

'Community Sports Matters' – Sports Symposium

Held at Parliament House

13th July 2009

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Key themes to emerge in relation to each workshop topic are summarised below. An asterisk* beside any theme indicates it was frequently raised.

QUESTION 1:

WHAT CAN WE DO TO BETTER ATTRACT, TRAIN AND RETAIN VOLUNTEERS IN COMMUNITY SPORT?

1. Training/ Administration*
 - Develop specific training programs and link to RTOs
 - Develop on-line training modules tailored to volunteering in sport
 - Develop a volunteer portal for advertising opportunities in sport
 - Provide more structured role/ position descriptions
 - Clearly delineate paid/ unpaid staff
 - Provide mentoring support for new volunteers
 - Ensure succession planning (2-5 years)
 - Formalise rosters for volunteers
 - Revamp former Australian Sports Commission VMP Camp and Administration programs
2. Communication*
 - Keep volunteers informed
3. Acknowledging/ Valuing*
 - Create social opportunities/ events
 - Promote the 'feel good factor'
 - Retain volunteer recognition programs
4. Financial Incentives*
 - Provide discounted fees to volunteers
 - Investigate tax deductibility options
 - Provide free personal development/ training opportunities
 - Reimburse out of pocket expenses
 - Provide funding for travel/ equipment/ laptops
5. Targeting
 - Find better ways of reaching volunteers
 - Match volunteer skills with needs of sport
6. Promotion
 - Develop a large scale advertising program which
 - Demonstrates the benefits of volunteering
 - Shows people how to volunteer
 - Indicates recruitment options

7. Corporate Partnerships

- Link up with and encourage corporate social responsibility programs
- Calculate a dollar value on volunteer time and redeem credits with retail/ corporate purchases
- Partner with commercial providers in this process eg restaurants/ sports stores

QUESTION 2:

WHAT NEW APPROACHES COULD BE CONSIDERED TO MEET THE FACILITY NEEDS OF COMMUNITY SPORT?

1. Planning/ provision*

- Prepare state-wide facility plans with links to local government plans
- Adopt best practice approaches. Prepare master plans for sports land/ facilities in order to:
 - Mitigate urban encroachment issues for 'difficult-to-locate' sports
 - Ensure appropriate land availability/ quality
- Involve key stakeholders in facility design (ie clubs, peak bodies, LGA's, relevant state agencies)
- Create mixed use community 'hubs' (ie locally accessible, economies of scale, consistent with principles of new urbanism)
- Include provision for non-organised facilities
 - eg outdoor recreation, informal walking/ cycling

2. Partnerships*

- Co-locate facilities for economies of scale/ increased use
- Incorporate smaller sports with larger sports in facility development, where appropriate
- Create cultural change about shared use
- Maximise community use of school/ tertiary facilities to increase viability
 - Resolve access and uninterrupted use issues
 - Create MOU's with school/ tertiary institutions to ensure community access
- Create synergies between relevant departments for better planning outcomes and value for money (eg Dept of Communities – Sport and Recreation Services/ Queensland Health/ Education Queensland)

3. Management/ Maintenance*

- Educate club administrators/ volunteers to establish 'sinking funds' for long term sustainability of facilities
 - Investigate tax deductibility for these funds
- Provide government funding for maintenance
- Address the overlapping of seasons between sports (SSO's)

4. Insurance

- Resolve 'double-dipping' for public liability insurance

5. Sports Houses

- Create sports houses to share resources/ ideas/ meeting space

6. Sports-Specific Facility Considerations

- Different sports have sport-specific issues which need to be addressed, eg:
 - Lighting requirements to meet Australian Standards
 - Land requirements for difficult-to-locate sports
 - Artificial surfaces for some sports

QUESTION 3:

WHAT CAN THE INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT DO TO REDUCE THE COST OF PARTICIPATION IN JUNIOR SPORT?

Participants were very positive about the range of existing funding programs for facility/ program/ athlete development provided by government or gaming funds and wanted to see them retained.

1. Tax Deductibility Options*

- While outside state government jurisdiction, tax deductibility for equipment and membership fees was the most frequently raised suggestion
- Tax deductibility was also suggested for training of officials, clothing, computers and cars
- GST reduction/ removal on equipment
- Reduction in payroll tax was also suggested but it was not clear from responses how this was intended to reduce junior sport costs

2. Insurance*

- Establish a centralised/ state government insurance scheme or a group insurance scheme for sport (especially public liability)
- Review the duplication of insurance coverage (ie multiple insurances required by different bodies over the same risk)
- Cap insurance payouts
- Investigate the New Zealand model for limited liability
- "Continued assistance from Council and state government"

3. Grants/ Subsidies*

- Subsidise fuel/ travel costs especially in regional areas
- SSO's or governments could subsidise a range of courses for junior sport – eg coaching/ umpiring/ admin/ CR/ food handling
- Provide grants for equipment, uniforms or membership fees
- Offer rebates on water/ electricity charges to clubs

4. Partnerships

- Form partnerships or overarching management bodies with community/ sporting clubs to reduce admin costs
- Establish a group purchasing discount for all clubs for water/ power/ sports equipment

5. Schools Links

- Make greater utilisation of school facilities
- Consolidate school sport and community sport
- Use clubs to deliver inter-school sport
- Assist organisations to provide programs in schools (eg Smart Moves) so that students get exposure to all sports

6. Administration

- Provide effective software and resources to make club administration easier
- Pay membership fees in instalments
- Reduce costs for parents trading their volunteer time for lower fees
- Better promote available grant/ funding opportunities to clubs
- Recognise prior learning in training requirements
- Improve 'blue card' approvals period

7. Other

- More assistance by Local Governments toward maintenance of grounds
- More modified sports to reduce costs eg Auskick (Aust football), yardball (baseball)
- Introduce daylight saving (reduced requirement for night lighting)