

## **Sport Symposium Initiatives – progress update**

### **Background**

The Q150 Community Sport Symposium was hosted by the Queensland Government and QSport in July 2009, to generate ideas about how government and the industry can work together across a range of issues facing community sport.

At the conclusion of the Symposium the Minister for Sport announced six initiatives for the Government and the industry to progress.

The following is an update on the progress of these initiatives.

### **Initiative updates**

**1:** Develop a new suite of resources that will be available online through an industry portal for clubs and associations to attract, develop and retain volunteers and club officials.

**2:** Establish a linkage service which joins up people who are looking to volunteer with relevant sporting clubs in their local community.

A 'Supporting Volunteers' section has been developed on the Sport and Recreation Services' website which consolidates existing web based information relating to volunteering and includes new components such as:

- volunteer management resource portal (resource portal) providing links to a suite of resources to enhance volunteer recruitment, retention, recognition, training and development and to guide clubs in the development of volunteer management and risk management plans;
- volunteer links section promoting volunteer linkage services (e.g. to Volunteering Queensland) connecting people, resources and organisations; and a
- volunteer stories section profiling the stories of sport and recreation volunteers.

The content for the resource portal has been sourced from SmartSports, a resource kit developed by the Brisbane Region Office, Sport and Recreation Services.

The 'Supporting Volunteers' section of the website went live in early December 2009.

**3:** Conduct an audit of State owned sport and recreation facilities (including school sporting facilities) to determine what's available where and the opportunities for better utilisation by community sporting organisations.

Significant progress has been made in the conduct of the audit with all State schools and TAFE campuses provided a survey to complete on 12 October 2009. The survey sought facility details such as:

- location;
- type and purpose;
- competition standard;
- age and condition;
- community uses; and
- planned expansion or upgrades.

This data is currently being consolidated and analysed.

All remaining state owned organisations were surveyed prior to the end of 2009.

The audit terms of reference encompass:

- State school sport facilities;
- TAFE Colleges, Outdoor Education Centres and Environmental Education Centres;
- Communities sport and recreation facilities – Active Recreation Centres and Outlook Centres; and
- Stadiums Queensland facilities available for community use – Sleeman Sports Complex, Queensland Tennis Centre, Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre and Brisbane Entertainment Centre sports facilities.

A report will be completed by 31 March 2010.

**4:** Investigate opportunities with State sporting organisations to establish sport wide maintenance strategies for community facilities.

Sport and Recreation Services is developing, in consultation with state sporting organisations including cricket, AFL, rugby league and rugby union, a pilot program to see how best practice maintenance programs from these sports could be applied to community facilities in south east Queensland. Sport and Recreation Services is also looking at what sport wide maintenance programs operate in other states and territories to see what lessons can be learnt for potential application in Queensland.

A trial is expected to be conducted in early 2010 and the results will then be assessed to determine if the program can be expanded across the State and if so how this would occur. Depending on the outcomes of the trial, a decision on whether the program can be applied across the state is expected to be available by mid 2010.

The Department is looking forward to the outcomes from this trial as the availability of accessible and well maintained community sport and recreation facilities across the state is essential to helping make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people.

**5:** Explore whether core participation equipment should be eligible for funding as part of the review of our funding programs – where this will reduce the club participation costs, particularly for families in disadvantaged communities.

Research of sport and recreation funding programs in other Australian states/territories, national and international jurisdictions was undertaken to determine the type of funding provided for core participation equipment, with very limited provisions currently provided, although South Australia does support equipment purchase up to \$10,000.

The independent review of sport and recreation funding programs has been asked to consider this particular issue. The funding of core participation equipment was raised as an issue during the face to face consultation process and the survey consultation instruments, particularly for larger, more expensive items and for smaller items that could allow clubs to provide opportunities for those facing barriers to participation. For larger items, the purchase costs were identified as barriers to being able to allow more people to participate in their sport or recreation activity.

The final report of the Sport and Recreation Services Funding Programs Review is currently being considered. Further details on this initiative will be available once the reports recommendations have been considered.

**6:** Support the establishment of libraries/equipment share schemes on a regional or district basis.

Research has identified an increasing number of sport equipment libraries operating out of local government libraries across Australia. The research indicates no viable model to establish a local or regional club sports equipment library therefore library options in partnership with local government are being developed and will be assessed according to a number of criteria under the categories of (a) potential impact on physical activity levels and (b) ability to be implemented and sustained. Initial consultation with local governments indicates a diverse catalogue of sports equipment costs around \$8000 per location.

Further consultation with local governments will occur in early 2010 with a view to establishing libraries by mid 2010.