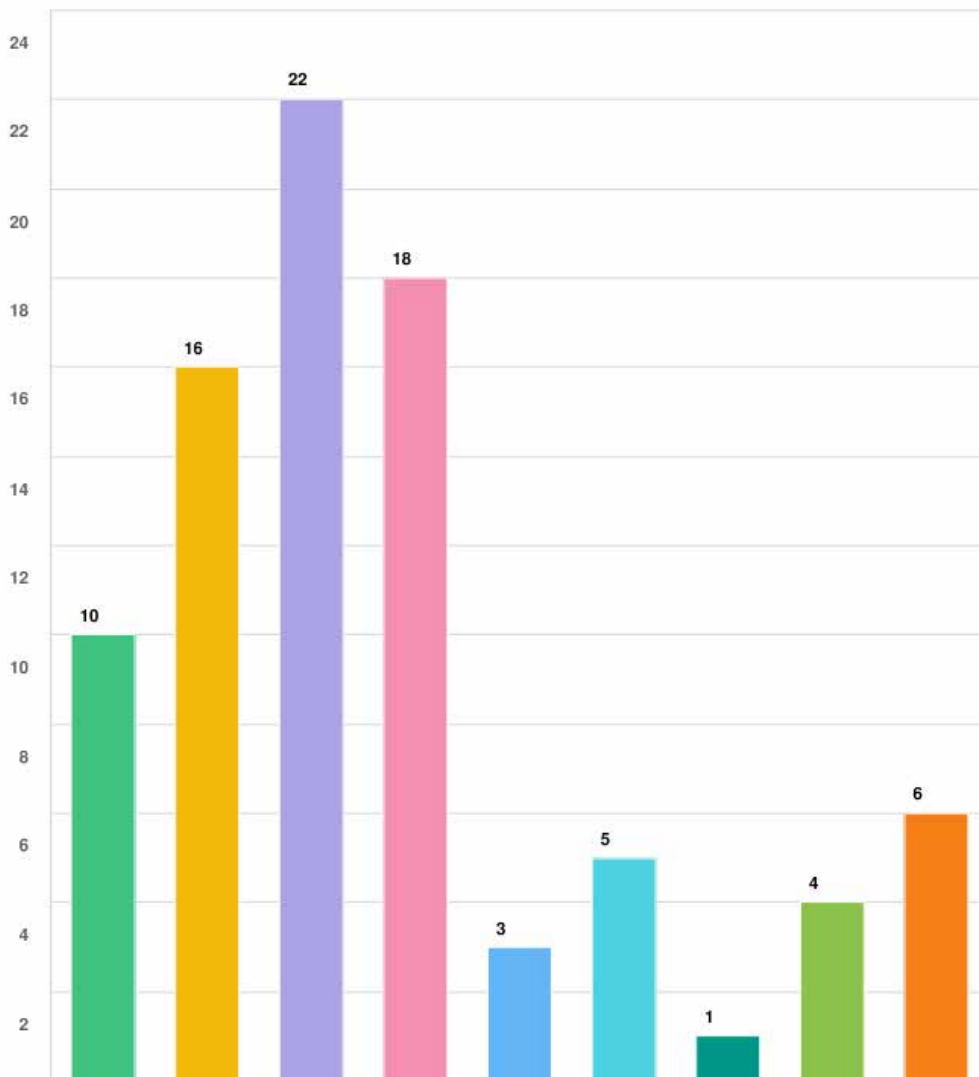
Racquetball

Dancing

Baseball

Optional question (5 responses, 103 skipped)

Q12 Why did you stop participating in sport?



Question options

- Not enough time
- Work or study commitments
- Family commitments
- Health or injury
- Cost
- Lost interest
- Too much travel
- Inadequate facilities
- OTHER

(49 responses, 59 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q13 | If other please specify

Too old

Age

moved away from area

Badminton club closed down due to lack of membership

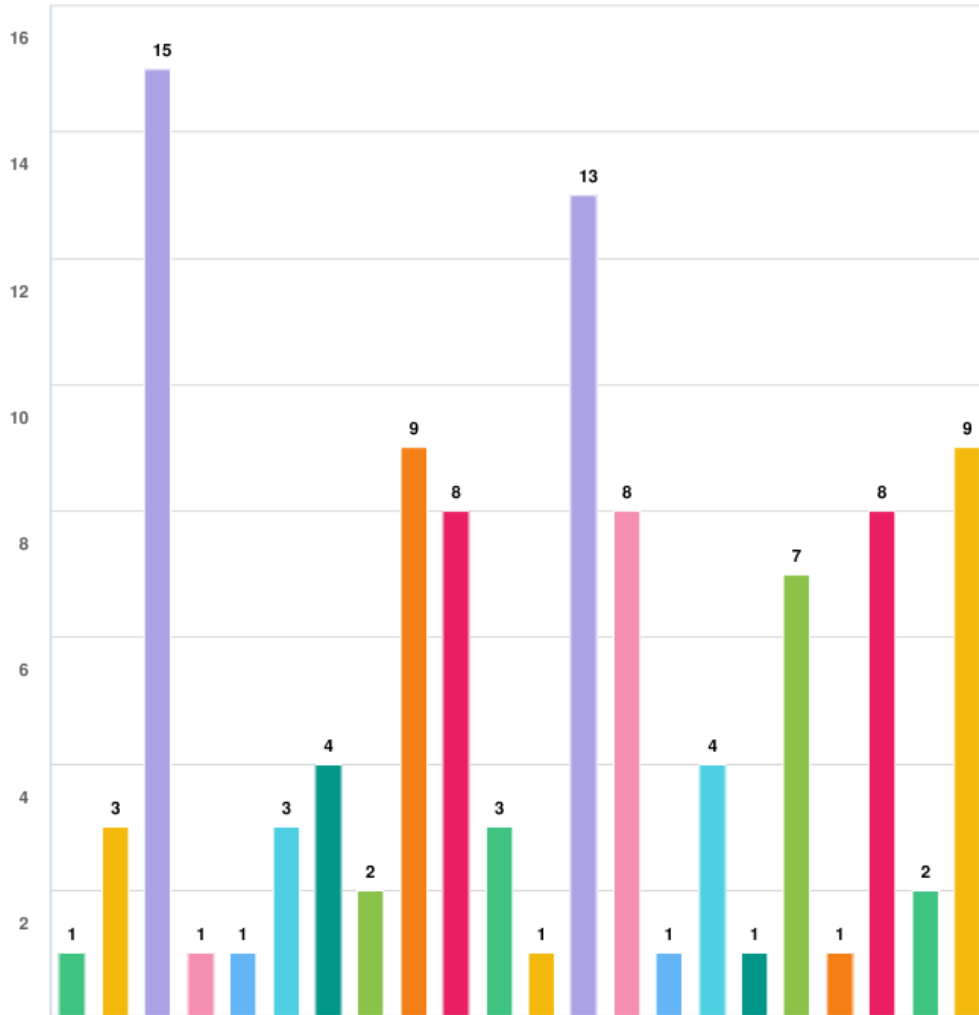
I have always found individual activities to be more enjoyable and didn't have a large involvement in team sports growing up. I've moved house a bit over the past few years that has made joining groups and settling in difficult. I would consider again.

Still a member but currently not playing because of injury

.....
Optional question (6 responses, 102 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q14 In which of the following sports do you compete or train on a regular basis?



Question options

- Athletics ● Australian Rules Football ● Basketball ● Boxing ● Cricket ● Cycling (any kind)
- Equine sports ● Golf ● Gymnastics / Callisthenics ● Hockey ● Martial arts ● Motor sports ● Netball
- Running ● Shooting sports ● Soccer ● Surfing ● Swimming / Diving (pool) ● Swimming (open water)
- Tennis ● Triathlon / Biathlon ● OTHER

Optional question (53 responses, 55 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q15 | If other please specify

Standup Paddle Boarding , scuba diving and walking

Personal training

Trail Running

Squash

Touch Football

Surf Life Saving

Squash, Racquetball

Scuba Diving

Group fitness

Racquetball, personal training

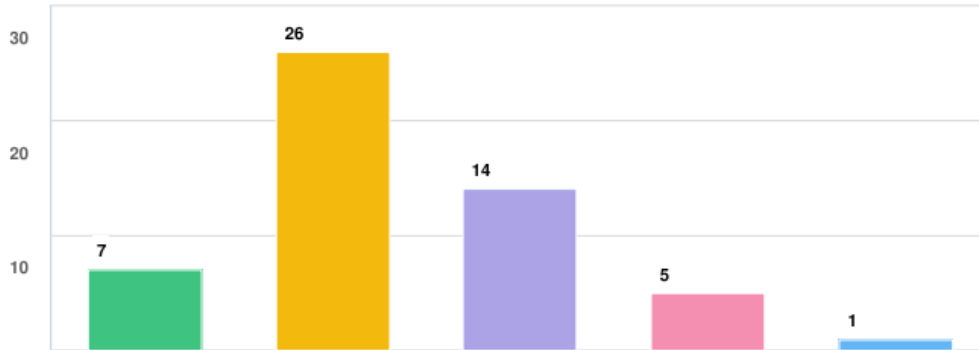
AFL Umpiring

Dance

Optional question (12 responses, 96 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

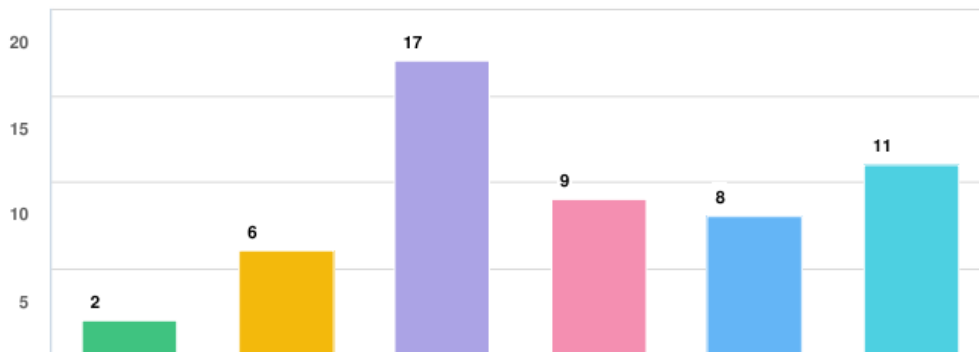
Q16 On average, how much time do you spend playing sports each week?



Question options

● Less than 2 hours
 ● 2-5 hours
 ● 5-10 hours
 ● 10-15 hours
 ● 15-20 hours
 (53 responses, 55 skipped)

Q17 For how many years do you expect to continue playing your main sport?

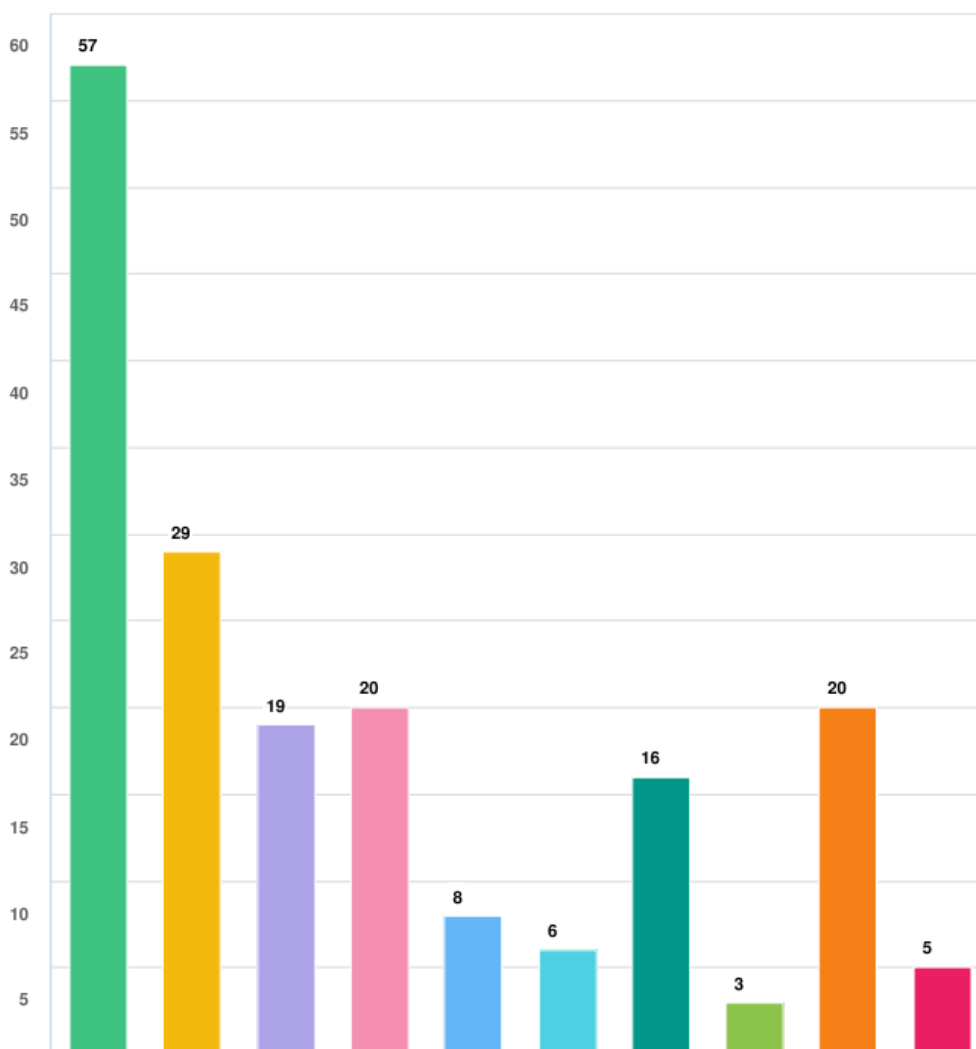


Question options

● Less than 2 years
 ● 2-5 years
 ● 5-10 years
 ● 10-15 years
 ● 15-20 years
 ● More than 20 years
 Optional question (53 responses, 55 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q18 | Have any of the following issues ever affected your ability to participate in sports in the Shire of Glenelg?



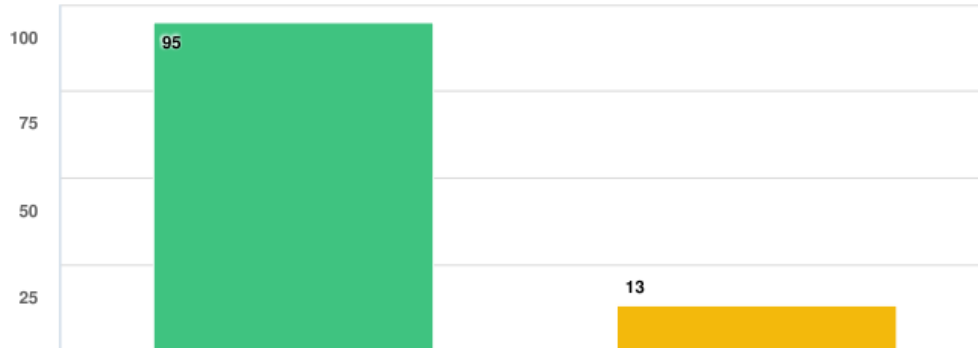
Question options

- Limited or inadequate facilities
- Distance to travel for games or events
- Cost
- Not enough participants
- My sport was not offered locally
- I felt unwelcome
- Confidence
- Gender restrictions
- Health or fitness level
- Disability

Optional question (85 responses, 23 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q20 Do you regularly participate in active recreational activities?

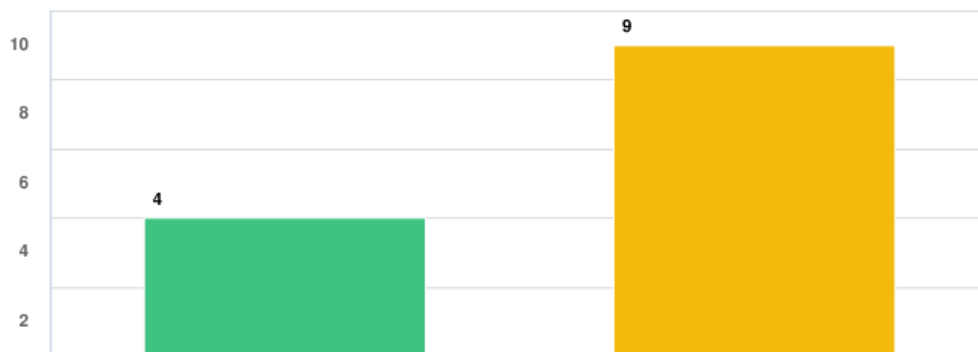


Question options

● Yes ● No

(108 responses, 0 skipped)

Q21 Have you ever regularly participated in active recreational activities?



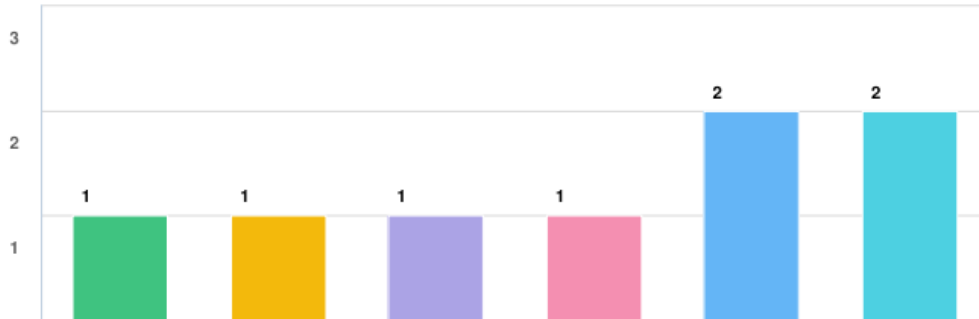
Question options

● Yes ● No

Optional question (13 responses, 95 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q22 In which active recreational activities were you a regular participant?

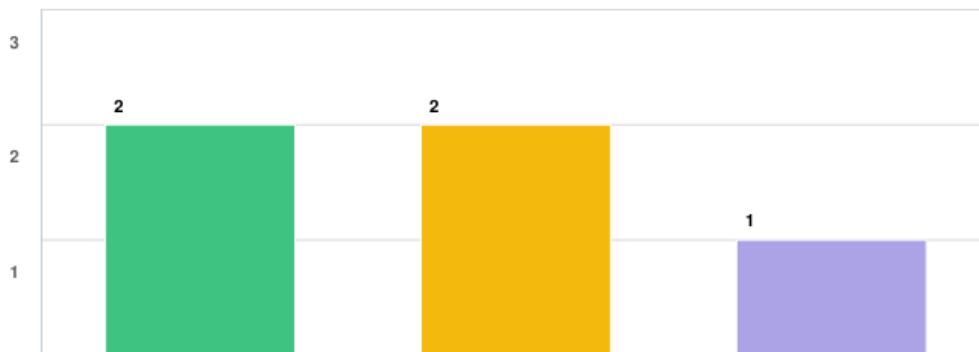


Question options

- Cycling (any kind)
- Equine activities
- Gardening
- Gym workouts / Personal training / Aerobics
- Sailing
- Walking

Optional question (4 responses, 104 skipped)

Q24 Why did you stop participating in Active Recreation?



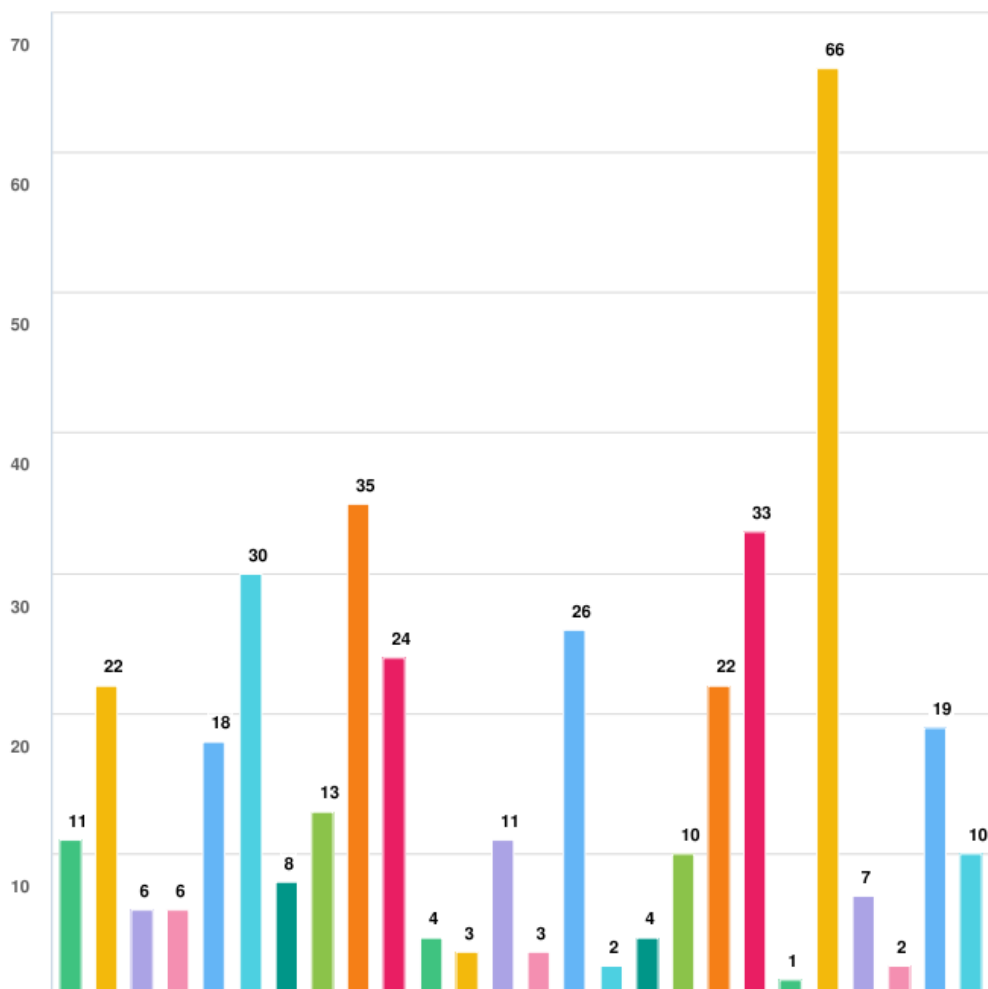
Question options

- Not enough time
- Family commitments
- Health or injury

Optional question (4 responses, 104 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q26 In which active recreational activities are you a regular participant?



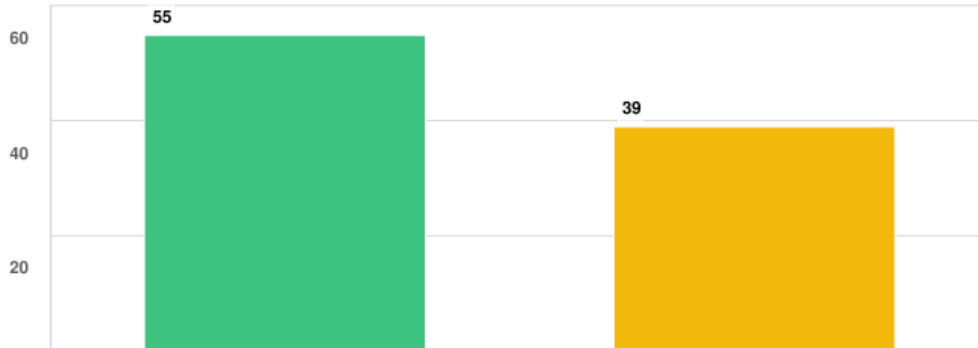
Question options

- Canoeing / Kayaking ● Cycling (any kind) ● Dancing ● Equine activities ● Fishing / Angling ● Gardening
- Golf ● Gymnastics / Calisthenics ● Gym workouts / Personal training / Aerobics ● Hiking ● Hunting
- Motor sports (any kind) ● Paddle boarding ● Rock climbing ● Running / Jogging ● Sailing
- Skateboarding / Skating ● Snorkelling / Scuba diving ● Surfing / Body surfing ● Swimming ● Tai Chi
- Walking ● Water skiing / Wake boarding / Jet skiing ● Windsurfing / Kite surfing ● Yoga / Pilates ● OTHER

Optional question (95 responses, 13 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q27 Are you currently a member of a recreational club or group?

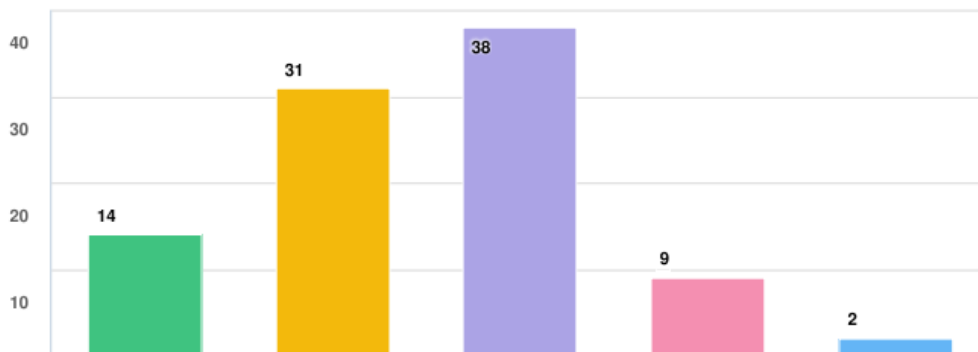


Question options

● Yes ● No

Optional question (94 responses, 14 skipped)

Q28 On average, how much time do you spend participating in active recreational activities each week?



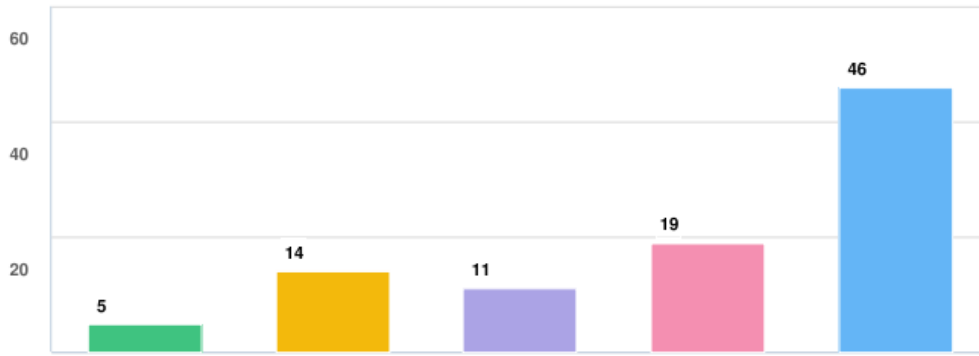
Question options

● Less than 2 hours ● 2-5 hours ● 5-10 hours ● 10-15 hours ● 15-20 hours

Optional question (94 responses, 14 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q29 For how many years do you expect to continue participating in your main active recreational activity?



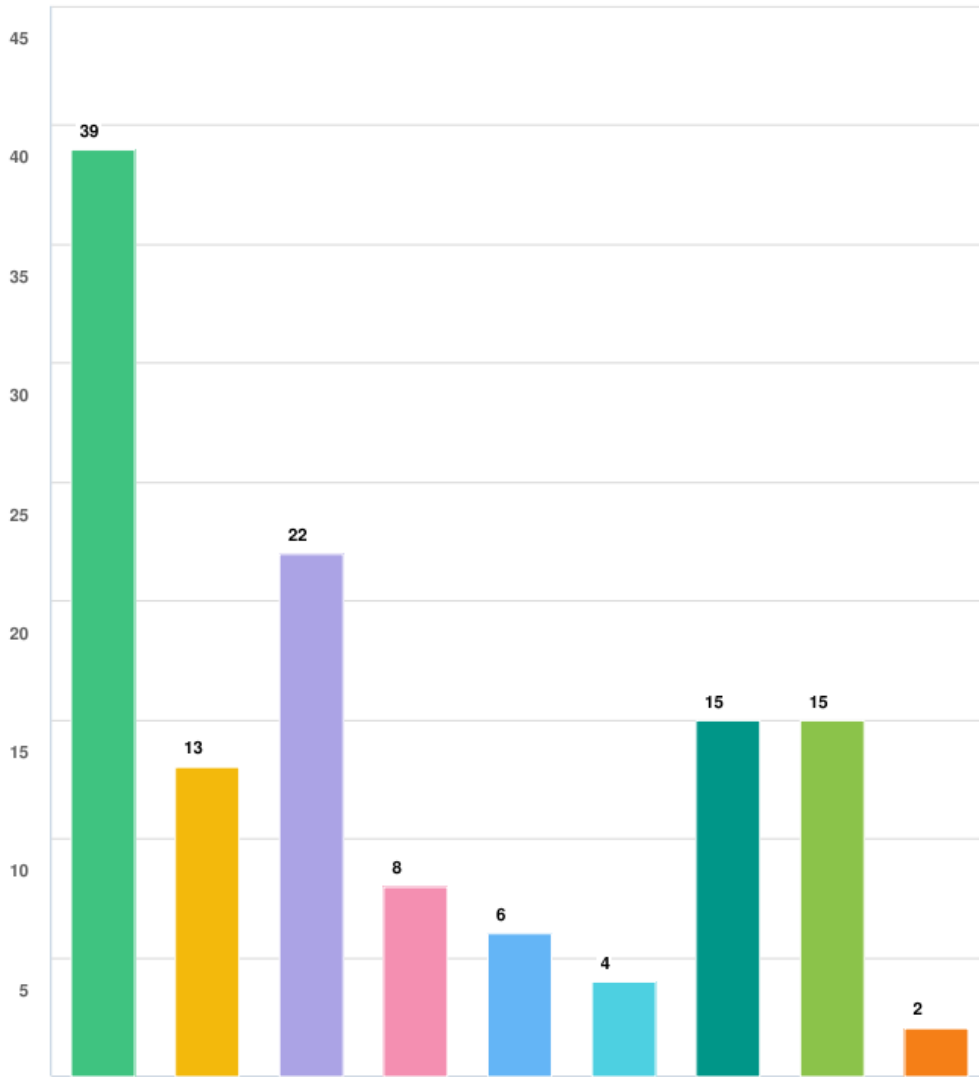
Question options

● 2-5 years ● 5-10 years ● 10-15 years ● 15-20 years ● More than 20 years

Optional question (95 responses, 13 skipped)

Community Member Survey : Survey Report for 06 June 2016 to 17 December 2018

Q30 Have any of the following issues ever affected your ability to participate in active recreational activities in the Shire o...



Question options

- Limited or inadequate facilities
- Distance to travel
- Cost
- Not enough interest locally
- The activity was not offered locally
- I felt unwelcome
- Confidence
- Health or fitness level
- Disability

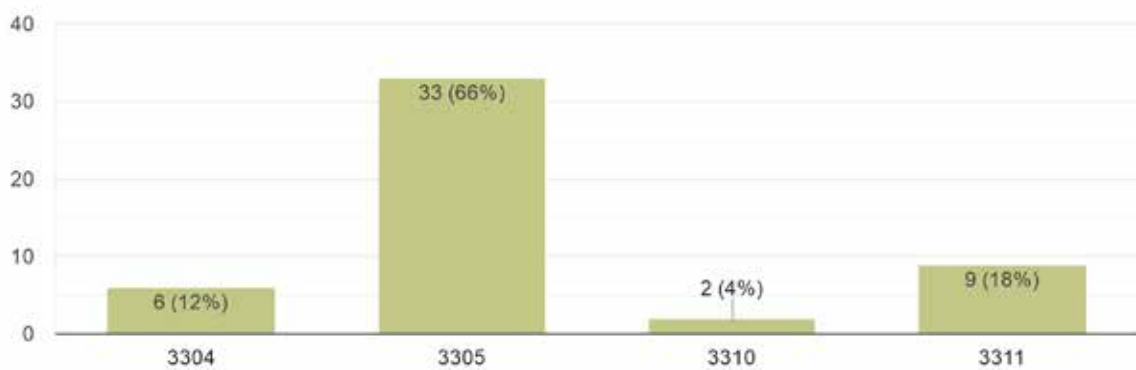
Optional question (68 responses, 40 skipped)

Appendix E - Club Survey

NOTE: Information that would tend to identify an individual respondent, club or other person has been redacted.

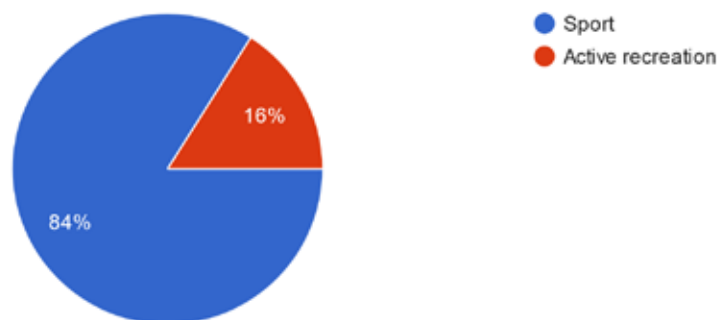
Postcode

50 responses



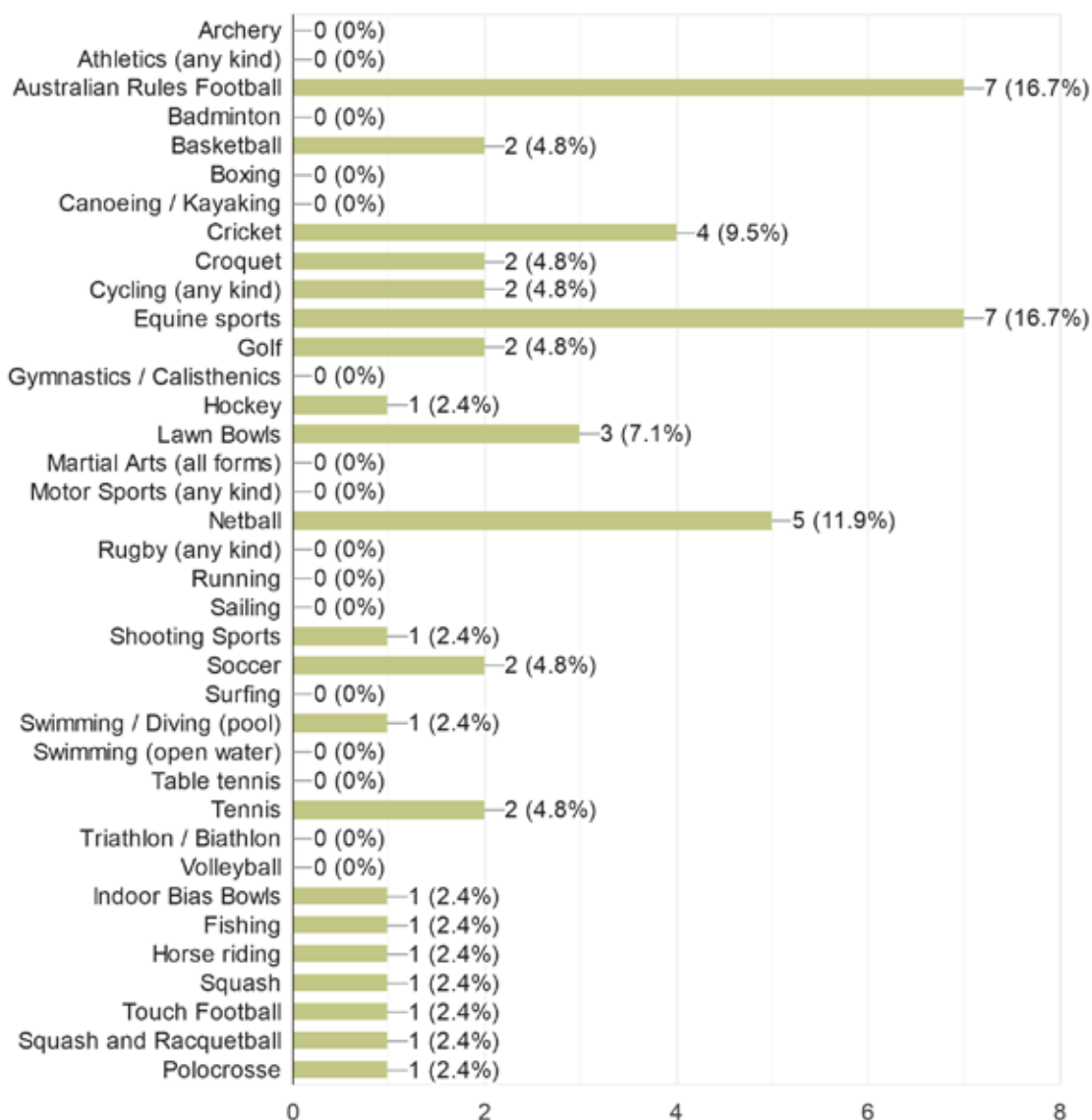
Thinking about these definitions, is your club or group MAINLY involved in sport or active recreation?

50 responses



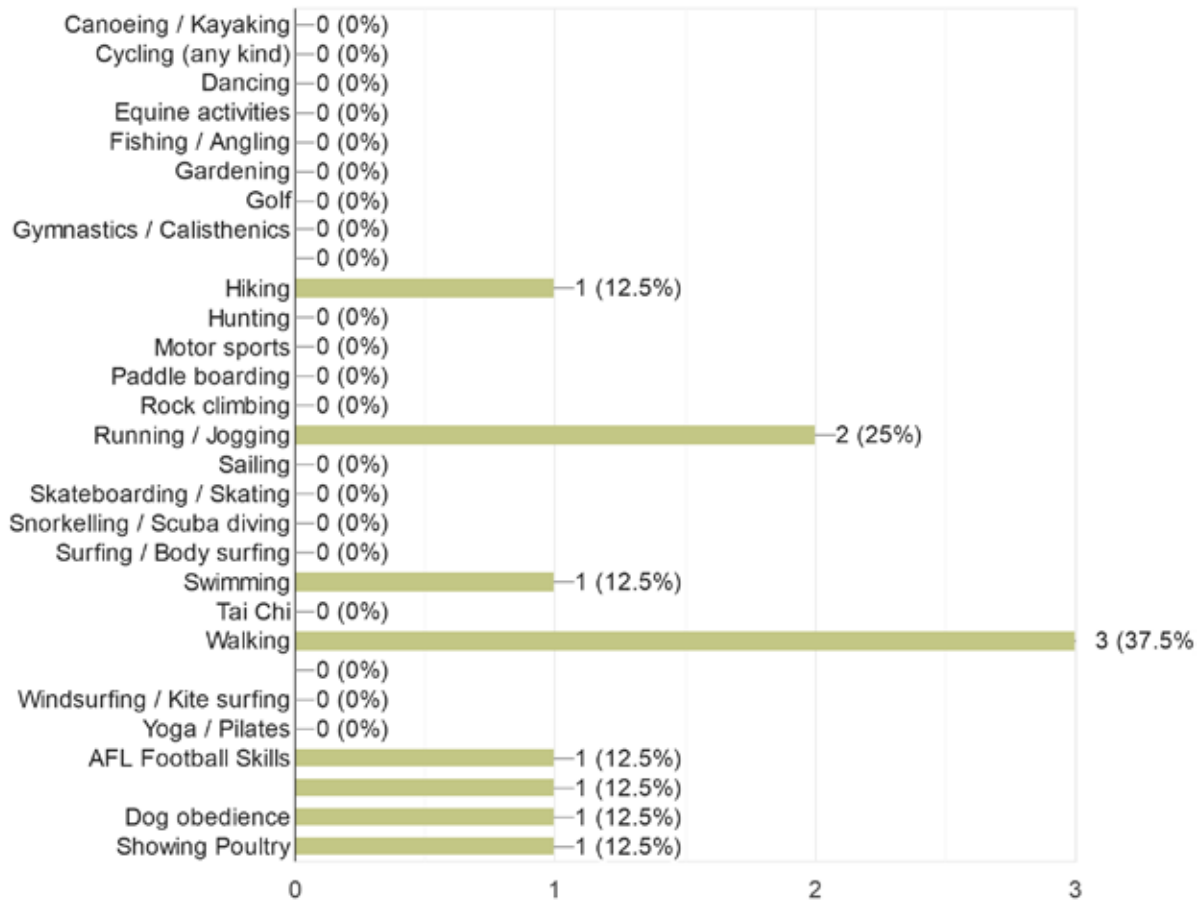
Which of the following sports does your club or group offer?

42 responses



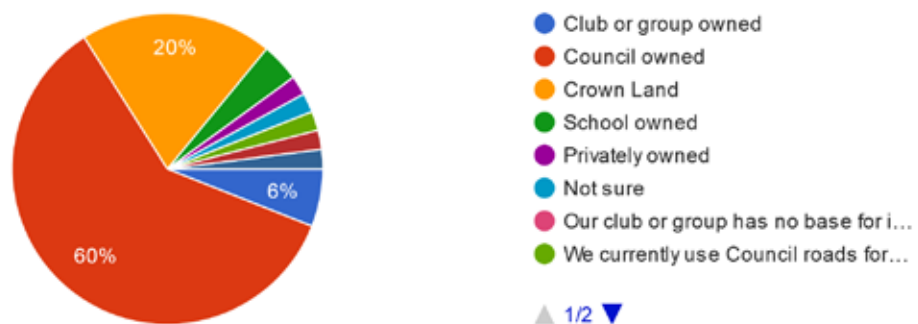
Which of the following active recreational activities does your club or group offer?

8 responses



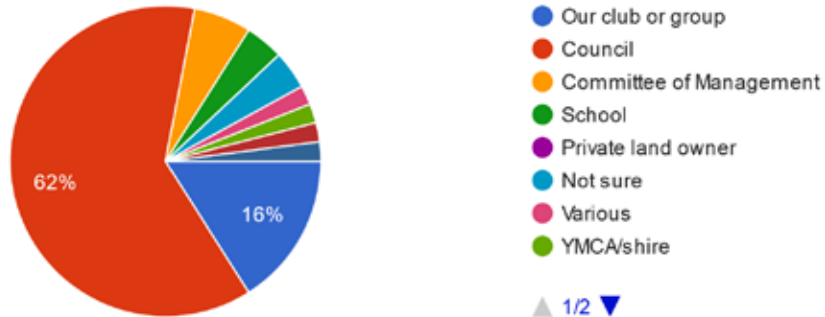
Who owns the land or reserve where your club or group activities are based?

50 responses



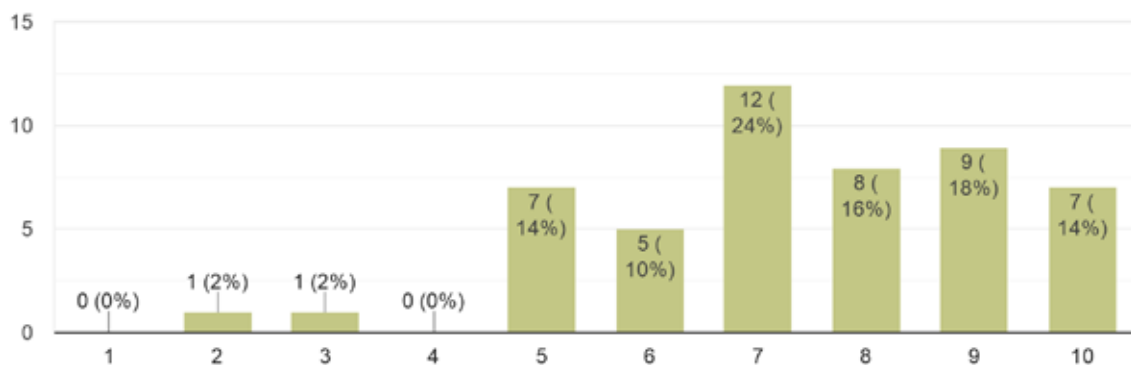
Who is responsible for maintaining the land where your club or group activities are based?

50 responses



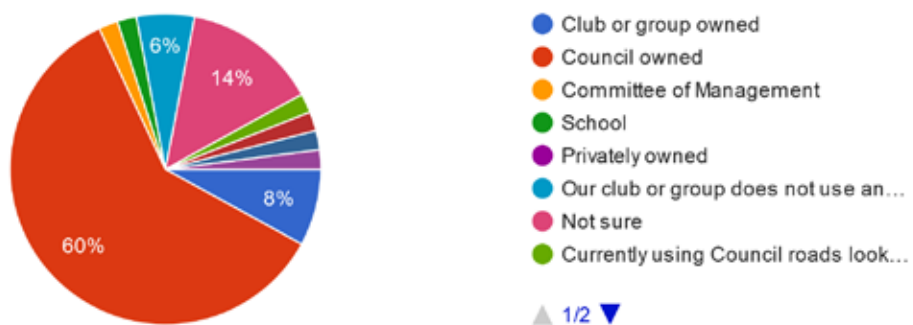
On a scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is 'Very Poor' and 10 is 'Very Good' - how would you describe the standard of maintenance of the land where your club or group activities are based?

50 responses



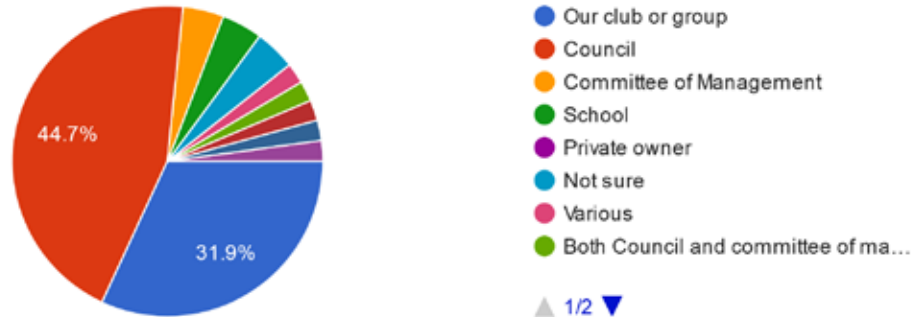
Who owns the playing surfaces your club or group uses? (Such as ovals, parks, greens, courts, tracks, arenas, etc.)

50 responses



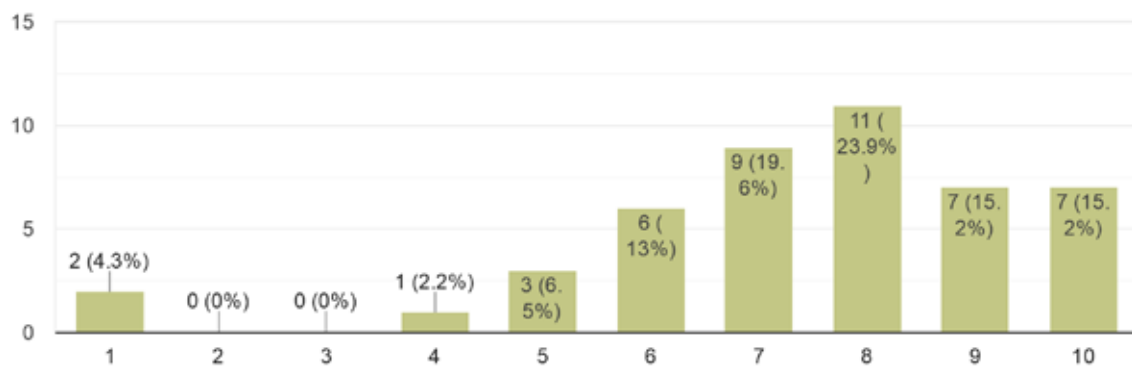
Who is responsible for maintaining the playing surfaces your club or group uses?

47 responses



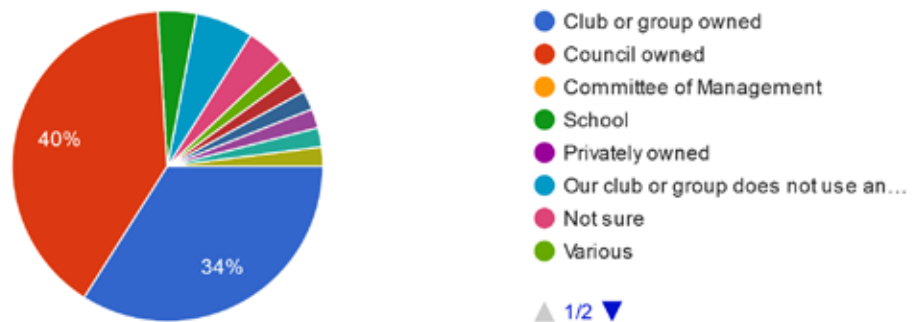
On a scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is 'Very Poor' and 10 is 'Very Good' - how would you describe the standard of maintenance of the playing surfaces used by your club or group?

46 responses



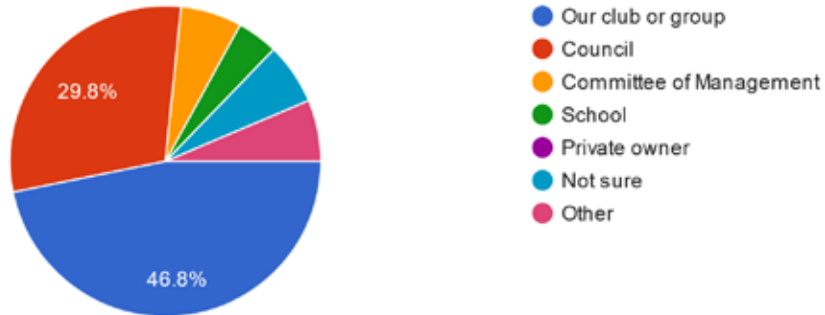
Who owns the club rooms or buildings your club or group uses?

50 responses



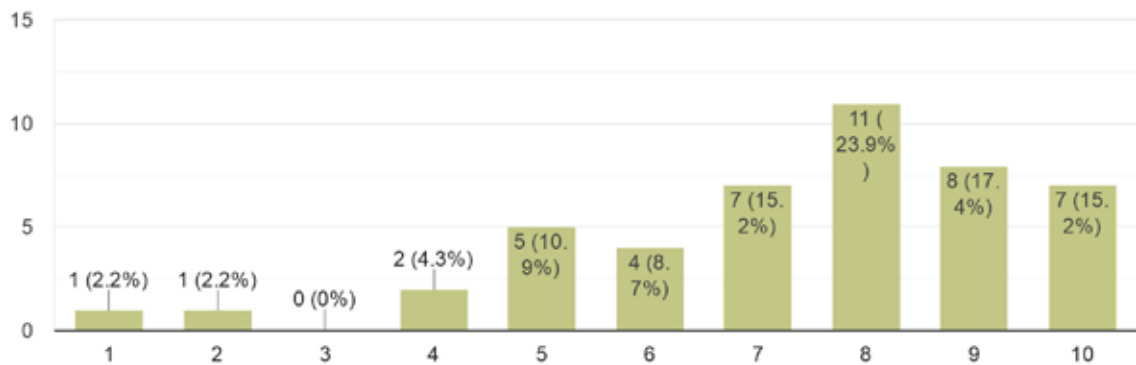
Who is responsible for maintaining the club rooms or buildings your club or group uses?

47 responses



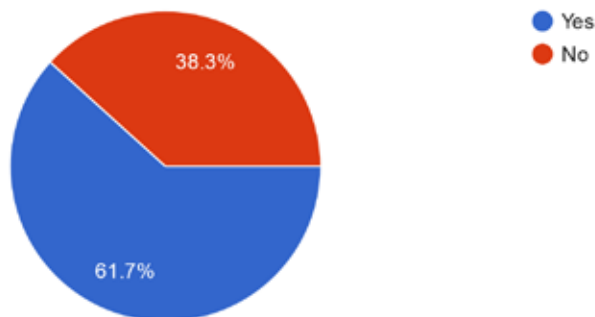
On a scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is 'Very Poor' and 10 is 'Very Good' - how would you describe the standard of maintenance of the club rooms or buildings your club or group uses?

46 responses



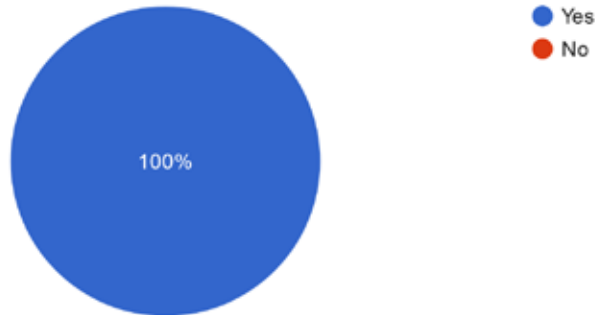
Does the facility used by your club or group have men's change rooms?

47 responses



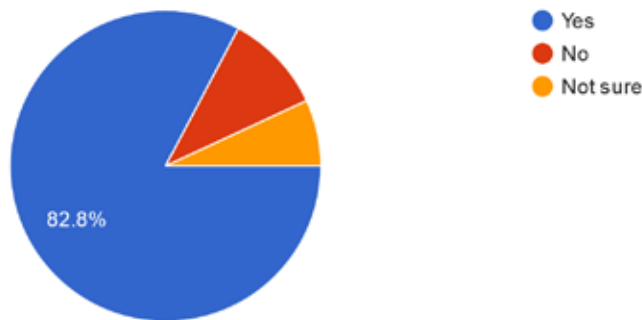
Are men's change rooms available for every sport or active recreational activity offered by your club?

29 responses



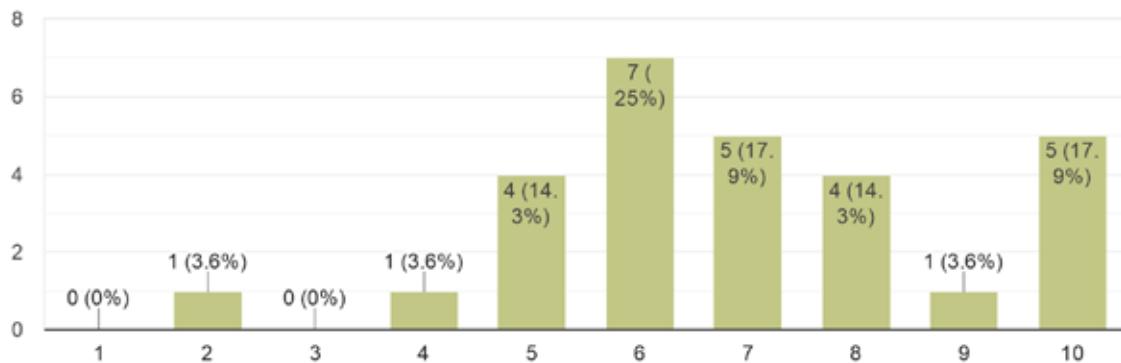
Can the men's change rooms be accessed by participants of all abilities?

29 responses



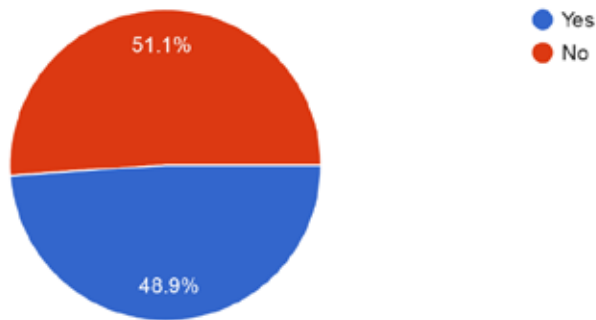
On a scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is 'Very Poor' and 10 is 'Very Good' - how would you describe the standard of the men's change rooms?

28 responses



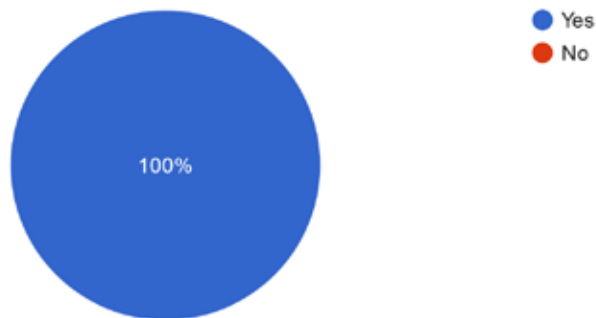
Does the facility used by your club or group have women's change rooms?

47 responses



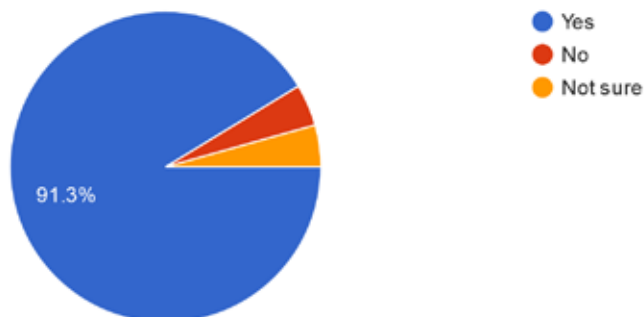
Are women's change rooms available for every sport or active recreational activity offered by your club?

23 responses



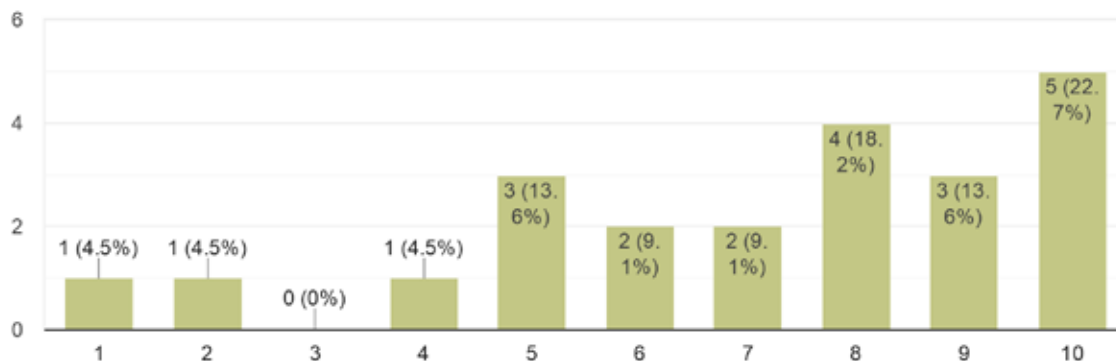
Can the women's change rooms be accessed by participants of all abilities?

23 responses



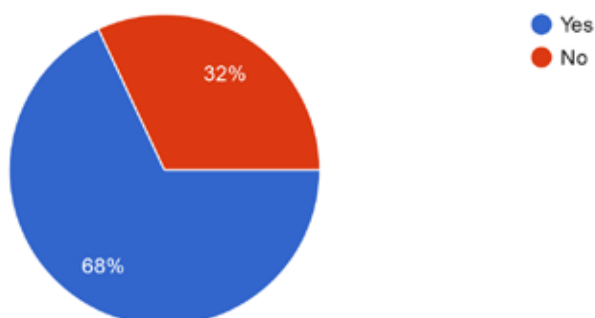
On a scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is 'Very Poor' and 10 is 'Very Good' - how would you describe the standard of the women's change rooms?

22 responses



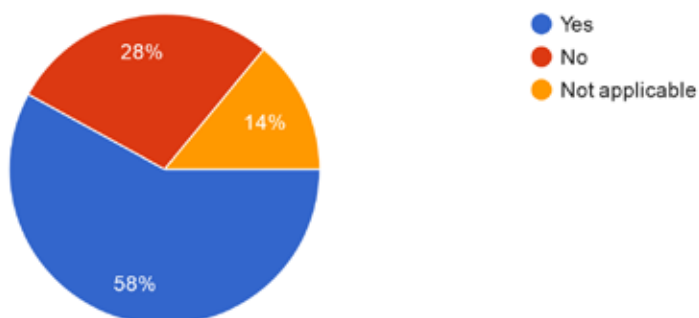
In addition to sport and active recreational activities, does your club or group offer social activities?

50 responses



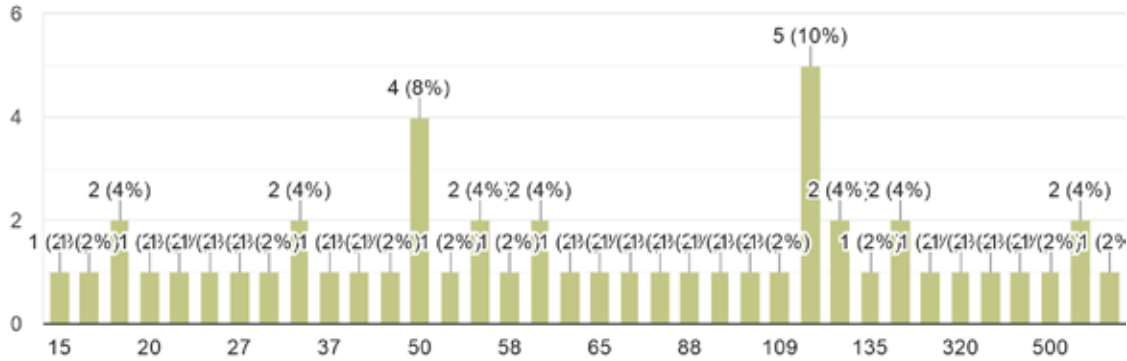
Does the facility used by your club or group include a space for social activities?

50 responses



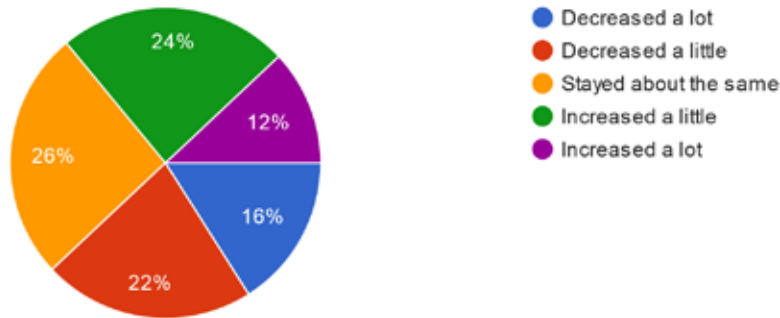
Including social members, what is the total membership of your club or group?

50 responses



Over the last five years, how has your membership changed?

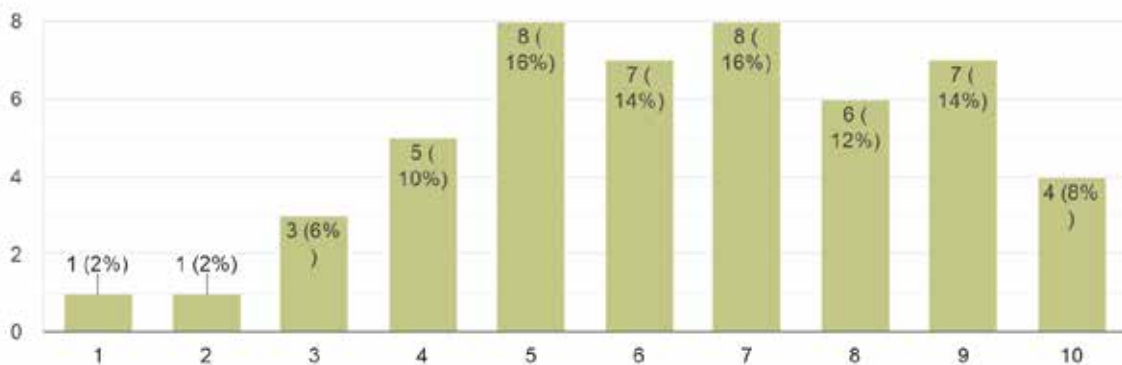
50 responses



On a scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is 'Very Easy' and 10 is 'Very Difficult' - how hard has it been for your club to recruit people in each of the following categories?

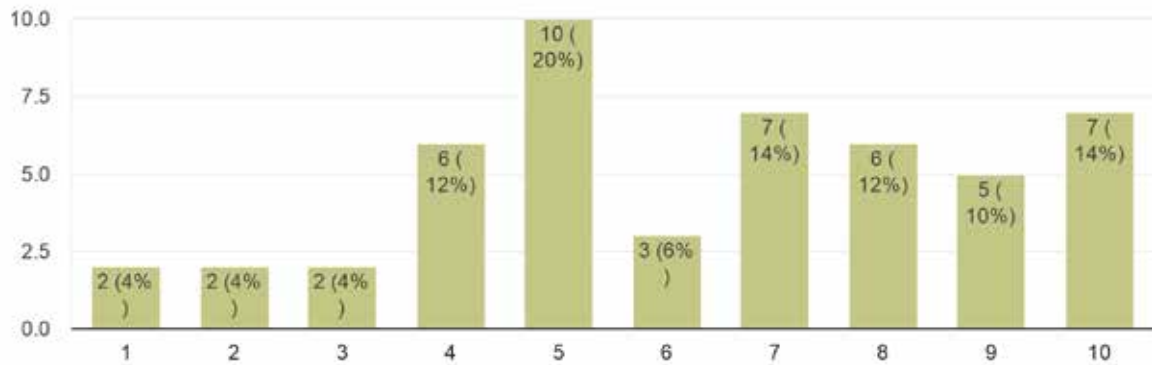
Players / Participants

50 responses



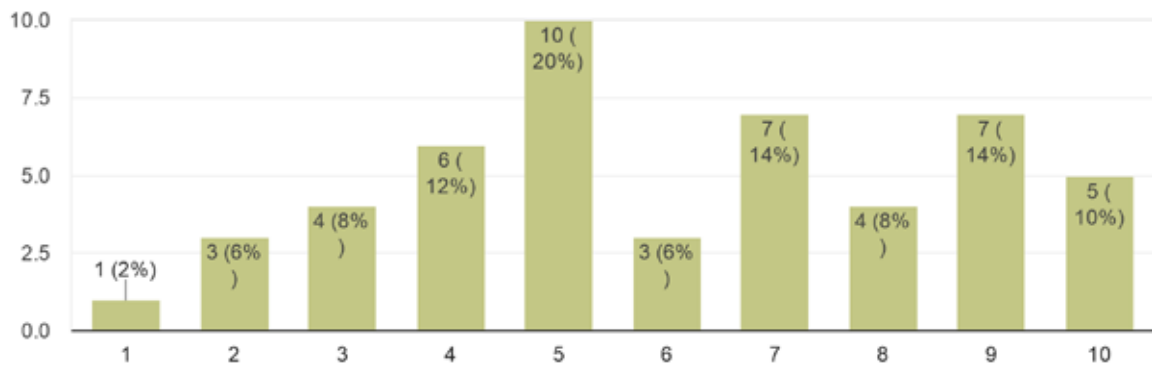
Volunteers

50 responses



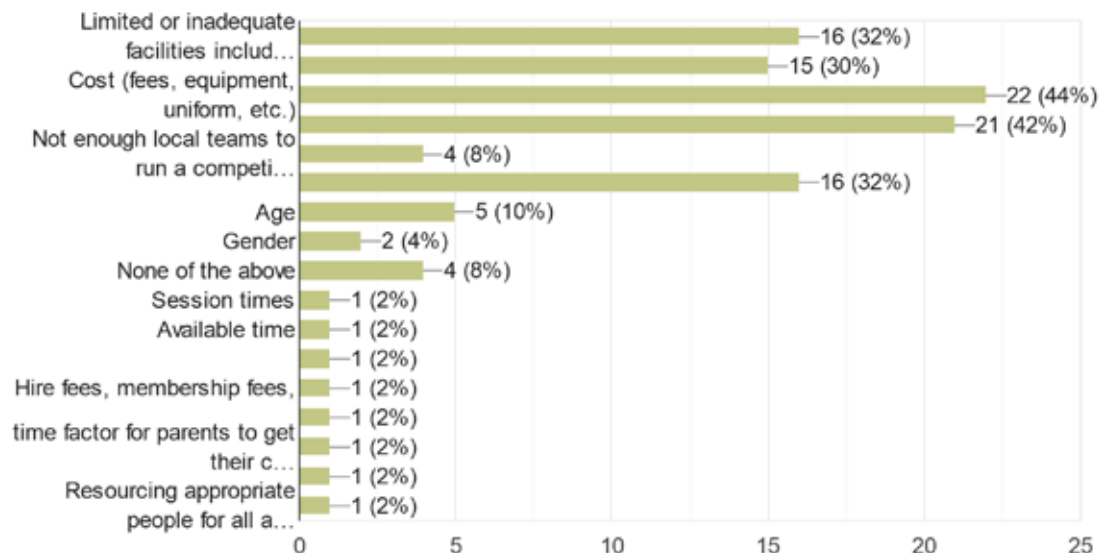
Coaches & Officials (Including committee members)

50 responses



Which of the following issues have impacted participation at your club or group?

50 responses



What do you think are the key issues impacting sport and active recreation in the Shire of Glenelg?

Cost and time to do all that is available
lack of council recognition
In our case it is fees (insurance) levied by our controlling body on base level participants in the sport. We as a club need to allocate more resources to participation [REDACTED] as well as competition
Too many activities and not enough willing participants.
The glenelg shire need to encourage sports in younger age groups
competition from other sports for numbers
Facilities and volunteers
I think as more sports have become available, the number of players participating in a particular sport has decreased. This puts pressure on participants as there is usually lots of jobs that need to be done when running a sport and less people available to help.
Promotion of walking [REDACTED]
distance to travel to compete with other clubs
Time available and costs
Cost and increasing administration duties that are beyond that of most families who volunteer
The park and its facilities are acceptable. The club rooms are very ordinary. [REDACTED] keep them clean but they are not maintained. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The grass needs to be regularly mowed. I ,and other club members, often see snakes up there.
No club rooms [REDACTED]. The grass needs mowing more frequently due to snakes. [REDACTED] need maintaining.
Need to upgrade [REDACTED] pavilion changerooms, finding volunteers
Corellas
Too many differing opinions and people trying to run things..getting things done eg..improvements and assistance based on our rural location we ate not in line with city folk
Attracting kids to sports outside the mainstream
Overall numbers of people playing sport declining.
cost and travel and population of district, lack of cultural diversity
Support for our clubs in ground maintenance facility upgrades
lack of funding
Lack of suitable participants [REDACTED].
The lack of good facilities when compared to other towns
Availability of free regular activities. We hold an event each Saturday at the same time and same place so people know that if they miss an event then its easy to catch the next one in a weeks time. Being consistent is the key to success.
Not enough people willing to give [REDACTED] a try.
catering for all abilities and gender of players
Cost, Time,

<p>1. Traditional competitive sports have to compete with other less structured recreational activities to recruit participants.</p> <p>2. Frustration resulting from unachievable player expectations re playing surfaces and facilities.</p> <p>3. Work patterns (12 shifts etc) reduce participant availability which impacts on the viability of team sports especially.</p> <p>4. Increasing membership costs.</p> <p>5. An apparent lack of understanding or appreciation, by Council Officers and Councillors, of the health and wellbeing benefits derived by our community through active recreation opportunities. This observation is based on comments at the forum which indicate a decline in the condition our recreation facilities and the loss of scheduled contact between clubs and Council.</p>
<p>Competition between sports and popularity of sports</p>
<p>Rising costs of fielding teams [REDACTED]. Sponsors dollars are stretched.</p> <p>Mothers of young children stop playing [REDACTED] is not a safe place for young children to walk around. There is no playground on site ([REDACTED]).</p> <p>Vehicle traffic drives right through the main pedestrian areas. Blind corners make cars dangerous for Childrens and other reserve users. It is not a relaxing place to take children whilst trying to play sport.</p>
<p>Lack of willingness of people to be involved in running activities - perception of red tape and administrative work being too overwhelming.</p>
<p>[REDACTED], it is the lack of facilities - therefore having to travel</p>
<p>Declining population, aging population, difficulty in recruiting volunteers because of the time, knowledge and sometimes qualifications required to run or administer the association.</p>
<p>For our club it is not having enough volunteers</p>
<p>Cost and distance</p>
<p>Hours of work. (Shift work and long work hours)</p> <p>Getting the work/life balance right.</p> <p>Finding people prepared to take on positions of responsibility to run clubs. Many are put off by "regulatory requirements"</p>
<p>Lack of 20-30 year olds in the town willing to play sport. A lot of our juniors move when they have finished school to go to uni or find work- most don't return. Of the number we have in the prime senior age bracket there is shift work which also impacts an individuals ability to participate. Our facilities are OK (we have the best lighting in the league) but the playing surface and age of our club rooms are behind that of our neighboring towns. As such we miss opportunities to host finals and other higher profile games.</p>
<p>distance for travel and people who can volunteer</p>
<p>Court spaces and maintaining connectivity within the community</p>

Are there any other issues you would like to raise about sport and active recreation in the Shire of Glenelg?

<p>Glenelg Shire has a great capacity with its parks, trails and terrain to become a [REDACTED] destination</p>
<p>Facilities and volunteers</p>
<p>Being a small community means a lot less people available to volunteer to run sport in the community. It usually ends up being the same people that help out. It would be great to have a pool of keen volunteers from the community to access to help run sport activities when needed. This will help stop people burning out, share the workload around.</p>
<p>Monetary support other than community grants for recurrent expenditure to maintain and upgrade the [REDACTED]</p>

<p>The [redacted] club does not have its own facility which makes things very difficult. Also for improving us we need [redacted]</p>
<p>[redacted] should be featured on more Shire sporting promotional material</p>
<p>Lack of acknowledgement of our existence until required to assist with events.</p>
<p>It would be great to have a secure storage area [redacted] and a decent kitchen/cooking/chuckwagon to allow provision of food on club days or events held at the park</p>
<p>Small town not having the capital to achieve funding ,high costs incurred with insurance ,maintenance,improvements</p>
<p>it is not ideal that communication to the shire about recreation and sporting issues is done by an electronic portal</p>
<p>The age of a lot of our buildings with not enough maintenance and thought for the users and their needs. Lack of communication with Council to improve our issues and steps of how to do so.</p>
<p>Advertising for sport other than Football, Netball and Cricket.</p>
<p>There is a general feeling across all sports that the shire of glenelg only care about football and the rest of the sports have to fight over what's left over. For example the soccer pitch is sub standard, the gymnastics facilities are sub standard and the lack of movement on projects across the board (other than football) is very apparent. It's time for Portland to move forward and actually give the sports people of this town quality facilities so we can breed quality sports representatives for years to come.</p>
<p>We have the facilities to encourage so much activity in this shire and with regular unkeep and upgrades to track and path surfaces this will encourage and show people that the shire is serious about health and well being and will promote involment.</p>
<p>Not enough local football facilities cater for female participation.</p>
<p>Would be good to have a all weather Athletic Track.Don't know of one in at least a 100km Radius of Portland?</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clubs are managed by volunteers, with varying degrees of expertise and access to resources (funding, volunteers, machinery etc.). Their committees experience regular changes of membership - especially in junior sports. Therefore they are continually training new committee members and losing some momentum. 2. There is an increasingly high level set of expectations placed on committee members to comply with Local Government agreements, State Government Legislation, Federal Government Legislation, always with the threat of prosecution should they not meet their obligations. 3. The level of assistance/support/subsidy provided including maintenance, improvements, replacements and upgrades of playing surfaces, amenities, clubrooms etc by Clubs, Council or State Government needs to be consistent and not a political tool to gain votes. 4. Clubs on club owned land fully provide and maintain their facilities with minimal Council or Government support, an often quoted reason for this is that the land is privately owned. An examination of the Club Rules would in almost all cases reveal that should those clubs/organisations cease to operate then ownership is to pass to Local Government or to another similar type club/organisation. This distinction is does not take into account that this group of ratepayers receives no scheduled service or assistance from Council, and in fact pays rates in accordance with State Legislation. This is totally inequitable and needs to be addressed, particularly for [redacted] within the Glenelg Shire. 5. Peak Body support seems to be an issue with varying levels and degrees of access to resources, information and advice. Most clubs complain that the level of service they receive from their peak body is disappointing considering the affiliation fees they have to pay. Perhaps the State Government, through SRV, might consider affiliation fees to be a fee for service and work with the Peak Bodies to develop a consistent package of resources designed to assist clubs to become compliant and successful.
<p>Certain sports are more supported by council and schools</p>
<p>Heywood Rec Reserve needs a safe, fenced playground.</p>
<p>Grants are a good option for helping with funds but they are onerous to complete, putting more pressure</p>

on the few volunteers, and for that reason are often not completed, especially for relatively small dollar amounts.

(I had difficulty defining what we offer as a Sport or Recreational activity re: the definitions given. [REDACTED] Most of our instructors are over 50 and have no children involved with the club. Their time is limited to the hours they can assist because of work, family and their own recreational activities. We live in a low socio economic town that has an aging population with limited volunteer recruiting opportunities. [REDACTED] most parents [REDACTED] aren't interested in becoming involved. Instructors are required to have [REDACTED] qualification (that is costly if not utilising it elsewhere) and requires on going training and updates. Costs are increasing for membership and our governing body [REDACTED] is I believe unsympathetic to our cause because they are mainly concerned and involved with bigger, competitive [REDACTED] clubs in larger centres. I imagine other club's in our shire face similar issues.

I think the Shire offers a very diverse range of activities and the Council is to be commended for providing and maintaining these facilities and services. Keep up the good work!!!

The use of volunteers is necessary to run a sporting club- these are getting harder to find for all clubs across the country. There needs to be stronger support from governing bodies and perhaps professional appointments from outside of volunteer ranks. Funding for this type of system is not currently available. Happy to discuss anything.

With forecast increasing junior participation of age between 5-14 years old [REDACTED] spacing will limit our ability to cater for this increase.

Appendix F – Community Forums Summary of Key Themes

Key issues impacting participation in sport and active recreation in Glenelg Shire:

Facilities

- No hydrotherapy pool available in the Shire
- Currently the temperature in pool at PLACE fluctuates makes the pool very difficult to use for exercise purposes
- PLACE shuts too early at night – difficult to take the kids after work
- Poor facilities on the foreshore, not enough shelter around the BBQs
- Lack of fenced playgrounds in the Shire
- Facility management in general is poor

Pathways, tracks and trails

- Connectivity between places is poor
- Difficult for mums walking with a pram and sometimes other children, with no footpath you need to be walking on the road
- No footpaths in Narrawong – we want to keep active but very difficult for frail-aged to move around town independently
- No safe places to cycle, don't want to be on the road, need a shared pathway
- Great Southwest Walk is very popular and it's great you can do sections, but it is meant to be for walking – feel unsafe because there are so many bikes on the trail
- Need to use a walking frame but no safe surfaces to walk outside
- Connectivity between township (main street) and 'The Island' needs improvement – paths, lighting and signage

Lifestyle

- As a parent, too busy with work and kids to do my own sport anymore
- Kids want to do sport and recreation activities where they go to school – often that's in Warrnambool, Hamilton or Portland so they don't join the local club
- Wouldn't be able to afford membership fees to join a gym
- Most people travel into Portland for activities
- Sport plays a very important social role for young kids, especially in rural areas
- Cost to take part in organised sport can be prohibitive, especially for families with more than one child
- A lot of people are working later in life now so there are not as many retirees available to play sport / volunteer during the day

Clubs

- Legislative requirements for clubs are huge – we need more assistance to ensure we are compliant
- Lack of cohesion and cooperation between different groups. Every time we recruit, we are potentially taking participants and officials from other groups – have to work better together
- Council is great in assisting with sporting event preparation – officers are very helpful

Communication

- People don't know about things that are on offer – sure there is a lot out there but wouldn't know
- Don't hear much about what's going on in Heywood

Opportunities to improve participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- Run a free or cheap regular shuttle bus between Portland and Heywood
- Have free 'come and try' activities to see if people like the sport – needs to be longer than one session though because it's not enough time to decide if you really like the activity and the people there
- We need to improve the facilities we have got
- 'Connect Glenelg' could be much better coordinated and utilised
- Need more things for young people in Heywood to do to get them outside into the fresh air
- Most activities for senior are inside, not a lot of things on offer outdoors
- Need a pump track at Mt Clay – it's in the masterplan, "when will it happen?"
- We need a shared path from Portland to Narrawong
- A walking track linking Portland, Mt Clay and Narrawong would be great
- Need a walking track or wide shared path along the foreshore, currently have to navigate traffic, tram tracks, vegetation, etc
- Exercise equipment along the Casterton Kelpie Trail
- Social activities at sporting clubs where you can just pay a one-off fee of \$5 for night are good rather than having to be a member

Appendix G – Council Focus Groups

Summary of Key Themes

What do you think Council's role should be in the delivery of sport and recreation?

- Getting people active
- Encourage people to play sport
- Exploring opportunities for new ways to get people doing physical activity
- Identifying / offering more choices
- Making it as easy as possible for people to access physical activity
- Improving access by getting rid of 'red-tape'
- Exploring opportunities for modified sport to align better with demographics
- Actively seek partnerships to address health and wellbeing issues and opportunities to increase participation, especially with identified target groups
- Encourage social sport programs – not just competitive
- Focus on fun in sport / providing fun activities for youth
- Modified programs to improve access to physical activity
- Increasing socialisation
- Combining opportunity for healthy lifestyle with fitness
- Support community and emerging activity groups running recreational programs
- Provide sporting facilities
- Provide and maintain infrastructure
- Have a range of sport and recreation facilities available to the community
- Provide large infrastructure assets such as aquatic facilities
- Supporting sporting clubs
- Leadership skill development
- Facilitating partnership and building relationships between agencies, clubs & community
- Capacity building in clubs
- Collaboration with clubs
- Capacity building, upskilling the community
- Supporting volunteers
- Advocacy role

What do you think are the greatest challenges for Council in the delivery of sport and recreation?

- Assets – condition and location of facilities, changing demographics of Shire
- Resource implications of ageing assets
- Potential consolidation of redundant assets
- To have big picture vision – currently piecemeal approach considering facilities in isolation
- Requirement for multi-purpose, accessible shared spaces
- Improving what we've already got

- Limited dollars
- Keeping up with changes in club administration
- Getting people active
- Getting people to make the link between sport and recreation and our wellbeing
- Money
- Clubs lobbying – not following correct processes
- Over-servicing of facilities
- Moving to a proactive facility management model with individual asset management plans with schedules we plan for and adhere to
- Risk in facility management – ensuring requirements of all parties are met (Council, insurers, land owner, sporting code, club)

What do you think are the key issues impacting participation in sport and active recreation in the local community?

- The social environment
- Declining participation
- People have so much choice of what they would like to do – patterns of engagement have changed
- Competing demands on time
- People are 'time poor'
- A lot of children come into town for school – can't stay for sport or will miss only bus home
- Travel required for competition sport
- Travel costs / lack of public transport
- Transport for kids
- Low socio-economic status - low income families
- Money – paying club fees, membership, equipment
- Cost to participate on an ongoing basis
- People have limited awareness about what is out there and available to them
- People choose not to participate - time poor, poor body image – personal choice
- Effort often required to get clients involved and stay involved – resource intensive
- Social stigma attached to entering a program to improve fitness, especially when attached to chronic health issues
- Not enough service providers
- A lack of positive role models
- Lack of qualified coaching available – buying in services (e.g. every time we run a skate clinic we have to buy in professional services and same for clubs).
- Lack of training opportunities
- Lack of sport in school curriculum
- District leagues are struggling
- Ageing infrastructure
- So much open space – poor linkages within and in between towns

What opportunities do you see for Council in the delivery of sport and recreation?

- Consider incentives programs for clubs
- Improve connectivity – paths for walking and cycling
- Tracks and trails / Mt Clay should interact
- Make more evidence base decisions
- Take a holistic approach – links with health & welfare, involve other agencies – have a partnership approach to getting people in the Shire more healthy
- Provide programs and facilitators to run different, new, fun things that get people moving
- Enhancing relationships with recreational tour operators – making it easier for the providers to do their jobs
- More club development
- Shifting social and wellbeing outcomes through sport and recreation
- To look at what we have got, how we use the spaces we have got and what can we do better
- Reduce red tape, make processes for clubs and groups easier
- Getting clubs into local schools to run sports clinics and promote their sport
- Bring people on board – empowering the community rather than providing
- Explore capacity to upskill our local community – provide opportunity / access for training of coaches, officials, volunteers, peer mentors, etc. Invest in our own champions.

Are there any other issues regarding sport and active recreation that you would like to see explored through this project?

- Accessibility for all
- Club culture
- Increasing opportunities for young women in sport and recreation
- Family friendly facilities
- Whole community reporting on health & wellbeing – potential for a united approach
- Club development opportunities
- Exploring the concept of a higher return on our investment in infrastructure, using club expertise to help us address participation in activity
- Need a standard framework for application of fees
- 'One stop shop', for sports and recreation clubs
- Council contribution to shared facilities in Heywood & Casterton
- Potential for infrastructure at reserves to be improved to support events
- Opportunities for large sporting events to encourage greater tourism
- Linkages with tracks and trails and other open space
- Assessment of what is available across the Shire
- Review and refinement of internal systems and processes for facility management and maintenance (including feedback loop to clubs)

- Review and update of 'Special Conditions for Use of GSC Recreational Reserves and Facilities' – make it more user friendly and relevant
- Clear parameters for staff so they are clear on roles and responsibilities in relation to risk
- Co-ordinating training opportunities

Appendix H – Club Forums Summary of Key Themes

Key issues impacting sport and active recreation clubs in the Glenelg Shire:

Membership

- Declining membership
- Clubs are competing against one another for players, officials and general members
- Tennis (Portland) adult membership is stable but junior membership very hard to attract
- Tennis (Casterton) changing nights and installing lights has helped stabilise membership but not much interest in junior tennis
- Cricket struggling with junior membership
- Bowls has a static membership but the more informal social games such as barefoot bowls are more popular than pennant
- With sports for seniors (e.g. croquet and bowls) interest at club level is there for social games but not to travel for competition. Local roads are not good, don't want to have to drive between Portland and Casterton or Warrnambool to compete
- People more likely to want to play social tennis than competition
- Interest increasing in Parkrun (Portland) – provides an opportunity for people to walk or run, as individuals, as a family or team or with friends. Currently attracting 70 – 80 participants every Saturday – people can decide 30 minutes beforehand if they want to participate that day – less commitment than team sports
- Some clubs are using Parkrun as a training session
- Cycling 'coffee rides' are very popular, offer a great opportunity for socialising and exercise
- Interest in running clubs is increasing
- Challenge to get young people interested and involved in our activities

Facilities

- Facilities not up to required standard for changing face of sport (e.g. no change rooms for girls)
- "Not sure who is meant to do what at our facility! We just do it, so it's done!"
- Not having a turf wicket at home ground impacts ability to host finals, disappointing for members and has a financial impact for club
- Gymnastics facility at Yarraman Park is at capacity, not up to standard and therefore restricts competition levels of local participants
- Local hockey facilities let the sport down. No synthetic field and poor training facilities makes it difficult to be competitive with those who have access to such facilities, all the time. Also reflects badly on club with visiting teams
- Lack of indoor facilities for netball restricts the local competition
- BMX have a lot of interest in cycling and mountain bikes but don't really work well with other clubs because we have specific requirements for infrastructure
- Incompatible use at some facilities / reserves. Sporting events clashing – need to be more flexible in scheduling different sports at different times

Resources

- Lack of advocacy and support from some of the peak bodies and sporting associations – their focus seems to be on the city, limited or no investment in rural club development
- Lack of coaches, judges and officials available in local area
- We rely heavily on volunteers, including past and current members and parents. “Always the same faces!”
- Reliance on individuals. For example, Football / Netball Juniors, not enough players for inter-town competitions so players have to travel – it is the commitment of individual coaches that make this happen – so what is possible one season may not be possible the next, not sustainable for clubs

Cost

- Many clubs experiencing financial hardship
- Governing bodies passing costs onto clubs for insurance, registrations, etc
- Fees required for accreditation (for coaching, judging) – often passed onto the individual who may not be able to afford it, so they let accreditation go and it impacts the sport, another official down!

Administration

- Requirements for strategic planning, policy development – overwhelming. “Understand it needs to be done but we just want to play sport”.
- “So much red-tape”
- Attracting volunteers for game day is much easier than trying to get people to undertake administrative and planning tasks
- Increasing bureaucracy with volunteers, especially when they are working with children
- Feels like we have to jump through hoops just to cook a sausage!
- Moving to online system for club registrations has made things a lot easier but not all clubs have the knowledge or capacity to do this

Potential barriers to participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

Cost

- Cost to families for junior sport registration fees and equipment

Travel

- Distance people have to travel for competitive sports

Facilities

- Lack of indoor basketball facilities across the Shire means games are often scheduled too late at night for kids to play
- Lack of female friendly facilities. With the increasing popularity of women and girls playing AFL football, we have interest but no appropriate facilities
- When you have poor standard facilities, it doesn't encourage people to get involved

Lifestyle

- Many people 30 to 50 are working, raising a family and often farming as well – time poor
- Used to be the whole family coming to the club to watch a game and then stay on at club for social activities – doesn't happen anymore. More choices on offer to people, family members do different things from each other or are working on weekends
- Lot of kids head out of town for school and then want to play sports with their mates so join teams out of town

Other

- Club attitudes – sometimes clubs are not very welcoming and friendly, and this can put people off getting involved

Opportunities to improve participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- A 'local is good' campaign focused on sport and active recreation opportunities in town
- Assistance with promotion. Training for clubs to use social media for promotional purposes and how to develop promotional strategies for their target market
- Would be good if every club had a club email for Council communication rather than communication going to one person only. Could Council help with setting something like this up?
- Be good if we had one place on-line where we could find all of the council communication, resources, forms, etc. and could log in to access things, complete things for our club.
- Better communication with Council
-
- Volunteer training and recognition programs
- Having access to a bus that could be hired to take teams to competition rather than relying on individuals. Especially for senior and junior sports
- Casterton Kelpie Trail is really good for informal exercise/recreation. Be good if it could be extended and more trails put in other areas of the Shire to help connect places.
- Southern Grampians have free pool use to try and encourage more people to get active – a great idea especially for young people. Can Glenelg Shire do the same?
- Offer payment plans to families (most clubs already do this – especially for junior sport)
- Review 'Working with Children' requirements so processes are easier for clubs
- Improve facilities
- Build new, exciting multipurpose sports facilities that are more comfortable, accessible and compliant
- Increase funding for sporting groups so they can pass on savings to families

Appendix I – Children & Youth Services Forum Summary of Key Themes

Availability of, and demand for sport and active recreation activities for children and young people in the Glenelg Shire:

- Healthy habits are made during 0 – 10 years, involvement of children in sport and active recreation at an early age is really important
- Lot of options for young children to participate in fun, active recreational activities as a toddler / young child – often free or low-cost activities available but mostly based in Portland
- Service gaps for those 5 to 12 who are not interested in traditional sport. Library or art activities available in school holidays but not so much for recreational activities
- Lot of options for children and young people to play traditional sports including football, netball, cricket, basketball, soccer, tennis, surf lifesaving and hockey
- If not engaged in a sport as a child, it can be difficult to join a sporting club as a teenager
- Young people's involvement in sport can be very influenced by peers
- Popular informal recreational activities for teenagers include surfing (informal board-riders clubs), fishing, skate-park
- Local pools are popular with families and young people in summer but all in need of redevelopment, especially Portland. Be great to have more water play areas.
- For some of the sports that young people are interested in, there are no local coaches / mentors for them to learn from. For example, Council currently imports services of skate professionals to run clinics and competitions – no local providers, not sustainable.
- Be great to have an indoor pool in Casterton so people can swim and children have access to swimming lessons all year round

Potential barriers to participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- Impact of shift work on parents
- Lack of volunteers and officials
- Generational poverty
- Lot of vulnerable families moving into the Shire for low cost housing – they often have no connection with support services, no engagement with local clubs and activities, often no transport and limited income
- *Youth activities often have a poor 'take up', apathy in parents, some too fearful to let their kids out. Kids can't get to after school sports training because parents are still at work*
- *Often a perception that things are better 'outside of town'. Especially where kids may travel to another area for school (e.g. if kids travel to Hamilton for school, they may think better to do sport & recreation in Hamilton than back in their home town)*

- Need a local connection to 'get in' with sport – kids need someone they can relate to and respect to champion involvement
- In small towns the location you run things is really important. People associate the location with things that happen there – for example if you run a youth program in a church hall the young person, or their parents, may think the activity is associated with church and think "I'm not into that"
- Having to travel out of town to access services and programs

Opportunities to improve participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- Providing free food is a huge incentive both for families with children and young people on their own
- Need more sustainable approach for niche sports - upskill young people by providing access to free coaching and training to retain them in sport and mentor others
- Support the 'reinvention' of scouts
- Run come and try activities (e.g. local croquet club ran a come & try session with the high school and now they have a few young people playing on a regular basis)
- Free activities are popular

Appendix J – Health Services Focus Group Summary of Key Themes

Availability of, and demand for sport and active recreation activities for people in the Glenelg Shire:

- Chronic health issues are prevalent in the community
- Many services available but it is often very difficult to engage with those who may need the services the most
- Sufficient services and programs in the Shire that are designed to get people moving and active and cater for a wide range of abilities
- For many people who engage in an activity program, as a result of a health service referral it is for a limited time – no capacity to monitor or support the person longer term
- Focus is often on other more immediate critical needs such as acute health issues, lack of food, safe and affordable housing, caring for family – participation in sport and active recreation is down the list
- Often need to engage one-on-one as a starter until you can get someone to participate in a group – very resource intensive approach
- Needs are diverse and this needs to be reflected in range of sport and recreational activities available to people, especially in relation to age, and ability
- A lot of opportunity to be involved in traditional sports in Glenelg Shire, a lot of clubs around
- Family involvement in local traditional sporting clubs is often generational. Can be harder for newcomers to “fit in”
- In general, there is an interest in the community to keep fit, but actioning that is challenging – people have competing demands and limited resources
- Have many regular, active walking groups (Portland, Heywood and Casterton)
- Number of programs and services to get people more active is growing in Casterton but could do with more

Potential barriers to participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- In Merino only one footpath – makes even a basic walking group difficult
- Access is a huge issue for many people. Need wider footpaths for people with prams or people in wheelchairs or using mobility scooters
- Current footpaths around the shire pose many safety issues, especially for the elderly
- In many towns, older residents no longer drive and have no access to transport
- Very poor, or no public transport across the Shire – within towns and between towns
- Low income households, limited capacity to pay for membership fees and equipment
- Poor self-esteem. Often in small towns everyone knows everyone – can be very difficult to “put yourself out there”
- Feeling unsafe, especially older people

- Fear of falls
- Shift work impacts people's ability to be involved in regular physical activity
- Limited access to warm water pools year-round impacts children's access to swimming lessons
- People's lack of desire and motivation to participate
- People rebelling against feeling pressure to participate – know they should but won't engage
- Participants in activity programs losing interest and motivation
- Place that the activity is held is important, so they don't feel intimidated by the environment (e.g. professional gyms can be intimidating if you have never exercised)
- Work commitments and lifestyle pressure, time constraints
- Need to plan ahead to arrange transport to things or use public transport
- Non-participation in sport across generations. If parents don't play sport or keep active they are not as likely to encourage their kids to be involved – especially in competitive sports
- Regular cost to be involved and participate in sports and recreational activities
- Compliance requirements can put people off getting involved

Opportunities to improve participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- Provide sport and recreation activities that the whole family can participate in – usually parents run kids around and miss out on their sport or vice-versa
- Hero community champions or drivers – there is often a well-respected individual behind the success of a local club or program (especially relevant to smaller towns)
- Provide free or subsidised transport for people to get to and from activities
- Running free activities
- More collaborative partnerships, especially with local sporting clubs
- Need to work with schools – they are key access point for getting children and young people active
- Having activities with a social, rather than a competitive, focus
- Education component is so important – promote the benefits of healthy active lifestyle
- Subsidised memberships, free come and try activities
- Free food is a huge incentive for people to come – healthy breakfasts, community BBQs
- Warm water hydrotherapy pool for exercise would be great
- Market the simple positives that an active lifestyle can bring (e.g. in marketing recreation programs to older residents – 'keeping up with grandchildren' works well)
- Promotion needs to break down the barriers with age and stereotypes (people think it's not relevant to me)
- Offer things in a neutral non-threatening environment
- More of a focus on concept of active transport – ride, scoot, bike, walk

- Get the promotions right! People must be able to identify with what is being advertised – thinking more about images and language used, especially in relation to exercise/body image
- Word-of-mouth so important in promoting activities, events and programs, especially in smaller towns
- As a promotional tool Facebook works well with younger people, older residents still prefer local paper advertising and flyer/maildrops
- The 'cup of tea' afterwards is very important – social element is critical to maintaining participation
- Providing more non-competitive recreational opportunities for adults and children (e.g. orienteering)

Appendix K – Local Business Focus Group Summary of Key Themes

Availability of, and demand for 'private provider' sport and active recreation services in the Glenelg Shire:

- Often sport and recreation is not a priority – people are interested but don't follow through with memberships
- Short term packages or 'pay as you go' are popular as people don't have to commit to long term membership they may not use or can't afford
- Gym challenges, with a defined timeframe, are very popular, especially when they are available to non-members
- Lot of residents are shift workers, so business needs to be flexible to cater to their needs
- Participation over school holiday period drops dramatically (especially over the Christmas holidays), so only run programs during school terms – severely impacts business sustainability
- Have to look at supplementing core business with other activities to remain viable
- Schools don't seem to be as active in accessing local business for sport activities, held within school grounds more – they have better facilities now.
- Outdoor personal training / gym classes are more popular. For every 10 to 15 people participating indoor, approximately 20 would attend outdoor
- With an ageing population we need more activities for the 60 to 75-year-old target group

Key issues impacting local business providing sport and active recreation services:

- Finding appropriate venues to run business from can be challenging, especially in smaller townships
- Easier just to provide training opportunities rather than operate at competition level – too costly to organise and difficult to administrate
- Lack of designated, safe, outdoor space for personal training businesses and gym classes. Too much 'red-tape' involved to try and organise appropriate, regular space with Council

Potential barriers to participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- Cost involved, especially for families with more than one child
- Travel involved, especially when people are at a competitive level, will always be a requirement to travel
- People don't have enough time to make a regular commitment
- Obesity
- Lack of awareness about what is available
- Financial implications

Appendix L – Associations & Peak Bodies Forum Summary of Key Themes

Regional priorities and key directions for sporting codes:

- Getting girls and young women involved in sport
- Building the capacity of clubs to retain young people
- Improving access and creating meaningful opportunities for people with a disability to participate in local sport
- Promoting club development opportunities
- Health promotion

Key issues impacting sport in the Glenelg Shire:

- Declining participation and membership levels leading to club mergers
- Compliance, regulatory and administrative requirements of volunteers can be overwhelming and difficult for clubs to navigate
- Difficulty attracting professional coaches to rural areas
- Ageing facilities not meeting the changing needs of sport
- Cost and travel implications impacting young people competing at a high level – requires intensive family support.

Opportunities to improve participation in sport and active recreation in the Glenelg Shire:

- Need for 'community champions' to drive local sporting opportunities
- Capacity to showcase different sports – come and try events; sports festival
- Support for clubs through development programs