



Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing
September 2019

Statewide Consultation Summary Report



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We acknowledge all members of the community who contributed at the workshops and via online feedback, social media and written submissions.

The specific clubs, groups and organisations who participated in the consultation are listed below. Please note that some participants were representing themselves and/or did not provide a group/representative organisation name, and therefore not all groups/organisations may be listed below.

Local Government Mayors, Elected Members and Staff representing

City of Adelaide	Kingston District Council	Port Augusta City Council
Adelaide Hills Council	Local Government Association of South Australia	Port Pirie Regional Council
Adelaide Plains Council	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	City of Prospect
Alexandrina Council	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	Renmark Paringa Council
The Barossa Council	City of Marion	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
Berri Barmera Council	Mid Murray Council	City of Salisbury
City of Burnside	City of Mitcham	Southern Mallee District Council
Campbelltown City Council	Mount Barker District Council	District Council of Streaky Bay
City of Charles Sturt	City of Mount Gambier	Tatiara District Council
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	Rural City of Murray Bridge	City of Tea Tree Gully
Coorong District Council	Naracoorte Lucindale Council	City of Unley
Copper Coast Council	Northern Areas Council	City of Victor Harbor
District Council of Elliston	City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	Wakefield Regional Council
Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association	City of Onkaparinga	Town of Walkerville
Town of Gawler	Outback Communities Authority	Wattle Range Council
Regional Council of Goyder	City of Playford	City of West Torrens
District Council of Grant	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	City of Whyalla
City of Holdfast Bay		Wudinna District Council
District Council of Karoonda East Murray		District Council of Yankalilla



State Sporting Organisations, State Recreation Organisations, Industry Bodies, Service Providers and Support Organisations representing

Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation SA	Football Federation of SA	Rowing SA Rugby Union (SA)
Adelaide University Sport	Golf SA	SA Sports Medicine Association
Athletics SA	Gymnastics SA	SANFL
Australian Sailing	Hockey SA	Skate SA
Austswim Ltd	Horse Federation of SA	Softball SA
Baseball SA	Inclusive Sport SA	South Australian Petanque League
Basketball SA	Lacrosse SA	Sport Australia
BMX SA	Little Athletics Association (SA)	Sport SA
Bowls SA	Motorcycling SA	Squash SA
Clay Target Association (SA)	Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc	Surf Life Saving SA Inc
Confederation of Australian Motor Sport	Netball SA	Surfing SA
Cricket Association (SACA)	Novita	Swimming SA
Croquet Association (SA)	Paddle SA	Target Rifle SA
Cycling SA	Parks and Leisure Australia	Tennis SA
Dancesport Australia (SA)	Pony Club Association of SA	Tenpin Bowling Australia (SA)
Fitness Australia	Recreation SA	Touch Football Australia (SA)
Flinders University Sport and Fitness Inc.	Riding for the Disabled Association SA	UniSA Sport
	Rifle SA	Volleyball SA
		Walking SA
		YMCA of SA

Community Groups and Clubs

Adelaide Football Club	Houghton Inglewood and Hermitage Memorial Park	Reade Park Lawn Tennis Club
Adelaide Hills Junior Soccer Association	Hub Gymnastics	Riesling Trail Committee
Adelaide Outlaws Square Dance Club	Imperial Football club	Riverland Cycling Club
Adelaide Plains Equestrian Club	Imperial Netball Club	Riverland Dinghy Club Inc
Adelaide Roller Derby	Kenilworth Football Club	Riverland Triathlon club
Adelaide Sailing Club	Kensington District Cricket Club	Riverland West Indoor Heated Pool com.
Adelaide Trail Horse Riders Club	Lake Albert Gun Club	Robe Bowling Club
Adelaide Uni Sports	LGA Limestone Coast	Rocckabellas Roller Derby League
Adelaide United Football Club	Limestone Coast Football Council	Rosewater Football Club
Adelaide University Baseball Club	Lincoln South Club	South Adelaide Cricket Club
Adelaide University Cricket Club	LSEBA	South Adelaide Football Club
Adelaide Victory Football Club	Manoora Centenary Park min/man	Sk8 Therapy
Agility Dog Club of South Australia Inc.	Marauders Hockey Club	Snap Fitness
Aldinga Netball Club	Mawson Boat Club	Soccer Port Augusta Incorporated
Aldinga Sharks Football Club	McLaren Flat Recreation ground	South Augusta Football Club
Aldinga Soccer Club	McLaren Vale Bowling club	South Coast Athletic Centre
Aldinga U3A	Member for Hammond staff member	South Coast Hockey Association
Alpha Gymnastics	Member for King	South East Football Umpires League
Apollo Football Club	Member for MacKillop	
Archery	Member for Mawson	
Ardrossan Golf club	Member for Morphet	
Athelstone Football Club	Member for Giles staff member	



Community Groups and Clubs

Athletics	Member for Reynell staff member	South Port Surf Life Saving Club
Atujara Motorcycle Club	Member for Elder	
Back Valley Tennis Club	Member for Finniss	Southern District Cricket Club
Barmera Golf Club	Member for Flinders	Southern Eyre Team Penners
Basketball Mount Gambier	Member for Kavel	Southern Go Kart Club Inc
Big Heart Adventures - Wise Women Walking Program	Mid South East Netball	Southern Hills Netball Association
Blackwood Football Club	Millicent & District International Basketball Association	Southern Vales Archery Club Inc
Boston Football Club Port Lincoln	Mitchell Park Sports Club	Southern Vales Dressage Club Inc
Burnside Rugby Club	Moonta Tennis Club	Speedway Riders Association of SA Inc
Burnside Youth Club Inc	Mount Barker Hunt Club	St Josphe's Netball club
Campbelltown Comets Netball Club	Mount Barker Riding Club	STARplex
Central Augusta Football Club	Mount Barker United Netball Club	Steel City Hockey Club
Central District Netball Club	Mount Burr Netball Club	Strathalbyn Tennis Club
City Collective	Mount Compass Cricket Club	Sturt Baseball Club
Clare Sports Facilities Management Committee	Mount Compass Football Club	SUNA Netball
Clare Valley Racing Club	Mount Gambier Netball Association	The Brass Parlour
Coastal Districts Athletics and Little Athletics	Mountain Pool Amateur Swimming Club	The Dover Gardens Kennel & Obedience Club Inc.
Colonel Light Gardens Football Club	Mount Barker Bowls Club	The Friends of the Heysen Trail
Colonel Light West Tennis Club	Mount Barker Croquet Club	Tintookies Orienteering Club
Coorong Dragons	Mount Barker Swimming Club	Two Wells Golf Club
Copper Coast leisure and recreation centre	Mount Gambier District Little Athletics Centre	Victor Harbor Football Club
Cove Football Club (AFL)	Murray Bridge Basketball Association	Victor Harbor Parkrun
Cudlee Creek Tennis Club	Nangwarry Football Club	Victor Harbor RSL
Cumberland United Women's Football Club	Netball Ass	Victor Harbor Tennis Club
Denman Tennis Club	Next Level Elite	Victor Harbor Triathlon
East Gambier Football Club	Noarlunga Master Swimmers Inc	Victor Harbor Yacht Club
Eastern Mavericks District Basketball Club	Northern Districts Athletics Club	Walkerville Cricket Club
Eastern United Football Club	Northern Districts Cricket Club (Jets)	Wallaroo Golf Club
Echunga Softball Club	Northern Districts Darts Assoc Inc	Wanderers Hockey Club
Elizabeth Netball Association	Northern Region Sports Alliance	Watervale community association
Elizabeth vale	Novita	Watervale cricket club
Encounter Bay Bowling Club	Office of the Training and Skills Commission	Watervale Lawn Bowls Club
Equestrian	Outback Progress Associations	Wellbeing SA
ETSA Bowling & Croquet Club	Padthaway Netball Club	West Lakes Triathlon Club
Eudunda Hampden Rail Trail	Para Hills Cricket Club	West Torrens Cricket club
Events To Activate	Parks and Leisure Australia SA/NT	Whyalla basketball Association
FAC	Pashtun Association of SA. Pashtun Cricket Club	Whyalla bowmen
Fleurieu Cricket Zone	Payneham Youth Centre	Whyalla Celsoft
Flinders Flames Women's Soccer Club	Pegasus Pony Club	Whyalla Cycling Club
Flinders Park Tennis Club	Penfield Golf Club	Whyalla Football League
		Whyalla Hockey Association

**Community Groups and Clubs**

Football Star Academy	PHOS Camden Sport and Community Club	Whyalla Judo Club
Go 2 Coach	Play it On	Whyalla Junior Soccer Association
Goodwood Baseball Club	Playford Bowling Club	Whyalla Netball Association
Goolwa and Districts Bicycle User Group Inc	Port Adelaide Athletics Club	Whyalla Rifle Club
Goolwa Bowling Club	Port Augusta and Districts Little Athletics Centre	Whyalla soccer association
Great Southern Badminton Assoc Inc	Port Augusta Table Tennis	Whyalla Tennis Association
Great Southern Cricket Association	Port Augusta Tennis Association	Woodville District Cricket Club
Hahndorf Rifle Club	Port Lincoln Basketball Assoc	Yankalilla District Equestrian Club
Harvest Christian College	Port Lincoln Hockey	Zodiacs Basketball Mount Gambier
Hawthorn Bowling Club	Port Lincoln Race club	
Hectorville Sports and Community Club	Port Neill Sporting Complex	
Hills Softball Association	Port Netball Club	
Hoops4Life	Port Football Club	
	Port Neill Tennis Club	
	Price Memorial Oval Upgrade projects	
	Port Augusta Bowling Club	
	Reade Park Croquet Club	



Executive Summary

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) has actively sought deeper collaboration with the community and its stakeholders regarding three projects which were identified as key priorities for the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan cycle. The three priority projects are:

- Game On, Getting South Australia Active
- South Australian Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan
- Grants Review.

To support this collaboration with its stakeholders, ORSR has undertaken a statewide consultation process to gather early input for use across all three priority projects and establish the foundation for ongoing conversations and working relationships.

The statewide consultation process sought to gather input regarding how South Australia can be an active state, which included gathering information about:

- What does a healthy, active future look?
- What are the challenges or barriers to being active?
- How should priorities for investment in sport and recreation be determined?
- What would most help/support people being active?
- What examples are there of innovation that gets people active?
- Burning issues about sport and active recreation
- How can State Government work better with Councils, sport and recreation organisations, industry bodies and clubs and groups to better deliver sport and active recreation outcomes?

The *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* documents in detail the consultation process and who participated and summarises the key themes that emerged, including common issues across the state for sport and active recreation as well as regional differences and needs which can help guide how the government may support and invest in sport and recreation into the future. The infographic overleaf provides an overview of the consultation process and key findings.



Summary of key findings

It is abundantly clear that after completing 10 weeks of travelling the state and speaking directly with over 660 people representing a diversity of interests from the sport and active recreation sector and wider community, as well as via online feedback, written submissions and social media posts, that people recognise and value the important contribution sport and active recreation makes in South Australia.

People are passionate about their sport and active recreation clubs and groups and are committed to being able to provide ongoing opportunities for participation across all ages, abilities, genders and cultural backgrounds. This passion is reflected in the time and energy many invest in volunteering to ensure the ongoing viability of their clubs and groups and the provision of opportunities for people to participate.

Similarly, those representing State sport and recreation organisations, industry bodies, service providers and support organisations linked with the sector, are dedicated to delivering quality sport and active recreation outcomes in South Australia. There is a real desire to work better together and improve the delivery of infrastructure, sports, programs and activities that ensure our community is active into the future.

The important role of sport and active recreation

The important role of sport and active recreation in our communities was well recognised, and most commonly identified as contributing to:

- Physical health, including as a preventive health care measure *and* treatment of chronic diseases
- Mental health
- General health and wellbeing
- Social connection and reduced isolation
- Development of fundamental movement skills
- Learning 'life skills' such as team work, how to win and lose, discipline, commitment and routine.

Other benefits identified include the economic development opportunities sport and active recreation provides such as through tourism associated with international, national, state, regional and local sporting events as well as 'draw cards' that attract people to visit and spend time in regional areas such as walking and cycling trails and water activities on the River Murray or along the coast.



Statewide Consultation



10 weeks of consultation



150 online feedback forms completed



661 participants at 34 workshops held in 24 locations



25 written submissions



412 Facebook posts



5,000km Travelled across the State



What was the objective of the consultation?

The objective of the consultation was to understand what a healthy, active future looks like in South Australia, the key barriers and challenges and ways to address them, opportunities for collaboration and innovation and priorities for investment.

Use the information gathered to inform next phases of the three priority projects being undertaken by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing



Game On



Infrastructure Plan



Grants Review



What are the key challenges & barriers to being active?

The following five key challenges were identified most often across the State:

- The cost of participating in, and delivery of, sport and recreation
- Attracting, recruiting, training and retaining volunteers
- The age, condition, functionality and maintenance of facilities
- Being time poor/ having competing priorities
- Lack of facilities

Who participated?



54 out of **68** Local Government Areas in South Australia

56



State Sporting Organisations, State Recreation Organisations, Industry Bodies, Service Providers and Support Organisations



229

Community groups & clubs



How should investment priorities be determined?

- Facilities that are multi-use/shared
- Responds to needs and understanding of supply/demand
- Results in increased participation
- Promotes access and inclusion
- Future proofing (master planned, staged, sustainable)
- Equitable distribution of funding (between sports, clubs and communities)
- Demonstrates a collaborative/ partnership approach
- Delivers community benefit
- Results in positive health and wellbeing
- Upgrades or updates to existing infrastructure
- Aligns with existing plans and strategies

A healthy, active future is...



What would most support people to be active?

- Physical infrastructure that supports structured and unstructured activity
- Collaboration between clubs, Councils, industry, peak bodies, all levels of government
- Funding
- Support for clubs
- Sport and recreation events held in regional areas
- Increasing inclusion and diversity in sport and recreation
- Reducing costs

- Providing new formats, flexibility and fun activities
- Supporting smaller, 'minority' or unstructured sports
- Transport options, particularly in regional areas





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What does a healthy, active future look like?

The need to be active, more of the time was recognised across the State and often people spoke about being active becoming “the norm” and part of everyone’s daily life. A range of other aspects were also identified by people as key elements or characteristics of a healthy, active future including the need for:

- Sport and active recreation opportunities that are **inclusive** of all ages, genders, abilities and cultures
- **Multi-use** facilities that enable a diversity of activities to be provided all year round and at different times of the day
- **Fun and alternative game formats**, times of play and supportive services (eg child minding/activities) to make it easier for people to fit physical activity in with other commitments and priorities
- **Promotion** of the different options available to be active and the benefits of being active
- A **diversity of opportunities and choices** that are both **structured**, organised sport and **unstructured** options such as walking and cycling paths and trails and green open space
- **Safe, modern, fit for purpose, quality and well-maintained** sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure that meets community needs and demands
- **Lifelong** participation
- **Accessible** sport and active recreation opportunities, in terms of being close to where people live or by different transport options
- **Collaboration** between clubs, groups, organisations, all levels of government and communities work together for improved physical activity outcomes
- **Resilient** sporting clubs and groups that are stable, independent and sustainable
- Improved **health and wellbeing outcomes**-people are fitter and happier and experience less disease, mental health issues, obesity, social isolation or drug problems
- **Affordable** sport and active recreation opportunities.

Refer section 3 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion of the key elements or characteristics of a healthy, active future identified by the statewide consultation.

What are the key challenges or barriers to being active?

For the State as a whole, across both metropolitan and regional areas and all stakeholder groups (ie Councils, community clubs and groups, and peak sport and recreation organisations and industry bodies) the following key challenges or barriers were identified most often:

- The cost of participating in, and delivery of, sport and recreation
Many people identified that the costs associated with sport and active recreation was one of the key contributors to reduced participation in physical activity. It was also noted that the costs for participation in, and delivery of, activities are inextricably linked and that the cost of the delivery of sport and recreation activities affects the cost of participation and, ultimately, has an impact on affordability for the end-user
Costs for participants include those associated with uniforms, equipment, playing fees, entry fees and travel. Costs associated with the delivery of sport and active recreation include payment of fees to sport and recreation organisations, peak bodies and associations, administration, provision of equipment, maintaining facilities, leasing of facilities, utility bills, insurances, accreditation of volunteers and staff, compliance and legislative requirements, design and construction of new facilities and refurbishment or replacement of old facilities



- Volunteering

It was commonly identified that volunteers are a key enabling aspect of participation, and their importance in supporting sport and active recreation providers to deliver affordable activities was broadly recognised. Clubs and organisations however, have difficulties attracting, recruiting, training, retaining and managing volunteers. People identified that there is a need for well-structured volunteer training, support and recognition programs as well as the provision of financial support for training and specific club administration/management education

- The age, condition, functionality and maintenance of facilities and the lack of facilities

The availability of appropriate sport and active recreation facilities was often identified as a key barrier to being active. People identified a general lack of facilities to accommodate needs and demand for sport and active recreation as well as issues associated with the age, condition, functionality and maintenance of existing facilities

- Being time poor/competing priorities

Being time poor or having competing priorities was a commonly cited challenge or barrier to being active and was often associated with having a diversity of work and life commitments that leave little space and time for physical activity. Some people considered that inactivity was more a function of priorities and a lack of understanding about the importance of being active from a physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing perspective

Opportunities identified to address this challenge include providing a range and diversity of opportunities to be active, including via structured, organised sport as well as non-structured, flexible opportunities, thinking creatively about new and different formats for sport and recreation activities and better promotion about the benefits of being physically active.

The table below summarises key challenges and barriers to being active by stakeholder type.

Challenge/ barrier most often identified	Statewide (across all stakeholders)	Community clubs and groups	Councils	Peak organisations and industry bodies
Cost of participating and delivery	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteering	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilities: age, condition, functionality, maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Being time poor/competing priorities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of facilities	✓	✓		
Quality and accessibility of public open space/ unstructured active outdoor opportunities	✓		✓	✓
Understanding needs of specific community groups in terms of participation needs or demand	✓		✓	✓
Isolation, lack and cost of transport	✓	✓		
Shared planning and use of facilities	✓		✓	✓
Enabling places for active transport (eg walking, cycling)	✓		✓	✓
Funding and resources		✓		
Safety and security		✓		
Screen time		✓		
Motivation, apathy, mindset		✓		
Climate change/extreme weather			✓	
Diminishing or stagnating population			✓	
Fundamental movement skills in children				✓
Shift from formal to non-structured/informal activities				✓



In many cases there is cross over or interrelationship between the key challenges and barriers identified and how they play out in communities across the State, and the opportunities identified to address them often also address multiple challenges or barriers.

Refer section 4 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about key challenges and barriers to being active and opportunities to address them.

How should priorities for investment be determined?

People identified a range of ‘criteria’ that they considered important to the decision making process when thinking about how to invest in sport and active recreation. Key criteria most commonly identified by the statewide consultation comprised:

- Facilities that are multi-use/shared
- Responds to identified needs and understanding of supply/demand
- Results in increased participation
- Promotes access and inclusion
- Aligns with existing strategies and plans
- Demonstrates future proofing
- Distributes funding equitably (between sports and clubs regardless of size and popularity, and between communities across metropolitan and regional areas)
- Demonstrates a collaborative/ partnership approach
- Delivers community benefit
- Results in positive health and wellbeing outcomes
- Updates or upgrades existing infrastructure
- Demonstrates a proven track record of achievement
- Delivers economic benefit to the region

Refer section 5 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about criteria for investment decision making and broader discussion about funding programs and processes.

What could be your community’s game changer?

Across the state, people were asked to identify their community’s ‘game changer’, that is, what would most help or support people to be active in their community? The opportunities identified generally fell into the two broad categories of:

- Physical infrastructure
- Programming, planning, operations and governance.

This activity was most commonly where participants identified specific facility or infrastructure needs that they considered were needed in their community (refer Figure 7 and Figure 8 in section 6).

Other ‘game changers’ related to:

- Improving collaboration in terms of planning, funding and delivery
- Changing funding models
- Reducing ‘red tape’

- Providing training and resources to support the ongoing education, training and development of coaches, staff and volunteers
- Holding sport and active recreation events in regional areas
- Increasing inclusion of all members of the community
- Reducing costs of participation
- Providing financial incentives or rebates to get physically active
- Better promotion of what sport and active recreation opportunities are available
- Fun, new and alternative formats for sport and active recreation activities
- Better recognition of 'smaller', 'minority' or unstructured sports
- Improved transport options, particularly in regional areas.

Refer section 6 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about 'game changers'.

Burning issues about sport and active recreation

Across the state, people identified a range of 'burning issues' associated with sport and active recreation. Many comments related to facilities that were lacking or the unsuitability of existing facilities as well as the need to support a diversity of sports and other activities outside of those considered 'mainstream' such as football, cricket and netball. Other comments related to the need for existing facilities to be made more accessible and open for use by multiple clubs or the general public or identified the need for the upgrade of existing facilities to improve accessibility by all members of the community including through providing female change rooms and toilets and improving accessibility for people with disabilities and installing lighting and shade cover to increase use and flexibility.

Other burning issues related to the need for better roads, trails and infrastructure for walking and cycling and providing spaces for unstructured sport and recreation such as green spaces. Improving funding processes which were perceived to be 'skewed' towards larger, well-resourced clubs and groups and mainstream sports was also identified as was the need for sport and active recreation to be inclusive of all members of the community including people of different ages, genders, cultural backgrounds, abilities, family compositions and financial means.

The need to improve the engagement of children and young people in sport and active recreation was commonly identified, and many people commented on their concerns about the decline in focus on physical education in schools and their (in)ability to retain young people, particularly at the 'top end' of juniors in competitive sport.

The overall affordability and sustainability of club operations including paying utility bills and insurances, undertaking routine maintenance and the training, education and professional development of staff, volunteers and coaches was identified as an ongoing challenge.

Volunteering more generally was also identified as a burning issue, including addressing the lack of volunteers, volunteer 'burn out' and challenges with retention, succession and administration of volunteers.



People identified that decisions need to be based on evidence (data), in particular needs analysis and population trends, as well as be measured. It was also suggested that regional planning as well as locally targeted approaches are needed to plan for sport and active recreation. Improving collaboration and communication across State government departments as well as Councils and clubs was suggested. The use of school facilities after hours was raised often as an opportunity for collaboration.

Refer section 7 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about 'burning issues'.

What examples are there of innovation that gets people active?

People shared examples of something innovative they have seen elsewhere that gets people active. Often examples of innovation included multi-use facilities shared by different clubs and activities including the sharing of school facilities. Other innovative ideas included:

- Facilities, formats or enhancements that increase access and participation such as lighting, indoor facilities, synthetic surfaces or pop-up play infrastructure
- Ways to support children, young people and seniors to be active including school holiday programs, in-school programs, targeted seniors programs and youth social inclusion programs
- Unstructured open spaces, trails and activities which provide opportunities to get active. Bikes and walking trails were often identified as well as integrating fun interactive features into open spaces as ways to encourage people outdoors
- Alternative game formats and fun programs that change the way sport and active recreation activities are delivered eg shortened game time, no requirement for a uniform, social competitions, exercise challenges etc
- Use of incentives and/or improving affordability through subsidy or voucher systems/schemes
- Use of technology to improve the function of facilities and as a way to engage people, including using E-sports to increase participation
- Community events that incorporate fun physical activities
- Examples of policy and planning in the areas of town planning, risk management, behaviour change, cross-department collaboration and funding.

Refer section 8 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about innovative ways to get people active.

Working better together

A range of opportunities for State Government to work with Councils, sport and recreation organisations, industry bodies and clubs and groups to better deliver sport and active recreation outcomes were identified by the statewide consultation including:

- Improving communication and undertaking better consultation with sport and active recreation organisations when planning or designing facilities or programs to ensure that particular requirements of sports and other activities are adequately accommodated in their design
- Providing online hubs of information and key contacts to speak to on different matters
- The need for State and Local Government to facilitate discussions between different parties. For example, it was identified that there is a need for State Government to help 'broker' or facilitate regional discussions and Local Government to help facilitate local club and community networks and advocate to local members about community needs



- The desire for better understanding about each stakeholder groups' needs and circumstances (eg State or local government, clubs and organisations) as well as a better understanding and recognition of sport and active recreation and its benefits more broadly such as economic development, social inclusion and mental health and wellbeing
- The need for better understanding of the difference and needs of regional areas compared to Metropolitan Adelaide. This includes bringing major events to the regions to boost local economies and participation, leveraging off natural assets such as the River Murray, coast or national parks
- Improve support provided to clubs and groups through Council promotion of the sports and active recreation activities available in their communities, support for the ongoing development and training of coaches and other club officials and office holders and reducing red tape
- Improving funding arrangements including timing, application timeframes, creating consistency and linking funding to the delivery of Council and other strategic plans
- Strengthened coordination and collaboration across State Government departments to deliver on common objectives, as well as better coordination of efforts across all levels of government, community, clubs and organisations and service providers.

Providing access to school grounds, providing infrastructure that supports unstructured physical activity and active travel such as walking and cycling, working with the Department for Health and Wellbeing and other agencies that provide support in relation to health and social services such as Centrelink and ensuring adequate supply of open space and recreation facilities in new developments or urban growth or infill areas were identified as particular across government opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

Refer section 9 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about opportunities to work better together.



Participants undertaking workshop activities at Campbelltown and Ceduna workshops

Implications of the statewide consultation for the three priority projects

This *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* documents in detail the consultation process and who participated and summarises the key themes that emerged, including common issues across the State for sport and active recreation as well as regional differences and needs which can help guide how the government may support and invest in sport and recreation into the future.

The feedback gathered via the consultation has a range of implications for the three priority projects being undertaken (Game On, Getting South Australia Active, the South Australian Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan and the Grants Review) and provides rich insight into the aspirations of the South Australian community for a healthy, active future and the challenges and opportunities ahead to work together collectively to deliver an active State.

To aid the next stages of the three priority projects all of the consultation information gathered has been reviewed and synthesised with a focus on identifying feedback most relevant and pertinent to each priority project for further consideration and investigation in subsequent stages of those projects.

Refer section 10 of the *Statewide Consultation Summary Report* for more detailed discussion about the implications of the consultation findings for the next stages of the three priority projects.

In addition, three standalone executive summaries under separate cover have been prepared in relation to each of the three priority projects.



Participants undertaking workshop activities at Hallett Cove and Mount Gambier workshops



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1.0 Introduction

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) has actively sought deeper collaboration with the community and its stakeholders regarding three projects which were identified as key priorities for the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan cycle. The three priority projects are:

- Game On, Getting South Australia Active
- South Australian Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan
- Grants Review.

To support this collaboration with its stakeholders, ORSR has undertaken a statewide consultation process to gather early input for use across all three priority projects and establish the foundation for ongoing conversations and working relationships. The outcomes of this statewide consultation will be used by the three priority projects to inform subsequent phases of each individual project.

This report provides a summary of the statewide consultation process and the key themes that emerged, including common issues across the state for sport and active recreation as well as regional differences and needs which will help guide how the government may support and invest in sport and recreation into the future.



What does a healthy, active future look like?



1.1 Guide to reading this report

This report provides an overall summary of the process used to undertake the statewide consultation, documents who participated and summarises the key findings of the feedback gathered.

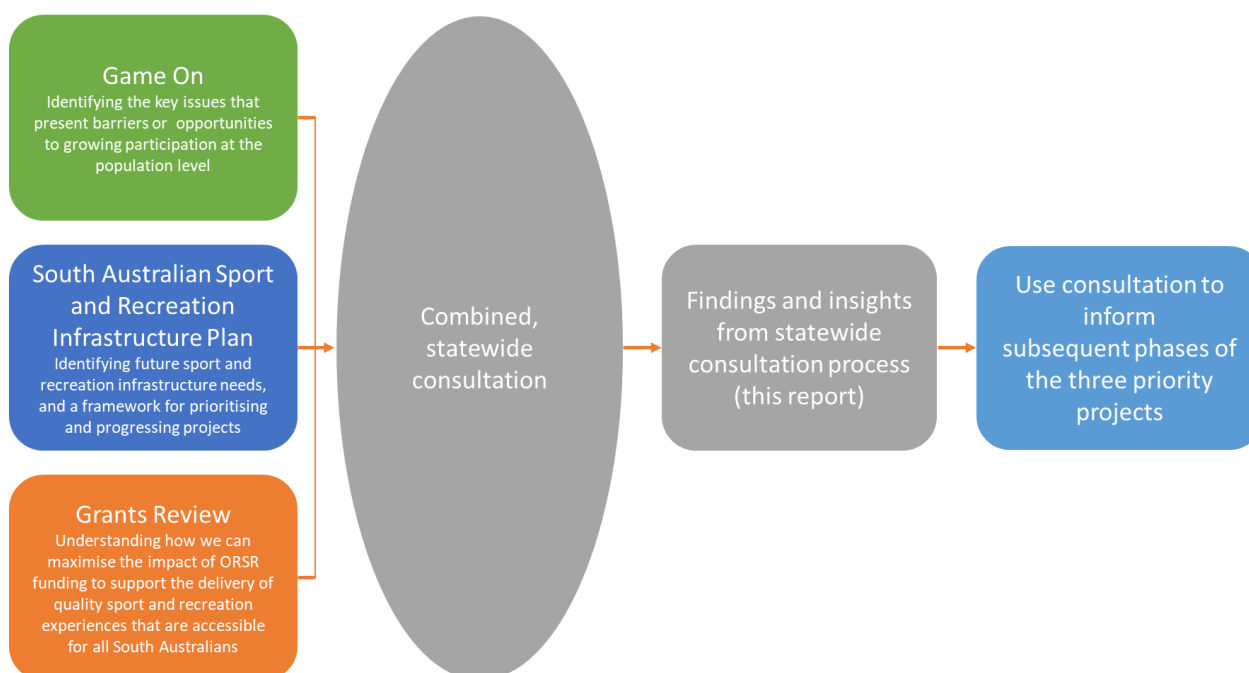
In addition, to aid the next stages of the three priority projects described above, three separate 'executive summaries' have been prepared that draw on all of the information gathered via the statewide consultation process and synthesises it with a focus on the objectives of the three priority projects. In this way, the information gathered via the consultation most relevant and pertinent to each priority project has been identified for further consideration and investigation in subsequent stages of those projects (refer Figure 1).

It should be noted that participation in the statewide consultation process was self-nominated and therefore, the information gathered is qualitative in nature and not statistically quantifiable.

The information gathered was primarily via in depth, facilitated workshop discussion and for the purposes of summarising the information collected, the key findings documented in this report have been compiled based on the synthesis of common themes derived from the workshop process. In addition, information provided via online feedback, social media and written submissions has been integrated into the collation and analysis.

It should also be noted that in some cases, people participated in the consultation in more than one way. For example, an individual may have attended a workshop, completed an online feedback form and written a submission. In a few cases individuals attended more than one workshop in different locations.

Figure 1 Role of this report



2.0 How was the statewide consultation undertaken?

One of the primary objectives for the statewide consultation was to deliver a process that engaged ‘face to face’ with people to enable deep discussion about the future of sport and active recreation in our State. By going to communities and stakeholders, the ORSR could also develop the foundation for ongoing conversation and collaboration which will be necessary for the subsequent stages of the three priority projects that are underway. The other primary objective for the consultation was to ensure as much coverage as possible of the State to ensure participation from people in metropolitan, regional and country areas.

Table 1 shows participation by consultation mechanism. Analysis of postcode data¹ of where participants were from, shows good coverage of South Australia was achieved by the statewide process (refer Figure 2).

Table 1 Consultation mechanism by participation

Consultation mechanism	Number of participants ²
Workshops	661
Online feedback	150
Written submission	25
Social media posts	412 specific posts

2.1 Who participated?

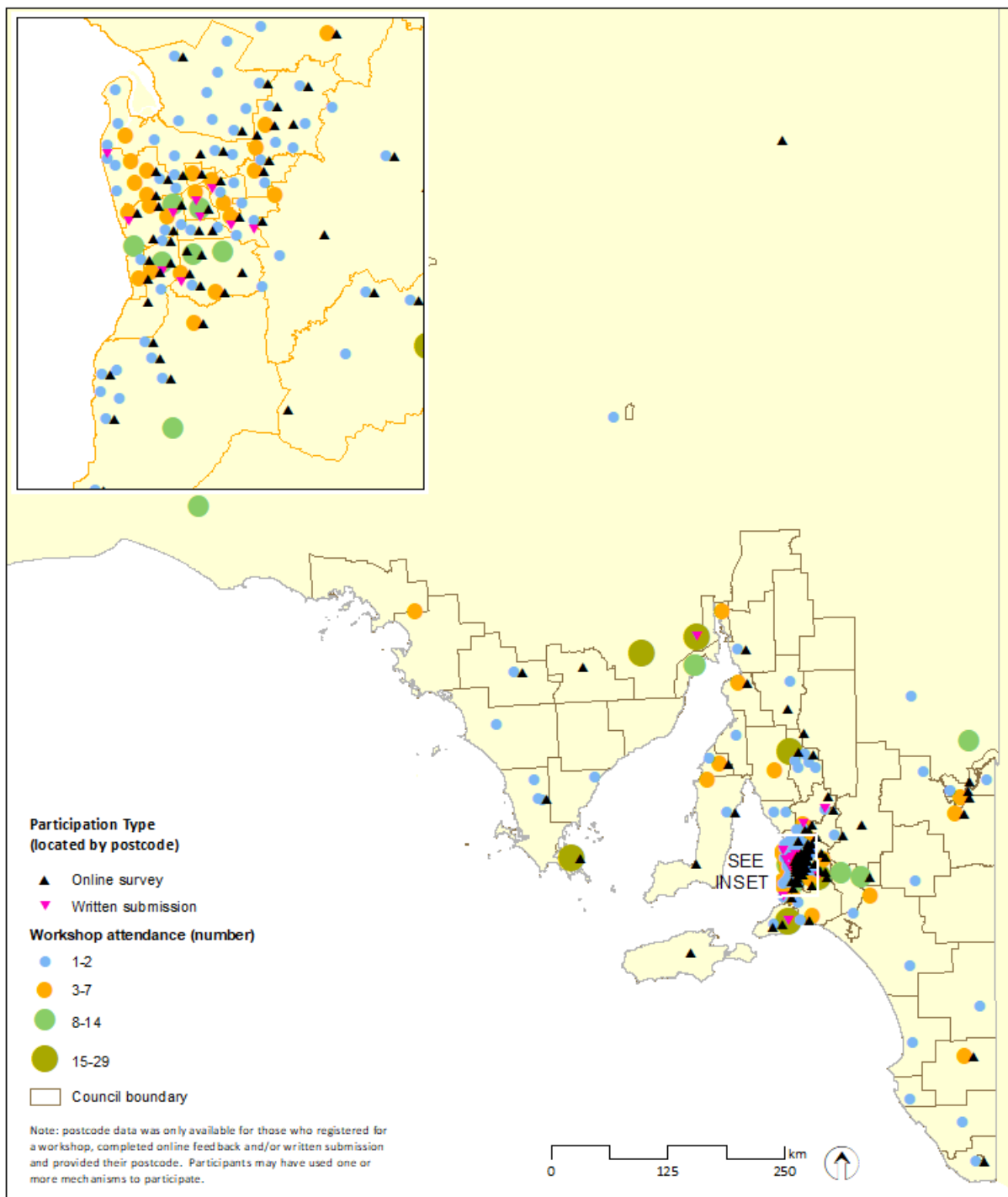
Analysis shows that of those people who provided information about their gender, more men than women participated in the statewide consultation process (n=429 compared to n=381) and one person identified their gender as ‘other’ (refer Figure 3).

Most people were aged in the 45 to 54 years age range, followed by people aged 35 to 44 years. There was low representation from people aged under 25 and older than 75 years (refer Figure 4).

People who participated in the statewide consultation identified their relationship with sport and active recreation in a range of ways. Many people nominated more than one type of relationship. For example, a person could be both a volunteer and a participant in organised sport. Analysis shows that most people who participated in the statewide consultation process were already involved with the sport and recreation sector in some capacity, with the most commonly cited relationship being as a volunteer, followed closely by involvement with a club committee or its administration (refer Figure 5).

¹ Note postcode data was only available for those people who provided their postcode when registering for a workshop, completing an online feedback and/or written submission.

² Participants may have used one or more mechanisms to participate

**Figure 2 Participation by postcode**

Other aspects to note about participants in the statewide consultation include that:

- There was high participation from representatives of Local Government (comprising Mayors, Elected Members and staff). Of a possible 68 Local Government Areas in South Australia, 54 Councils participated in the consultation, with the vast majority of this participation occurring face to face at the workshop sessions
- 56 State Sporting Organisations, State Recreation Organisations, Industry Bodies, Service Providers and Support Organisations participated in the consultation
- 229 community clubs and groups participated in the consultation
- Although no data was collected about this, observations of participants were that only a very few people were not already connected to the sport and recreation sector in some way
- Whilst no data was collected regarding diversity, it is recommended that further consultation should be considered to ensure that atypical views of underrepresented populations and non-participants are considered.

2.2 Limitations of the statewide consultation

Information collected via the statewide consultation is multimethod in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. Further data should be considered to validate information collected via the consultation.

Prioritisation was given to locations for consultation, and not all regions were visited, however completion of the online feedback form was encouraged across the State. No workshop was held in the Barossa and Light region nor on Kangaroo Island.

Figure 3 Gender of participants

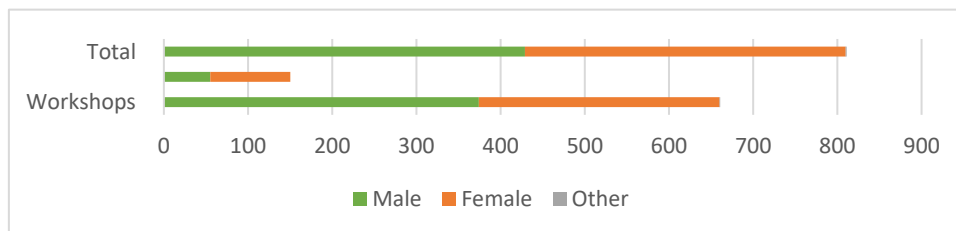
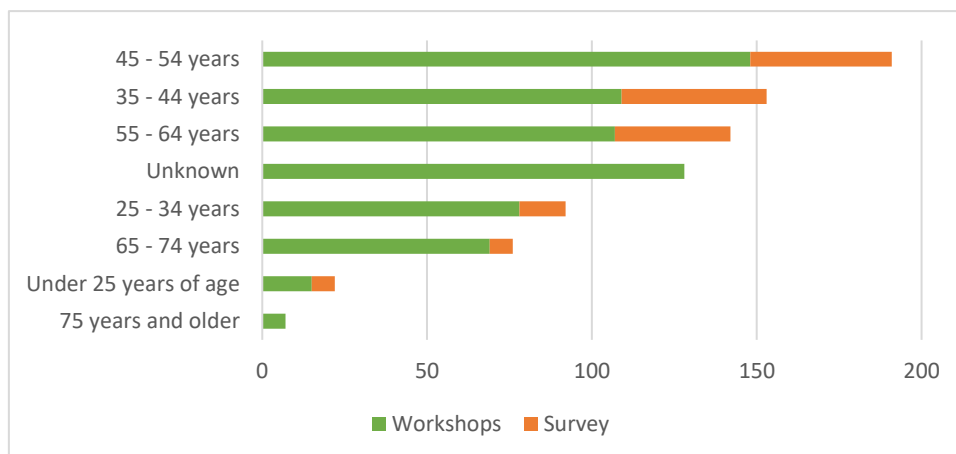
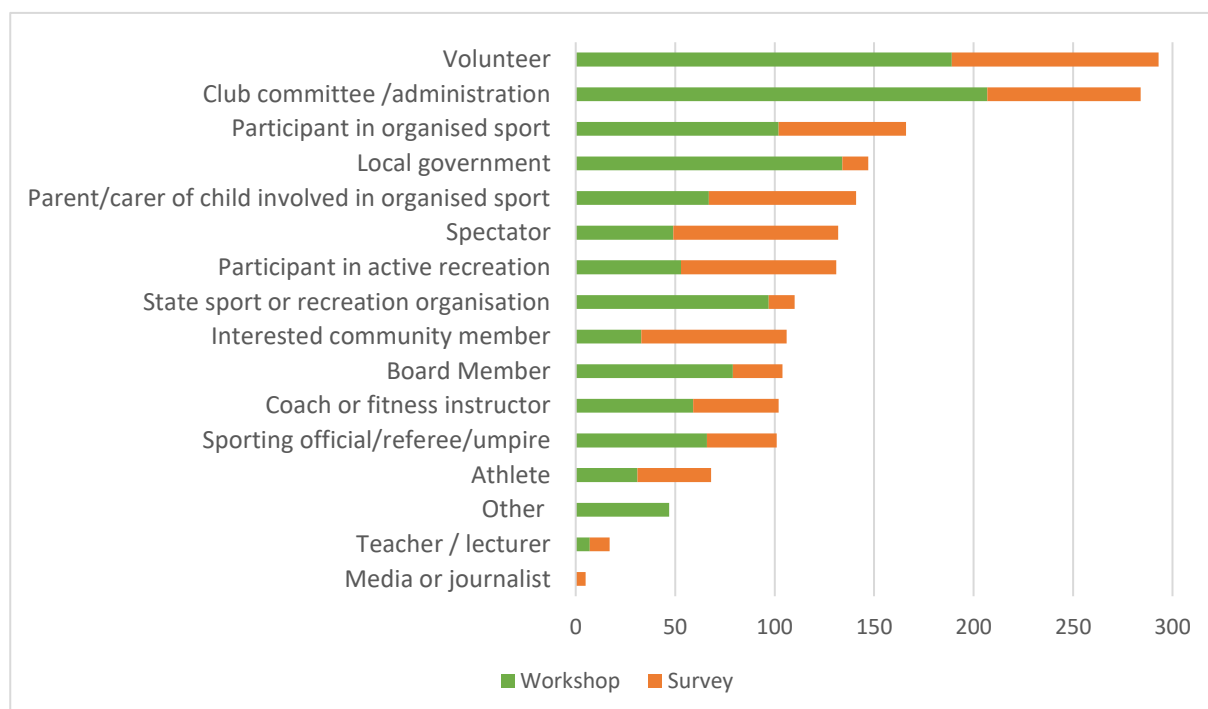


Figure 4 Age of participants



**Figure 5 Participants' relationship with sport and active recreation**

2.3 How was the statewide consultation promoted?

The statewide consultation and the opportunities to participate were promoted in the following ways:

Promotion mechanism	Reach (where known)
Dedicated web page on ORSR website and link from ORSR landing page	10,714 page views
Direct emails to subscriber listings (including all State Sporting Organisations, Councils, Members of Parliament, Active Club database, sports vouchers registered clubs by region and people registered to the Grants Newsletter)	15,941
13 specific posts on ORSR Facebook page	147,184 reach 2,777 reactions, comments and shares 412 specific comments posted
STARCLUB Field Officers' direct contact with, and email of, clubs, groups and networks in their region	STARCLUB regions
Port Lincoln news bulletin	
Interview on ABC Mount Gambier by ORSR Chief Executive Kylie Taylor	Statewide
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing Facebook post	
Announcement of Premier's Expert Panel shared by the Minister	Statewide
ABC interview with Expert Panel Chair Amanda Vanstone	Statewide

2.4 Workshop sessions

The primary method for undertaking the statewide consultation involved holding workshops in a range of regional and metropolitan locations across the State. As identified in section 1.1, this report has been structured around summarising the information collected via the different consultation mechanisms, with a focus on the workshop information as the primary source of data.

These workshops were targeted at:

- Sport and recreation clubs and groups and broader community
- Councils (both staff and Elected Members)
- State sporting and state recreation organisations
- State industry support organisations
- Facility managers, professional clubs and for profit providers

In total 661 people participated in 34 workshops held in 24 locations across the State (refer Table 2).

Locations for the workshops were identified based on ensuring coverage of the state and on advice from the ORSR.

Table 2 Workshop participation by location

Planning region	Location	Target audience	Number that attended
Adelaide Hills	Mount Barker	Community	23
Eastern Adelaide	North Adelaide	Community	14
Eastern Adelaide	Campbelltown	Community	25
Eyre and Western	Ceduna	Community	15
Eyre and Western	Port Lincoln	Community	21
Eyre and Western	Whyalla	Community and Local Government	34
Far North	Port Augusta	Community	25
Far North	Port Augusta	Local Government	15
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	Victor Harbor	Local Government	20
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	Victor Harbor	Community	26
Limestone Coast	Mount Gambier	Community	25
Limestone Coast	Naracoorte	Local Government	8
Murray and Mallee	Berri	Community	11
Murray and Mallee	Berri	Local Government	17
Murray and Mallee	Murray Bridge	Local Government	14
Murray and Mallee	Murray Bridge	Community	18
Northern Adelaide	Elizabeth	Community	26
Southern Adelaide	Glenelg	Community	17
Southern Adelaide	Hallett Cove	Community	30
Southern Adelaide	St Marys	Community	20
Southern Adelaide	Willunga	Community	13
State	For profit providers	For profit providers	10
State	Kidman Park	Industry and peak bodies	24



Planning region	Location	Target audience	Number that attended
State	Kidman Park	Metropolitan Council Staff	29 (across 2 workshops)
State	LGA House, Adelaide	Mayors and Elected Members	26
State	Kidman Park	State sport and recreation bodies	77 (across 3 workshops)
Western Adelaide	Woodville	Community	28
Yorke and Mid North	Clare	Community	22
Yorke and Mid North	Clare	Local Government	8
Yorke and Mid North	Kadina	Community	15
Yorke and Mid North	Port Pirie	Community	5
Total			661

2.4.1 How were the workshop sessions undertaken?

To ensure consistent information was collected across the State, the workshop processes involved undertaking discussions focussed around the following questions:

- What does a healthy, active future look like to you?
- What are the challenges or barriers to being active in your community?
- How should priorities for investment in sport and recreation be determined?
- What could be your community's Game Changer? What would most help/support people being active in your community?

In addition to the above, participants added comments to wall posters prior to, or throughout the workshops, in response to the following:

- What is something innovative you have seen elsewhere that gets people active?
- What is your burning issue about sport and active recreation?
- How can State Government work better with Councils, sport and recreation organisations, industry bodies and clubs and groups to better deliver sport and active recreation outcomes? (Local Government, for profit providers, industry and peak bodies and State sport and recreation bodies workshops only).

2.4.2 Closing the loop with workshop participants

After each workshop, individual workshop summary reports were prepared which provided an overall synthesis of the feedback gathered at that workshop. These summary reports were provided back to participants as a record of their input within two to four weeks of the workshop being held.

2.5 Other mechanisms for participation

In addition to the workshops, an online feedback form and/or written submission could be completed, and comments could be posted on ORSR's Facebook page. The online feedback form 'mirrored' the lines of enquiry used at the workshops. Written submissions and Facebook posts were self-driven and were based on points of particular interest.

In total, 150 people completed an online feedback form and 25 written submissions were received (refer Table 3).

During the consultation from 12 June to 20 August 2019, 13 specific social media posts were made by the ORSR on its Facebook page promoting the consultation, which had a reach of 147,184, generated 777 reactions, comments and shares, and resulted in 412 specific comments.

Table 3 Written submissions

Stakeholder type	Who representing
State Sporting Organisations	Athletics SA Netball SA Squash SA
Local Government	Barossa Council City of Burnside City of Victor Harbor Councillor, Mount Barker District Council Mayor of The Barossa Council Town of Gawler Wudinna District Council
State Government Agencies	Department for Health and Wellbeing (Wellbeing team)
Industry Bodies	Sport SA Parks & Leisure Australia SA/NT
Clubs and Organisations	Aldinga Sharks Go 2 Coach
Individuals	10 individuals



Participants undertaking workshop activities at Port Augusta and Elizabeth workshops

Across all of the engagement activities participants consistently identified that a healthy, active future is one...

...where people of **all ages, genders, abilities, cultures or financial means** are welcomed and participate in sport and active recreation. Facilities and programs are considerate of the needs of people wanting to participate and are designed to be accessible to all.

All feel like that they matter and can play even if they don't have the right clothes (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Inclusive – age, size, shape, 'accepting', welcoming (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Being an inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to participate (Online feedback form)

Adaptive inclusive programs to participate in and lead by example, nothing better than seeing a kids face when they tackle something new and they succeed (Online feedback form)

Multi-cultural role models (Glenelg Community Workshop)

We bought a new bbq so that Indian cricket members could be involved (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Opportunities for all ages (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Inclusive sports, ie sport for people with disability (Kadina Community Workshop)

All ages/genders/abilities participating (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Female friendly facilities (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

Regardless of age, gender or ability everyone can do something to get moving and continue in any activity (Online feedback form)

Making 'all' sport more accessible to more people (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

...with **multi-use facilities or hubs** that allow for use by multiple groups (eg. schools, clubs and community) and flexible programming that enables a diversity of activities to be provided all year round and at a range of times of day. This includes providing spaces for non-sport/non-active recreation activities for community use which also contribute to health and wellbeing, enable connections to be made and may inspire physical activity in non-participants.

Reasonable facilities for multi-use sports facilities that are inclusive for the whole community (Kadina Community Workshop)

Flexible, adaptable – can change with demands (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Well maintained and multi-use spaces for connection with community (Metropolitan Council Staff workshop)



Playing fields being used every weekend, not just for home games (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

'Spin off' community activities – quilting, cards, book clubs etc that can help mental and social health (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

More centralised facilities that can service multiple sports of similar needs (Online feedback form)

...where people are **encouraged and supported to participate** in sport and active recreation by making things fun and alternative game formats, times of play and supportive services (eg child minding/activities) make it easier for someone to fit physical activity in with other commitments and priorities. There is good promotion of the options available, education and understanding of the benefits of an active lifestyle and incentives provide the impetus for people to take up a new activity or get physically active.

Formats flexible, eg change our game to fit the needs of today's busy parents (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Flexible, fits in with life – options/information available (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

I'm a retiree and would like access to facilities outside evening and competition time on weekends (Facebook post)

Less barriers to involvement – cost, compliance, access to grounds, time, flexible scheduling, facilities (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Facilities to encourage parents to bring children to junior sports activities (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

Education on opportunities (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Ongoing incentives to participate (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Prefer short term activities with family as a whole, not clubs, as kids and adults don't play together (Online feedback form)

Balance between mollycoddling and risk taking (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

...with a **diversity of opportunities and choices** to get active from organised structured sports (both mainstream and 'minority' or 'smaller' sports) to unstructured, informal options such as walking and cycling.

Awareness that not all sport and recreation include a ball (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Choice for individuals and breadth of offerings (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Plenty of options for recreation (Berri Councils Workshop)

All sport promoted equally (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Diversity of options for active lifestyle (Berri Community Workshop)

...with safe, modern, fit for purpose, quality and well-maintained sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure that meets regional and metropolitan community needs and responds to a growing or changing population. Multi-use facilities and infrastructure provide opportunities for structured sports but also unstructured or informal active recreation such as walking and cycling trails, open space and playgrounds and enable participation in all weather, and during the day and at night.

Modern facilities (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Making [same] facilities available in country areas as in city, eg athletics track, swimming etc
(Kadina Community Workshop)

Great facilities available so participants can be active safely (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

More unorganised opportunities/facilities (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

One area for all to use, one ground many clubs (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Cycling as an accepted means of transportation – between towns as well (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

Green space – nature, easy exercise – not organised (St Marys Community Workshop)

...of lifelong participation in sport and active recreation where everyone from pre-schoolers and children, to young people, adults and seniors are all being physically active. Pathways are provided for those who want to extend and challenge themselves, even to professional levels.

Starting early – pre-school onwards. Learning the skills and value of sport, recreation and physical activity early (For Profit Providers Workshop)

Compulsory 120mins/week PE activity in schools (Glenelg Community Workshop)

The healthiest and active future is one where everyone is born into a world and culture of movement awareness, variety and complexity (Written submission)

Physical activity supported as much in adults as children (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Kids that 'stay' and continue to participate (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

More for the older Australians (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

Support/integrate/transition from school PE/sport to community club sport (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

More people engaged in sport and recreation for long term (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

100% of school kids involved in organised sport (Online feedback form)

Lots of people involved in activities (St Marys Workshop)



...with **accessible** sport and active recreation opportunities (facilities, grounds, open space, playgrounds, trails) that are close to where people live and easily reached by safe pedestrian and cycle links or public transport. Growing or changing suburbs and new development areas plan for sport and active recreation and provide for the needs of the surrounding community.

Where communities have easy access to physical space at a local level (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Linked pathways walking cycling interesting destinations (Murray Bridge Councils Workshop)

Urban design – encourage walking/cycling to work etc (Berri Councils Workshop)

Even distribution of sporting infrastructure (Kadina Community Workshop)

Access to greater facilities – more ovals and spaces (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

State Government planning provision for new suburbs/land development (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

....of **collaboration** where clubs, sporting organisations, all levels of government and community work together for improved outcomes, and help more people get active, more of the time.

Families, community (working), sport coming together (Kadina Community Workshop)

Collaboration amongst communities – co-ordinate events and fundraising (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Making the most of facilities – schools, car parks etc (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Involvement at all levels of Government (Metropolitan Council Staff workshop)

Collaboration of individual clubs and sports (Berri Councils Workshop)

... **sporting clubs and organisations are financially stable and resilient** – they are self-driven and receive support, training and education from governments that enable their independence and sustainability into the future. Administrative and regulatory requirements ensure operational standards but are not overly burdensome on staff or volunteers.

All grants should have a self-help component (Murray Bridge Councils Workshop)

Skilled administrators (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Sustainable and thriving clubs that are at the centre of their communities (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

DPTI, Department of Health, Office for Recreation, Sport, DECD working together in planning and provision (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Skilled volunteers provide training and support (St Marys Workshop)

...where sport and recreation play a preventative role in improving the **health and wellbeing of communities**- we are fitter and happier and experience less disease, mental health issues, obesity, social isolation or drug problems.

People with less mental health issues – via connecting with community activities (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Social, emotional, mental, wellbeing (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Less sickness (Kadina Community Workshop)

Reduced incidence of disease, Doctors prescribe activity not pills (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

High numbers in sport, recreation rather than hospitals (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

... where **being active is “the norm” and part of our incidental day to day activities**. From children and young people playing outside, doing PE at school, playing a sport or riding or walking to childcare, kindergarten and school, to adults choosing physically active ways to socialise or get to where they need to go. Physical activity is a daily enterprise and not seen as requiring extra effort or as a ‘chore’.

Where physical activity is the norm and done as part of life (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Work and family, smoothly integrated with sport and recreation (Online feedback form)

‘Walking bus’ for school kids (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Not ask why more like ‘why not?’ (Victor Harbor Councils Workshop)

More and better support for active transport, walking and cycling and resourcing of transport systems that prioritise walking, cycling and public transport (Online feedback form)

Activity becomes habitual (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Education sector needs to have greater levels of ‘required’ activity within schools - no different to other subject choices, exercise should be one of them (Online feedback form)

Families spending time together outdoors and staying active (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Activity is a part of everyday life and not just isolated to organised sporting activities. This means creating liveable cities and suburbs where people feel safe and comfortable to actively engage in the surrounding environments such as when commuting to and from work and other places or visiting parks, sports and other recreation areas for activities (Online feedback form)

...where **communities are connected socially** through face to face, often outdoor, physical activities rather than through ‘screen time’. The social benefits of being active and part of a club or group, whether as a volunteer or a participant, are recognised, understood and valued.

Social interactions evident beyond the activity (Berri Councils Workshop)



Less focus on screen – get involved (Kadina Community Workshop)

Spin off participation in other activities prompted by joining in sport/recreation programs, eg community capacity building (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Community together/connection (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Small communities see sport and rec as a lifeline/backbone social aspect – only social interaction for some women (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

...where participating in sport and recreation is **affordable** and people no-matter their financial situation can take part. This includes providing no cost or low cost options or other support to participate such as second hand uniforms and equipment or subsidised fees.

Affordable (Hallet Cove Community Workshop)

Make sport/activity affordable for lower income groups (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Not cost restrictive (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

Affordable membership fees (St Marys Community Workshop)

'Introduction' to any sport is free (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)



Participants undertaking workshop activities at the North Adelaide workshop

4.0 What are the key challenges or barriers to being active?

Another of the key lines of enquiry of the statewide consultation process was to understand the key challenges, barriers and opportunities associated with being active.

At the workshops, this process involved participants identifying what they considered to be challenges or barriers to people being active and then discussion of the opportunities to address the key challenges and barriers most commonly identified. To assist with identifying those challenges or barriers participants considered to be most significant to their community being active, a process was used in situ at the workshops to help synthesise responses⁴. As identified in section 1.1, information collected via the workshops has 'driven' the synthesis and analysis of this information in the first instance and has then been cross referenced and supplemented with online feedback, social media responses and written submissions.

In compiling feedback received about the challenges and opportunities to being active, the focus has not only been on identifying common themes, but also on identifying any differences that emerged between stakeholder groups and geographical locations.

4.1 Snapshot of South Australia

For the State as a whole, across both metropolitan and regional areas and all stakeholder groups (ie Councils, community clubs and groups, and peak sport and recreation organisations and industry bodies) the following five key challenges were identified most often by participants:

- The cost of participating in, and delivery of, sport and recreation
- Attracting, recruiting, training, retaining and managing volunteers
- The age, condition, functionality and maintenance of facilities
- Being time poor/competing priorities
- Lack of facilities

Of particular note is that at:

- All 34 workshops the cost of participating in, and delivery of, sport and recreation was identified most often by participants as *the* key challenge to being active
- At 32 of the 34 workshops volunteering (ie attracting, recruiting, training, retaining and managing) was identified most often by participants as *the* key challenge to being active

Table 4 summarises key challenges and barriers to being active by stakeholder type.

⁴ At the workshops, participants assigned three dots to those challenges or barriers that they personally considered to most impact their community being active. This process was not a 'vote' but has provided an indication of those challenges or barriers considered by participants to be of most significance.

**Table 4 Key challenges and barriers most commonly identified by stakeholder type**

Challenge/ barrier most often identified	Statewide (across all stakeholders)	Community clubs and groups	Councils	Peak organisations and industry bodies
Cost of participating and delivery	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteering	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilities: age, condition, functionality, maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Being time poor/competing priorities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of facilities	✓	✓		
Quality and accessibility of public open space/ unstructured active outdoor opportunities	✓		✓	✓
Understanding needs of specific community groups in terms of participation needs or demand	✓		✓	✓
Isolation, lack and cost of transport	✓	✓		
Shared planning and use of facilities	✓		✓	✓
Enabling places for active transport (eg walking, cycling)	✓		✓	✓
Funding and resources		✓		
Safety and security		✓		
Screen time		✓		
Motivation, apathy, mindset		✓		
Climate change/extreme weather			✓	
Diminishing or stagnating population			✓	
Fundamental movement skills in children				✓
Shift from formal to non-structured/informal activities				✓

The workshop findings are relatively consistent with online feedback form responses which identified the following key challenges most often as summarised by Table 5. Key differences between workshop feedback and online responses include the:

- Role of schools and education in providing and promoting physical activity
- The availability, education, training and support of coaches
- The need for better promotion and marketing of physical activity and club sport and recreation opportunities.

Table 5 Key challenges and barriers most commonly identified by online feedback form responses

Challenge/ barrier most often identified by online feedback form responses
Volunteering
Facilities: age, condition, functionality, maintenance
Being time poor/competing priorities
Lack of facilities
Quality and accessibility of public open space/ unstructured active outdoor opportunities
Understanding needs of specific community groups in terms of participation needs or demand
Isolation, lack and cost of transport
Shared planning and use of facilities
Enabling places for active transport (eg walking, cycling)
Funding and resources
Schools/education (role of in providing/promoting physical activity)
Coaches (including availability, education, training and support)
Promotion and marketing of physical activity and club sport and recreation opportunities

4.2 Regional patterns

Beyond the five main challenges identified statewide, other key challenges were identified following slightly different patterns between the metropolitan and regional areas (refer Table 6).

Table 6 Key challenges and barriers by state, metropolitan and regional areas

Challenge/ barrier most often identified	Statewide	Metropolitan area	Regional areas
Cost of participating and delivery	✓	✓	✓
Volunteering	✓	✓	✓
Facilities: age, condition, functionality, maintenance	✓	✓	✓
Being time poor/competing priorities	✓	✓	✓
Lack of facilities	✓	✓	✓
Quality and accessibility of public open space/ unstructured active outdoor opportunities	✓	✓	✓
Understanding needs of specific community groups in terms of participation needs or demand	✓	✓	
Isolation, lack and cost of transport	✓	✓	✓
Shared planning and use of facilities	✓	✓	
Enabling places for active transport (eg walking, cycling)	✓		
Safety and security		✓	
Funding and resources		✓	✓
Motivation, apathy, mindset			✓
Diminishing and stagnating population			✓

4.3 Metropolitan areas

There are many similarities and some differences in the challenges identified most commonly across the Metropolitan area (refer Table 7). The **cost of participating in, and delivery of, sport and recreation** was identified as a key challenge in all regions as was the **age, condition, functionality and maintenance of facilities**. Other priorities identified most often across the metropolitan area include **volunteering**, and **being time poor/competing priorities**.

**Table 7 Key challenges and barriers in metropolitan area**

Challenge/ barrier most often identified	North	South	East	West	Adelaide Hills
Cost of participating and delivery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteering	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Facilities: age, condition, functionality, maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Being time poor/competing priorities	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lack of facilities		✓	✓		
Isolation, lack and cost of transport	✓				
Safety and security					
Funding and resources		✓			
Awareness and promotion of opportunities	✓				
The culture of sport and recreation clubs and groups					✓
Variety of activities and promotion					✓
Less resilient culture				✓	

4.4 Regional South Australia

In regional areas the **cost of participating in, and delivery of, sport and recreation** was consistently identified as either *the* key or one of key challenges in all regions (refer Table 8). Other priorities identified most often across regions include **volunteering, the age, condition, functionality and maintenance of facilities** and **the lack of facilities**.

Table 8 Key challenges and barriers in regional areas

Challenge/ barrier most often identified	Eyre and Western	Far North	Limestone Coast	Yorke and Mid North	Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	Murray and Mallee
Cost of participating and delivery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilities: age, condition, functionality, maintenance		✓	✓	✓		✓
Being time poor/competing priorities	✓	✓				✓
Lack of facilities	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Isolation, lack and cost of transport				✓	✓	
Quality and accessibility of public open space/ unstructured active outdoor opportunities		✓			✓	✓
Funding and resources			✓			
Diminishing or stagnating population						✓
Motivation, apathy, mindset	✓					

4.5 Challenges and opportunities

This section describes more fully some of the key challenges identified to being active and the opportunities and ideas that were identified to address the challenges. It should be noted that in many cases there is cross over or interrelationship between the key challenges and barriers identified most commonly by the statewide consultation and how they play out in communities across the State. These are therefore discussed in an integrated way under key headings below.

4.5.1 Costs associated with participating in, and delivery of, sport and active recreation

What are the issues?

The costs associated with participating in, and delivery of, sport and active recreation was the most commonly cited challenge or barrier to being active. This was identified at all workshops held across the State and by all stakeholder types.

It was commonly recognised that the costs for participation in and delivery of activities are inextricably linked. While it is possible to differentiate between the two aspects, participants noted that the cost of the delivery of sport and recreation activities affects the cost of participation and, ultimately, has an impact on affordability for the end-user.

From the participant's perspective, **costs include those associated with uniforms, equipment, playing fees, entry fees** (including spectator fees) and travel costs; "costs – pay to play, pay to enter facility every week, pay for uniforms, pay for membership x 2 sports x per child" (Port Lincoln Community Workshop).

Where **more than one or two children** or family members are participating in sport or recreation activities, the cost burden is particularly felt. Participants talked about the conglomeration of multiple fees, and how on top of seasonal club fees, they also have to pay weekly costs such as court/playing fees and entry fees to spectate. Often this is compounded by the time impost and inconvenience associated with having more than one child participating in activities at the same time but in different places, which in regional areas, is further challenged by the distances needed to be travelled between activities.

Costs associated with travel were particularly an issue for people living in regional and outer metropolitan areas. For many participants living in regional areas it was not unusual to have to travel 'round trips' of 250 kilometres to compete in weekly sporting competitions, in addition to travel to/from Adelaide for those participating at more elite levels. The need to travel for a higher level of competition was often raised in regional areas, which further adds to the cost burden. As one participant put it, "the cost to play in the country may be cheaper, but the cost to access high level competition is far greater" (Port Augusta Community Workshop). At another workshop, one participant identified the need to not underestimate the barrier having to pay for participation poses for some members of the community; "even a \$2 cost is a barrier" (State Sporting Organisations Workshop). An online feedback form participant identified that "being located on an Island the biggest impediment is the cost of travel coupled by a small population base to draw from".



From the delivery perspective, there are multiple costs, some of which are typically passed on to participants. Costs include paying personnel, coaches and players. This is exacerbated by a general difficulty of clubs to recruit and retain suitable volunteers and which, in turn, increases the pressure on clubs to employ paid staff. Further to this, some sports have a culture of paying players in senior club level teams, which places an extra expense on their budget and may lead to “clubs paying players but can’t pay bills” (Metropolitan Local Government Workshop).

Clubs also pay fees to sport and recreation organisations, peak bodies and associations. This includes competition, affiliation and membership fees. In some instances, these costs are seen as excessive or lacking real benefits, especially in regional areas where participants perceive they may be a lower priority when compared to their metropolitan counterparts. In some regional locations, participants identified that their clubs were considering “pulling out from peak bodies” as they did not feel they were receiving any benefits (Port Lincoln Community Workshop).

Other costs include those associated with the delivery of sport and recreation activities such as **administration, provision of equipment, maintaining facilities, leasing of facilities, utility bills, insurances, accreditation of volunteers and staff, compliance and legislative requirements** (e.g. responsible service of alcohol). The “financial burden” (Port Lincoln Community Workshop) associated with utilities such as water and electricity were particularly identified, and a key cost borne by many clubs and activities given the need to irrigate sports fields and ovals, and run air conditioning and lighting.

Finally, often one of the key costs associated with the delivery of sport and recreation is that associated with the **design and construction of new facilities** and **refurbishment or replacement** of old facilities.

Many participants in the statewide consultation process identified that the **costs** associated with sport and active recreation was one of the **key contributors to reduced participation** in physical activity and that this lack of participation is resulting in an observed **decline of fundamental movement skills** in children and a lack of good physical activity habits being established early in life.

For some participants, they considered this was exacerbated by the **lack of school based physical education**, no “specialist PE teachers in primary schools” (Industry Workshop) and the absence of education curriculum focussed on physical activity and understanding its value. As one participant put it, there is a need for “PE teachers in all schools with government seeing physical and activity/PE as a priority like literacy/numeracy and STEM”. This is particularly an issue as “some children will only do activity whilst only at school” (Industry Workshop).

What are the opportunities?

Participants identified a range of opportunities to address the costs of participating in, and delivering of, sport and recreation activities.

To reduce costs from the participant’s perspective, suggestions included providing **some form of subsidy** to reduce the cost burden of club fees. For example, many participants at the workshops, via online feedback and social media comments, identified the success of the sports voucher scheme, and recommended it:

- Be expanded in terms of age (with many people identifying the vouchers should include high school and “adults” of all ages (Written Submission)
- Provide flexibility in terms of the timeframe in which it can be used (for example, so that it can cover winter and summer seasons) or “treat it like a balance card” that can be drawn down on (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)
- Provide the ability to “split sport vouchers into two - \$50/\$50” (Campbelltown Community Workshop)
- Be increased in value
- Apply to other physical activities other than organised sport.

In addition, at a number of workshops, reference to an approach used in Iceland to support children to be active was referenced whereby a form of charge card is provided to draw down on and pay for sport and recreation costs; “the Iceland model – give every child \$650 to be active” (Clare Councils Workshop).

Other opportunities to reduce costs for participants included providing unlimited family membership and fee discounts for families, establishing borrowing schemes for equipment and apparel, establishing systems whereby “uniforms are handed down through grades” (Victor Harbor Community Workshop) and subsidising people on low incomes; “I think local councils have a big role to play here with new arrivals into the district and giving incentives to low income earners and disadvantaged people join a club. State and National Sporting bodies need to reduce their fees (including insurance) as it’s often cost prohibitive for low income earners” (Online feedback form).

It was also recognised that if the costs of participation in organised sport are prohibiting participation, this amplifies the importance of **providing access to low cost/no cost opportunities for physical activity**, such as open space, playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, bike paths and cycling trails. As one participant at the Port Lincoln Community Workshop said, we need “infrastructure that is not sport based” and “open spaces that are open and welcoming”.

It was also commonly suggested that **schools and the school curriculum offer significant opportunity** to increase the provision of low cost/no cost opportunities; “more outdoor activity within the school curriculum, cheaper cost for participation” (Online feedback from). Schools also provide the opportunity to integrate activity into children’s daily lives and establish good physical activity habits from an early age. It was identified that there is great opportunity to improve the delivery of physical education within education including childcare, kindergarten and schools and that there is a need to improve the way in which physical education is valued with the school environment. For example, it was identified that at primary school, there is no requirement to have a dedicated PE teacher on staff.

There is also opportunity to consider different ways of **increasing the sport and active recreation offerings provided by schools** such as developing school based programs that are run by community sport clubs and organisations. This approach has the potential to provide pathways for participation into clubs and groups and increase club members, volunteers, improve community links and deliver regular activity for children and young people.

From a delivery perspective, a range of opportunities were identified to reduce operating costs including:

- Developing multi-purpose facilities for clubs to reduce and share costs, and share existing infrastructure and other resources (such as volunteers, office space, facility manager etc)



- Providing “free or supported administration costs for smaller sports groups” (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)
- Implementing measures that reduce utility bills such as installing solar power and rainwater tanks
- Hiring out facilities when not in use to raise income
- Provide additional subsidies to clubs for accounting, equipment, coaches, volunteers, licenses and software
- Boost participation numbers through financial incentives such as Tax and HECS-HELP refunds, recognising that with increased numbers, some clubs would be more financially sustainable if they had greater membership
- Training and education of club administrators to ensure good governance and financial management
- Establishing bulk purchase schemes for utilities and insurances
- Increased investment from other Government agencies beyond ORSR (e.g. Infrastructure, Tourism, Education and Health), noting the contribution sport and recreation contributes to other portfolio areas such as education, tourism, health and wellbeing, preventive health care etc.

It was suggested at the Mayors and Elected Members Workshop that “1% of the State’s health budget should go to the ORSR” given its contribution to preventative health care and other health benefits

- Affordable facility hire/leasing arrangements
- Increased value and availability of grants from the ORSR
- The review of funding criteria used by ORSR so that there is less of an emphasis on numbers (e.g. of members) and on elite sport, in favour of less structured/formal participation.

4.5.2 Volunteering

What are the issues?

As for the costs associated with participating in, and delivering of, sport and active recreation, volunteering was the most commonly cited challenge or barrier to being active and was identified at all workshops held across the state and by all stakeholder types.

It was commonly identified that clubs and organisations have **difficulties attracting, recruiting, training, retaining and managing volunteers**; “we need to re-engage volunteers. Rules, regulations and fear mongering thought processes and power hungry interests have all colluded to driving away volunteers to do anything” (Online feedback form).

Volunteers were identified as **a key enabling aspect** of participation, and their importance in supporting sport and active recreation providers to deliver affordable activities was broadly recognised; “local and state government get a big free kick from the local volunteer community” (Campbelltown Community Workshop). This is particularly true for smaller clubs and organisations, minority sports and, generally, groups that do not have the capacity to pay staff.

Key challenges identified with reference to volunteering included:

- There is often a small pool of volunteers undertaking most of the tasks
- The average age of volunteers is over 55

- There are increasing expectations and requirements for volunteering in both time and quality of service, and often volunteers develop a “fear of backlash from parents” (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)
- Due to a chronic over-reliance “on the same few individuals”, burnout is very common among volunteers; “stressed out volunteers, operating on a shoestring, working hard to keep up with government regulations”
- Often clubs and organisations fail to recognise and to provide incentives for volunteers
- Often the roles and responsibilities of volunteers are not clear and volunteers are faced with excessive burdens
- Often volunteers lack the fundamental skills to undertake the tasks that their roles involve. This has been identified in particular with reference to administration and club management tasks and committee roles (eg treasurer, president etc)
- Volunteers are discouraged by the excessive bureaucratic requirements and associated expenses that their roles involve. They may feel that in order to keep up with these requirements “you need to be a lawyer!” (Port Lincoln Community Workshop). This includes education and training and ongoing development of coaches and officials, child safety, food safety and other mandatory requirements
- The need to provide better support, education and training of coaches given the range of roles and responsibilities that they need to undertake including managing interactions with parents, supporting children and young people to learn and progress through a particular sport or activity and assisting children with special needs. As one participant put it:

We need more training for the volunteers and coaches, not just about the sport but in leadership and managing difficult parents or participants, taking into consideration education on how to help participants with learning or physical disabilities (Online feedback form)

- The appropriate training of volunteers can be expensive for clubs and groups to maintain and is often linked to changes in legislative or licensing requirements. For example, recent changes to the responsible service of alcohol requirements has been cost prohibitive for some clubs to address, with costs in the order of thousands of dollars to ensure members who serve alcohol have the correct training.
- Many participants noted the positive impact of recent changes to child safety checks that no longer require payment where someone is undertaking a volunteering role
- People find volunteering difficult due to being time poor or have conflicting time commitments (e.g. shift work)
 - Many people who volunteer in sport and active recreation clubs and groups do so at the expense of their own participation in that activity and therefore miss out on being physically active.

Some participants involved in clubs and groups as volunteers over many years identified that they had **observed a decline in the valuing of volunteering** in contemporary society and reduced interest in volunteering from community members. Some people referred to the ‘drop and run’ approach of many parents, who treat sport as a “babysitting service” (Kadina Community Workshop).

In regional areas, there is a particular challenge associated with the reliance on a more limited population catchment to attract and retain volunteers. This challenge can compound other challenges being experienced in regional areas, whereby smaller clubs and groups are reliant on volunteers, but as volunteer numbers decline, combined with reduced membership numbers due to other issues such as costs to participate and travel and isolation, the ability for these clubs and groups to remain viable also



diminishes. This is further exacerbated in regional areas where populations are stagnating or are in decline.

The way in which **multiple challenges in regional areas interact is posing real risks** in some communities and means that for some clubs and groups they will be unsustainable in the future. Many participants in the statewide consultation identified that sport and recreation clubs and groups are the “heart of the community in regional areas” (Murray Bridge Council Workshop) and to lose any of them will have a significant impact on the social fabric of communities. Club closure is a major barrier for people being active in their communities. For example, the problem of “600 children with no access to gymnastics due to two club closures in four years” was identified by community members who attended a workshop in Campbelltown.

What are the opportunities?

Among the opportunities for overcoming the challenges associated with volunteering, participants often identified the need for well-structured volunteer training, support and recognition programs. These include financial support for training and specific club administration/management education.

Other commonly identified opportunities include:

- The reduction and/or simplification of procedures, policies and requirements associated with volunteering; “remove the red tape for players and volunteers” (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)
- Free or low cost training for volunteers to obtain qualifications
- The creation of regional and/or statewide volunteer databases to promote local connections. Some examples of existing systems like this include “SACA cricket connects online resource re club roles/jobs for volunteers” and the “register to connect new people/volunteer matching service provided by Wattle Range Council” (Mount Gambier Workshop)
- Provision of locally provided education, training and professional development of coaches and officials. This could be via online tools, holding training programs locally in the regions and developing mentoring relationships with people from outside their own town/region
- Partnerships and collaborations with other bodies that promote volunteering in local communities (e.g. Councils, education and volunteering peak bodies)
- Establish reward systems for volunteers, including free/discounted club fees, sport vouchers and discounted apparel/equipment. There was some difference of opinion regarding ‘rewarding’ of volunteering. For some people, to be rewarded for volunteering goes against the ethos of what volunteering is fundamentally about. For others, they considered it important that some form of recognition/reward is provided
- Better awareness and utilisation of resources available through the STARCLUB program
- Provision of job descriptions for volunteering roles so that people are aware of and understand what they need to do in particular roles
- Development of succession plans for volunteer roles at clubs and groups. This may include identifying individuals for future roles and ‘buddying up’ with, or ‘shadowing’, existing volunteers to learn roles
- The provision of childcare support for parents while they undertake volunteering tasks
- The development of schemes that recognise volunteer hours as work experience
- Making volunteering a requirement of Centrelink payments.

4.5.3 Being time poor/ having competing priorities

Like costs associated with participating in, and delivering of, sport and active recreation and volunteering, being time poor was the most commonly cited challenge or barrier to being active and was identified at all workshops held across the state and by all stakeholder types. It was particularly identified by the broader community and by industry representatives.

Being time poor was often associated with **having a diversity of work and life commitments** that leave little space and time for physical activity. This could be as a result of working shift work, working a fly in fly out job in regional areas, both parents working full time jobs, being a single parent, or a myriad of other factors that mean time is pressured.

Many participants in the statewide consultation spoke of the difficulties posed whereby **children are reliant on their parents for transport** to/from activities including trainings and game days, and that 'these days' parents won't allow their children to travel independently (eg via public transport, walking or cycling) due to safety concerns. This means, that where parents are too busy to take their children to activities they often miss out.

Again, this challenge shows the interaction of a range of other factors such as the important role of infrastructure that **enables active travel** such as walking and cycling paths that are safe (eg separated from vehicular traffic, lighting, casual surveillance etc) or the provision of physical activities at places where children already are such as schools.

Being time poor was also identified in association with the **challenges of distance and travel**, especially in regional areas. For instance, the combined detrimental effect of being time poor and distance can be exacerbated by the "lack of public transport options on weeknights and weekends" (Community Workshop, Port Augusta) and it "could deter volunteers as it could become too large of a commitment" (Community Workshop, Clare). Opportunities that were often identified to overcome this barrier include carpooling and community bus schemes to and from facilities and the provision of sport travel vouchers.

For some participants, the idea of being time poor was difficult to understand, and was considered to be **more a function of priorities, a lack of understanding about the importance of being active** from a physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing perspective and people having the "habit of being lazy" (St Marys Community Workshop) or "Lazy parents!" (Metropolitan Councils Workshop). Other participants identified the general lack of interest in sport; "kids don't seem to be as interested in sport. The better players have more interest, but the next level of players are losing interest way too quick or have no interest at all" (written submission).

For many, the **competition of screen time** was identified and it was considered that children and young people as well as the broader community are increasingly becoming sedentary and prefer their screens to physical activity. As it was put at the Mayors and Elected Members Workshop, there is a need to "get off the screen and on the green". Often throughout the statewide consultation the draw of screens was identified as one of the key activities that was reducing physical activity and that there is a need for a "healthy balance of 'screen time', outdoor/indoor activity" (Metropolitan Councils Workshop) and "switch off and participate in the here and now" (Port Lincoln Community Workshop).



Despite the negative impacts of screens, there was some discussion during the consultation about the **opportunity that is presented by technology and E-sports** to increase participation in physical activity. It was acknowledged that E-sports is a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide and to ignore it would be imprudent. Leveraging E-sports and technology more generally was seen as an opportunity to increase participation and improve interest in being physically active:

It is easy to set up a full audio-visual recording studio in a briefcase. These help to create games, quests, tournaments and other 'meta games' in which to embed sports (Written submission)

What are the opportunities?

The following opportunities were identified by participants to address the issues associated with being time poor or having competing priorities that prevent being active:

- Provide flexibility in terms of the time of day, days of the week and sport and recreation activity formats. Ideas suggested include providing game formats of shorter duration such as an hour long tennis match or being able to 'turn up' and play as part of a team sport even if you are not a consistent member of that team, or the wearing of bibs rather than the need to wear a uniform to play. At one workshop, participants referred to this as developing "takeaway" opportunities (Berri Councils Workshop). "People are more time poor than ever before. Create options for short exercise options that can be undertaken at any time. Those that need the most help are young families and those with a low income" (Online feedback form)
- Leverage technology including E-sports to increase participation and improve interest in being physically active
- Conduct club meetings from home harnessing the opportunities presented by new technologies
- Provide crèches/child care at sport and active recreation facilities to enable participation by parents
- Ensure sport leagues are kept local
- Provide opportunities for intergenerational family activity so that grandparents, parents and children can be active together
- Provide sport and active recreation opportunities at places that children regularly attend such as childcare, kindergarten and schools and within school hours as well as after school
- Provide casual memberships and one-off opportunities to participate in organised activities including pay by the month approaches
- Encourage the business sector to promote flexibility of work hours that support being active recognising the benefits it brings to have healthy employees
- Provide lighting to enable use of spaces and places after hours such as walking and cycling paths and jogging tracks
- Increase promotion of the value of being active and the many physical, mental and social health benefits it delivers and support individuals to consider it a priority in their daily life
- Improve public transport, including the regularity of services
- Simplify procedures and policies to participate in sport and recreation, including volunteering
- Provide a range and diversity of opportunities to be active, including via structured, organised sport as well as non-structured, flexible opportunities.

4.5.4 Lack of facilities and/or their age, condition, functionality and maintenance

Across the State, the **availability of appropriate sport and active recreation facilities** was often identified as a key barrier to being active. Participants often identified a **general lack of facilities** to accommodate needs and demand for sport and active recreation as well as issues associated with the **age, condition, functionality and maintenance of existing facilities**.

We have sadly had to turn away large numbers of interested participants as we simply do not have the infrastructure and available facilities to meet this demand (Written submission)

In terms of a lack of facilities participants identified the absence of facilities that **support year-round and all-weather participation**; “lack of all year facilities, metropolitan and regional” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop), multi-use or regional hub facilities, infrastructure that supports unstructured physical activity such as well-lit walking and cycling paths, and inclusive facilities that promote participation of people of all ages, all genders and all abilities.

Participants in regional areas often identified that they felt that there was a **lack of “equity for smaller communities”** (Clare Community Workshop) and that more funding and support is provided for facilities in the metropolitan area. There was recognition that providing facilities in regional areas is challenging, as not every town can have ‘one of everything’, but at the same time, the distance between facilities in regional areas impacts participation.

Often, people in regional areas identified that one of the key opportunities to address the current lack of facilities, was by developing **modern, inclusive, multi-use and shared hub-type** community and regional venues. However, this then needs to be balanced against the strong identity of many country towns associated with their traditional and locally based facilities and clubs; “maintaining club identity even if share facilities” (Port Pirie Community Workshop). At the Clare Councils Workshop, a participant suggested the use of a ‘hub and spoke’ model in regional areas which would enable smaller facilities to be provided dispersed across the region, with a larger, consolidated multi-use facility in a major town/s.

Particularly in regional areas, participants identified that there are a large number of existing facilities that are **old and outdated** and not ‘up to standard’ or non-compliant or without basic amenities for participants such as female change rooms and toilets. In many cases, participants talked about how female players travel an hour home “wet and muddy” after a game as there are no female change rooms available. In some cases, there are not even female toilets available at facilities, let alone facilities to cater for other genders or people with disabilities; “address the lack of disabled facilities” (Community Workshop, Mount Gambier). A commonly identified ‘burning issue’ (refer section 7) from the statewide consultation was the need to “develop facilities that accommodate growing female participation” (North Adelaide Community Workshop).

Other aspects of facilities requiring attention include **old and dysfunctional design** of kitchen and storage facilities, poor accessibility for people with disabilities such as facilities that are only accessible by stairs, safety issues associated with old equipment and infrastructure and safety issues associated with a lack of lighting and surveillance as people ‘come and go’ from facilities; “increase the perception of safety – lights, CCTV, surveillance” (Community Workshop, Hallett Cove). In some cases, facilities no longer



appropriately cater for the requirements of the sports or activities taking place at them, with participants identifying that they are no longer “fit for purpose” (Port Pirie Community Workshop).

More broadly, it was recognised that there was a strong relationship between a club or group’s viability which includes being able to attract and keep members, and the condition of a facility as “poor facilities do not attract participants nor events” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop).

The **costs associated with operating and maintaining facilities** was often raised and recognised that these are in some part passed on to the end user. In particular, high utility costs and the cost of operating, updating and maintaining existing facilities was identified, that the “repair and maintenance costs are crippling for small clubs” and that a “high % of budget goes on repair and maintenance leaving a shortfall for improvements or growth” (Glenelg Community Workshop). It was also recognised that public expectations about facilities are generally high, which places increased pressure on the deliverers of sport and active recreation to provide “high quality” facilities and experiences (St Marys Community Workshop).

One of the most frequently raised issues associated with facilities was the need for **greater focus on catering for ‘smaller’ or minority’ sports and active recreation** activities outside of what many participants called the ‘major sports’; “there are more sports than footy, cricket and netball” (Whyalla Community Workshop). Many participants considered that a lot of attention is placed on these major sports and that to improve participation and activity across the community a greater diversity of activities are needed to provide greater choice; “have heard a lot about major sports what about minority ones?” (Woodville Community Workshop).

Often, when people talked about a **lack of facilities** or identified the need for multi-use facilities or sporting hubs in their community, they related this to the need for a ‘home’ for smaller sports. Participants also called for the provision of facilities that have “vision and support from Council, that’s strategic and multi-faceted. Needs to stretch beyond the favourite codes, i.e. football” (Community Workshop, Victor Harbor).

Other examples of specific facilities lacking across the state included equestrian facilities such as horse-riding trails, covered all-weather horse facilities and horse-keeping facilities, walking trails and access to natural areas including the coast and the provision of quality open space areas that are “not sport based” (Port Augusta Community Workshop) and have a range of amenities such as lighting, toilets, bins, water fountains, picnic areas and play spaces. One of the most commonly identified needs was for unstructured ‘facilities’ such as walking and cycling trails:

Trails and paths that connect reserves and open spaces encouraging use by full range of population-serious athlete to occasional walker (Written submission)

The need for **better promotion and marketing of physical activity and club sport and recreation opportunities** was identified, particularly by online feedback form participants. This included needing to publicise information, “often we just don’t know what’s on and where. I often get surprised that things are available that I didn’t know about” (Facebook post), “teachers and carers need timely information about what options are available and at what cost - perhaps an electronic register of activities by locality” (Online feedback form) and for Councils to be more active in promotion, “promote any and everything

that is around. Councils are very influential and have a massive network, yet most will not promote sports clubs activities” (Online feedback form). In terms of promoting the benefits of being physically active, one feedback form participant suggested “find those people in the community in clubs that influence active lives-they come from all walks of life”.

Other challenges identified included that there is a **lack of collaboration between all levels of government** and that overall there is a lack of alignment of investment priorities and understanding about how different levels of government and agencies across government can and should be contributing to physical activity outcomes, including via the provision and support of facilities; “stop funding road expansions/upgrades and spend that \$\$ on walking, cycling infrastructure for active travel” (Metropolitan Councils Workshop, “built new high school at Gepps Cross and no bike lanes and on a main road certainly doesn’t encourage anyone to do anything active” (Facebook post) and allocate “more funding from health department budget to sport and recreation as preventative measure” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop). It was suggested that South Australia learn from elsewhere regarding models for collaboration such as the “across-Government investment in sports related activities and infrastructure in Western Australia” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop).

Specific examples where a lack of collaboration between government and clubs and groups is playing out in South Australia were provided including “Government Aquatic Centre (West Lakes) have no linkage with local clubs despite delivering aquatic sports (sailing, windsurfing, etc) to over 25,000 kids per year!” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop).

For some regions, they are **looking for direction** about ‘what is needed where’ and want “State Government to lead where regional facilities should be located in the region” (Berri Councils Workshop). Another common example raised across the statewide consultation was the opportunity to improve the “shared use of school facilities” and “open up” schools for community use (Industry Workshop). This needs to be supported by:

Explicit policy initiatives to enable out of hours use of state school facilities to avoid further duplication of assets and better maintenance of fewer assets-at present time it seems very much dependent on the local appetite of school principals (Written submission)

Opportunities identified by participants to address the challenge of a lack of facilities and the age, condition, functionality and maintenance of existing facilities included:

- Undertake evidence-based strategic planning combined with strong community engagement to identify what facilities are needed where. This includes undertaking a regional planning approach to the provision and ongoing operation of facilities
- Increase government funding and improved coordination of funding. This includes different areas of government co-investing in facilities acknowledging the multiple objectives that are achieved through investment in sport and active recreation (e.g. Recreation, Sport and Racing, Health and Wellbeing, Education, Trade, Tourism and Investment, Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Human Services)
- Provide access to high quality, modern and multi-use community facilities/ hubs
- Use environmentally-friendly design and operations to reduce utility costs at facilities
- Provide funding for the upgrade of facilities to bring them up to modern, contemporary standards eg gender inclusive change rooms and toilet facilities, accessible for all etc



- Provide funding to extend the useability and flexibility of existing facilities through the provision of lighting (eg at ovals, playing fields, courts and along walking/running paths)
- Ensure that relevant sport and active recreation experts are consulted when designing facilities to ensure that they accommodate the requirements of the sports and other activities to be undertaken at the facility
- Work with schools to share facilities and provide increased opportunities for physical activity during and after school hours. This includes developing models, policies, guidelines and processes to support shared use
- Improve accessibility to existing facilities by public transport and infrastructure that supports active travel (eg walking and cycling paths)
- Improve the promotion of current facilities so that people know what is available where
- Close roads at off-peak times for 'pop up' sport and recreation use
- Reclaim road reserves for the provision of active travel infrastructure
- Provide more quality open space and other unstructured opportunities that support physical activity that are not necessarily 'facility' or sport based
- Use new technology to extend the 'life' of existing facilities and enable increased use such as hybrid synthetic surfaces on ovals/playing fields.



Participants undertaking workshop activities at the Mayors and Elected Members and Industry workshops

5.0 How should priorities for investment be determined?

This section of the report identifies the 'criteria' or 'principles' that participants in the statewide consultation considered to be important to the decision making process when thinking about how to invest in sport and active recreation.

A range of criteria were identified at the workshops held across the State, with written submissions and online feedback also contributing to this information. The key criteria identified most often by stakeholder groups and location are shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Key criteria for making decisions by stakeholder type and location

Key criteria/ principles	Statewide (all stakeholders)	Metropolitan area (community and Councils)	Regional areas (community and Councils)	Peak organisations and industry bodies
Facilities that are multi-use/shared	✓	✓	✓	✓
Responds to identified needs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Results in increased participation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promotes access and inclusion	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aligns with existing strategies and plans	✓	✓	✓	✓
Demonstrates future proofing	✓	✓		✓
Equity of funding (between sports and clubs regardless of size and popularity)	✓	✓	✓	
Demonstrates a collaborative/ partnership approach	✓	✓		✓
Delivers community benefit	✓	✓		✓
Results in positive health and wellbeing outcomes	✓			✓
Updates or upgrades existing infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	
Demonstrate a proven track record of achievement			✓	
Delivers economic benefit to the region			✓	✓

5.1 Description of key criteria

Facilities that are multi-use/shared

Many participants identified this criteria as they considered it to be the best way to achieve 'bang for buck' and deliver a diversity of sport and active recreation choices and opportunities to communities; "multipurpose facilities with no one organisation being a 'master' over others. Metropolitan clubs need to start thinking like regional and rural places where all new facilities have many purposes" (Online feedback form).



Participants also identified that multi-use or shared facilities offered broader opportunities beyond sport and active recreation, such as providing spaces for “spin off” community activities – quilting, cards, book clubs etc that can help mental and social health” (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop). They also provide opportunities to share costs and resources, including volunteers.

Responds to identified needs

Participants identified the need for funding to be awarded based on evidence of the need or demand. It was commonly identified that this should include an audit of existing supply and demand and include information that shows the need for the proposal as well as community consultation findings; “based on gaps, data and information, not political boundaries or alliances” (Online feedback form).

Results in increased participation

The proposal for funding should result in increased participation; “number of people to benefit – bang for buck!” (Campbelltown Community Workshop). It was also identified that receiving funding should not only be about ‘the numbers’ but also about how the proposal will increase participation of particular target groups that may not traditionally participate in organised sport or active recreation or have their needs accommodated. For example, it was identified that there is a need to attract and retain “top end” juniors (Port Pirie Community Workshop) to organised sport who often leave when they are doing year twelve or get a casual job in their late teens. Facilitating increased participation of people from different cultural backgrounds and all ages was also identified.

It was also commonly discussed that funding should not be awarded on a per capita basis, as this could/would disadvantage regional areas. Instead it was suggested that funding be awarded on a percentage or ratio basis; “don’t fund on member numbers, should be based on % of population participating” (Port Lincoln Community Workshop).

Another common theme related to the need to support and fund participation in grassroots sports and not clubs and groups that can attract sponsorship or have independent financial means to support themselves or that pay players; “don’t forget the grassroots sport” (Elizabeth Community Workshop).

Promotes access and inclusion

Proposals that result in increased access and inclusion was also considered important. This could include the upgrade of a facility to improve physical accessibility for people with disabilities and upgrade of facilities to accommodate specific needs such as providing gender inclusive change room and toilet facilities. It could also be about delivering a sport or active recreation activity in a way that is more inclusive of different ages, abilities or catering for people with a disability; “parents and children participating together (Port Pirie Community Workshop); “more change rooms and spaces for women” (Online feedback form).

Aligns with existing strategies and plans

Many participants identified the need for funding to be awarded based on proposals that align with, and help deliver on, directions identified within existing strategies and plans such as Council strategic plans, regional plans, State Sporting Organisation plans, club plans, State Government agency plans etc.

Government needs to work with other sectors to ensure investment in sport & recreation is strategically spent and placed...I have seen on many occasions where a club has lobbied extremely well and succeeded in achieving government investment - which just doesn't fit with local or regional strategy and priorities (Online feedback form)

Funding needs to be prioritised based on Council and regional recreation and sport strategies and priorities, rather than club led approach which may lead to an ad hoc series of developments and facilities upgrades (Written submission)

This was considered an important criteria, as in developing such strategies and plans a range of investigations and consultation would have already been undertaken to identify what is needed. That said, some participants also identified the need to remain opportunistic and “be flexible/responsive to change” (Berri Councils Workshop).

Demonstrates future proofing

Participants identified the need to demonstrate how a proposal is future proof in terms of showing how planning for growth and ongoing sustainability has been considered and accommodated; “to continue beyond initial funding” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop). For example, participants identified that proposals that were master planned, gave consideration to how they could be staged over time and how they would be operated sustainably (financial management and other systems, staffing/volunteers, costs, maintenance, programming etc) should be more likely to receive funding than proposals that did not have this information.

Equity of funding

Equity of funding was commonly identified by participants. In particular, participants talked about the need for funding to be allocated equitably across all sports and active recreation activities, and not be determined based on size or popularity of the activity. It was often stated that “there are more sports than footy, cricket and netball” (Whyalla Community Workshop) and that other sports and active recreation activities also need support; “equity and distribution of funding to sport organisations needs to be addressed. Stop funding top tier sports” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop). Further, participants emphasised the important role all sport and active recreation clubs and groups play in small communities and that to lose any one of them would have a significant impact on the social fabric of their communities.

There was also a perception that more funding is allocated to metropolitan areas than to regional areas, and that this is the result of funding being allocated on a per capita basis, rather than using a percentage based assessment process or taking into consideration other aspects such as the important contribution the club or group makes to their community even if there are only a small amount of members or will only result in small participation numbers.



Demonstrates a collaborative/ partnership approach

This criteria was about proposals that demonstrate a partnership approach whereby multiple stakeholders come together to deliver sport and active recreation in a coordinated way.

Delivers community benefit

The need to demonstrate how the proposal delivers benefits to the community was identified. Often this related to ensuring that the proposal receiving funding would result in something that provided equity of access to all members of the community and was not restricted to, for example, club member use. It was also suggested that there is a need to “broaden the ‘definition’ of what clubs do in their community to widen funding options” (Industry Workshop) and acknowledge the broader contribution they make to the community.

Results in positive health and wellbeing outcomes

The important contribution physical activity makes to physical, mental and social health and wellbeing was often raised, and the role it can play in preventing/reducing lifestyle diseases and an “overall healthier community” (Berri Councils Workshop). As one participant put it, “don’t think about spend, think about savings, ie reduced health costs by preventative health” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop).

A proposal’s ability to contribute to positive health and wellbeing outcomes was therefore identified as a criteria to be addressed; “it needs to be a high priority to children of this generation [that they] relate to healthy active lifestyles as the normal lifestyle. Not the iPad, Xbox sit on the couch style we have been accustomed to” (Online feedback form).

Updates or upgrades existing infrastructure

Proposals that seek to update or upgrade existing infrastructure was identified. This could relate to bringing an existing facility up to contemporary standards such as installing female/all gender inclusive change rooms and toilet facilities or improving physical accessibility for people with disabilities or extending the use of a facility such as through the installation of lighting; “upgrade poor facilities with high or potentially high usage, ensure juniors and women have good options” (Online feedback form).

Demonstrates a proven track record of achievement

Having a track record of achievement was identified as an important criteria, particularly as a way of demonstrating that by investing in that proposal/applicant, there could be confidence that it would be implemented successfully. It was acknowledged that not all clubs and groups would have a track record as all have to ‘start somewhere’, but where a club or group could show this, it should be looked on favourably.

Delivers economic benefit to the region

This criteria recognises the broader impact sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure can deliver in terms of economic benefits to towns, regions and the State. For example, by having a high quality, multi-use facility located in Port Augusta, sporting carnivals can be held there, which attracts

visitors who spend money at local businesses. Similarly, the provision of quality infrastructure that supports unstructured recreation activities such as walking trails, cycling trails, mountain bike parks, horse trails and water activities like kayaking and snorkelling also draw people to regions who stay and spend money in local businesses.

5.2 Funding programs and process

Across the statewide consultation process, access to, and the provision of, funding was commonly discussed and as shown in section 4 featured as a key challenge for a number of regions and as a burning issue for many participants (refer section 7).

In addition to discussion above regarding particular criteria that should be considered in the decision making process, a number of other aspects were identified in relation to funding and the funding process.

There is a desire for **greater transparency** regarding who receives funding, where and what for, as well as “State government being more open regarding grants funding – what will be recommended prior to being announced” (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop). A number of participants identified that they desired “transparency and feedback for grant applications” and feedback regarding “why won/didn’t win grant” (Victor Harbor Community Workshop) and called for “factual advice why the grant application you have spent hours on was not successful” (Elizabeth Community Workshop). A good example from the Kadina Community Workshop was around ensuring that clubs/organisations knew the criteria of assessment prior to submitting the application. This would then help them write the application based on the relevant criteria.

There is also a desire for **greater accountability** regarding those applicants that receive funding and how they implement it to ensure that what was applied for is ‘delivered on the ground’. This includes making sure outcomes are quantifiable and visible; “grant funding programs that provide a range of clear and measurable outcomes for the community” (Online feedback form).

Some participants identified that they found the grants process **difficult and time consuming** and requested that the Government “make grants applications easier to complete – avoid duplication in questions” (Victor Harbor Community Workshop), while others identified that over recent years there has been a simplification of processes for some grants and programs and that this was working well. Some participants also identified that ORSR staff have been very helpful in reviewing draft grant applications and provided useful and constructive feedback and encouraged all clubs and groups to ‘run’ their application past ORSR staff first. For many participants, they were not aware of this support.

Some participants also identified that the funding process can be **overwhelming** and have the sense that there is **inequity** in the system as funding is “related to how well you write a grant” (State Sporting Organisations Workshop). Further a written submission identified:

There has been a disparity (perceived or actual) in the funding approved between the largest sports who have higher levels of staffing resources to develop stronger applications and submit higher volumes of funding applications. A system that factors in percentages of participation rather than volume and scales applications would be potentially fairer (Written submission)



One participant suggested that grant applications not be restricted to written formats but be able to be provided in alternative formats such as a video.

It was identified that there is a need for “**consistency** of grants/programs so people have **continuity**” (Naracoorte Councils Workshop) and know what is available to be applied for and the criteria that applies. This has been an issue where programs are announced and then ‘dropped’, particularly when there is a change in government.

Other participants called for **more information** to be made available about what grants and funding is available when, and the need for better communication to clubs and groups about this. It was suggested that there is a need to “create a database” of available grants and “each Council have a project officer to assist clubs with the grants process” (Mount Gambier Community Workshop). In some regions, this type of role is already in place, with some Councils providing a role to assist clubs and groups with grant writing such as at the Lower Eyre Peninsula Council or peak sporting organisations providing this support.

It was also identified that **STARCLUB field officers play an important role** in this regard, and it was recommended by some participants that clubs and groups “include the STARCLUB Officer in review process for grant applications” (Mount Gambier Community Workshop). Further, participants considered that STARCLUB field officers were often best placed to know what types of facilities, programs etc are needed and can help target funding applications where they are most needed.

Some participants identified that funding should **extend to aspects that indirectly support** sport and active recreation activities but are important to their delivery, yet are often not funded. For example, to help fund “paid roles to support club operations” (Victor Harbor Councils Workshop) or to fund “furniture for clubrooms” (Berri community Workshop).

There are some issues which prevent some clubs and groups not being eligible for grants such as where a club is not incorporated, or have pokies. There was also criticism of funding being used to pay players;

First priority of the grants review should be stop giving monies to sporting & football clubs who spend large amounts of cash on recruiting players from outside of their area. If they need updated facilities they can afford it themselves when they r spending in excess of \$ 40 K per year on players from other regions. All the grants r doing is subsidising their recruiting. Money is the evil of country football (Facebook post)

There is a need for **better coordination** across all levels of government and between different State Government agencies regarding the timing and delivery of grant and funding programs. This includes enabling a more integrated approach “rather than silos” (Industry Workshop) that may enable a greater funding pool to be available for sport and active recreation. This type of approach could facilitate better understanding of the benefits of sport and active recreation across different government portfolios, and reinforce that integrated delivery can contribute to the achievement of multiple objectives of government that do not solely reside with ORSR.

Another opportunity that was suggested to **better coordinate funding** that enables the delivery of sport and active recreation infrastructure in particular, was to “develop an industry reference group, who along with the government, determine priority projects for the industry for the funding period (suggest three years rather than one year)” (Written submission).

6.0 What could be your community's game changer?

Across the State, people were asked to identify their community's 'game changer', that is, what would most help or support people to be active in their community? The opportunities identified generally fell into the two broad categories of:

- Physical infrastructure
- Programming, planning, operations and governance.

This was also reflected in the online feedback form and written submissions

6.1 Physical infrastructure

The first category of 'game changers' related to specific physical infrastructure. These often included suggestions for multi-use facilities or hubs, facility upgrades including to improve quality but also access and inclusion for women, people with disabilities and families. Particular facilities or sports mentioned included pools, athletics, cricket, racket sports, netball, football, equestrian, croquet and roller sports.

Physical infrastructure suggestions also included unstructured activities such as cycling and walking trails or connections, more open or green community spaces, adventure play and playgrounds, better utilisation of natural aquatic assets (eg. River Murray or foreshore areas), skate parks, dog parks and mini golf.

All weather or undercover options and lighting were suggested as 'game changers' for both structured and unstructured sport and active recreation. This was often linked to extending the use of an existing facility, for example by providing some form of shade or cover, this would enable activity during extreme heat or improving the flexibility of an existing facility by installing lighting which would enable its use at night, combined with improving safety of users.

'Game changers' relating to physical infrastructure by geographical location identified by participants at workshops, via online feedback and written submissions are summarised by Figure 7 and Figure 8.



Participants undertaking workshop activities at State Sporting Organisations and St Marys workshops

**Figure 7 Sport and active recreation infrastructure needs-Metropolitan Adelaide**

Southern Adelaide

Multi-use facility at Daws Road High School
 Soccer facilities in Aldinga/Sellicks
 Undercover bowling facility at McLaren Vale
 Upgrade of Mitchell Park sports and community centre
 Upgrade of Seaview High Tennis Courts
 Croquet courts in Willunga
 Playground at McLaren Vale
 Equestrian facilities in Willunga
 Upgrade Glenelg jetty
 Multi-use facilities
 State Equestrian Centre
 Community green spaces
 Better roads for cycling
 Netball facilities (12 plus courts)
 Lighting of existing facilities
 All weather sports facilities
 Community gym facilities
 Upgrade current facilities
 Multi-use in national parks (including cycling, horse riding)
 Gymnastic facility
 Community green space
 Better accessibility to current facilities
 Access to schools for public sports and recreation
 Facilities for women
 Safe transport
 Disabled facilities
 Sealed road shoulders

Eastern Adelaide

Indoor sporting facilities
 Permanent grandstands at Adelaide Street Circuit
 Multi-purpose facility at Glandore Oval
 New facility at Kingswood Oval
 Redevelop Netball SA Stadium
 New underground Velodrome at Victoria Park
 Upgrade Memorial Drive tennis centre
 Upgrade North Adelaide Golf Course
 Gymnastics facility
 New cricket and rugby facility at Kensington Cricket Club and Burnside Rugby Club
 Redevelop Wayville Sports Centre
 Reinvestment in Adelaide Aquatic Centre
 Save City Beach
 Outdoor wheels course
 Footpaths in Cudlee creek
 Dedicated venue for roller sports
 Community hub
 Playing fields
 Horse-riding trails
 Facilities for people with disabilities
 Exercise machines in parks
 More clubrooms
 Indoor aquatic centre – hydrotherapy included
 Off-leash dog areas

Northern Adelaide

6 court indoor sports centre in Playford
 Premier cricket facility (2-3 ovals, clubrooms)
 Mini Golf at Penfield Gold Club Access to school ovals out of hours
 Open green spaces
 Multi-use facilities
 Synthetic athletics facilities
 Lighting of existing facilities
 Dog friendly parks
 Facilities for people with disabilities

Adelaide Hills

Multi-use facility (like the ARC)
 Regional aquatic centre at Mount Barker
 Cover for riding arena at Oakbank
 Tennis/netball hub at Crafers
 Reinvestment in Woodside Recreation Ground/Woodside Pool
 Indoor heated pool
 Lighting of existing facilities
 Walking and cycling trails
 Tennis courts
 Parks/reserves
 Walking trails to link facilities
 Change rooms for females and people with disabilities

Western Adelaide

Redevelop West Adelaide Oval for the community
 Club/hub for West Lakes Triathlon Club at Henley Athletics Club/Henley Oval
 Redo courts at Flinders Park Tennis Club
 Lighting of existing facilities
 Indoor skateboard facility
 Community hub
 Use of school facilities outside school hours
 Playing fields
 Walking and riding paths

Barossa, Light and Lower North

No Game Changers from Barossa, Light and Lower North were specifically identified



Figure 8 Sport and active recreation infrastructure needs-Regional areas





6.2 Programming, planning, operations and governance

The second category of 'game changers' relates to planning, programming, operational or governance aspects of sport and active recreation.

Collaboration was a commonly raised 'game changer'. This related to collaboration in planning, funding and delivery to improve outcomes and reduce costs. It included a desire to see more collaboration between clubs, and between clubs, organisations and all levels of government. Collaboration across multiple State Government departments was also seen as a valuable opportunity. A particular example of collaboration commonly raised was the "opening up" of school grounds outside of hours for use by clubs and the wider community. Collaboration and better integration with the health system and professionals was also identified.

Provide training and incentives for doctors: to increase their prescription of physical activity as primary, secondary, tertiary prevention treatment plan for chronic diseases (Written submission)

Professional staff shared between smaller projects (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Collaborative policy and investment strategy across sport and recreation, health, event-related tourism and education" (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Joining forces to invigorate clubs and their cultures (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Councils and clubs working together to ensure club financial sustainability (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Sharing of resources and profit (Port Lincoln Community Workshop)

Working together- State Sporting Organisations, Councils and club/sports (Berri Community Workshop)

More gym access at schools or Council (Port August Community Workshop)

Funding mental health support services to be active with clients (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

More open space planning and access to open space, including in partnership with schools (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

More funding for sports facilities in public primary schools and high schools as these are spread throughout the community already and having the facilities in there meets many of the goals of facilities being in an environment with casual exercise opportunities and walking etc - funding would also be needed to upgrade the grounds of many of the schools as well to achieve this" (Online feedback form)

Referrals from health professionals (doctors and practice nurses) after completing an Exercise is Medicine CPD workshop to sport and exercise and cross-referrals from and between sports coaches and university trained exercise professionals (exercise physiologists and exercise scientists) (Online feedback form)

Changes to **funding** models was also raised by many as a 'game changer'. This included better acknowledgment of the contribution of volunteers, longer or matched funding, funding that targets needs (population or socio-economic), streamlining and coordinating processes, funding that supports the full spectrum of sports, and better measurement/accountability for outcomes.



Funding to maximise greater community benefits (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Matched funding mechanisms (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Easier streamlined grant applications process (Woodville Community Workshop)

5-year funding commitments from State/Federal Government (Berri Council Workshop)

Evidence-based funding allocation rather than political seats (Metropolitan Council Staff workshop)

Population based criteria for funding (Murray Bridge Council Workshop)

Long term funding models focussed on the health benefits of being active (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Access to grant funding advice for and access to funding for smaller communities (Port Lincoln Community Workshop)

Someone hired to facilitate infrastructure that involves and includes the whole of the community so people aren't trying to get grants for the same things (Online feedback form)

Basically it comes down to population and money. Government grants are always worth applying for. But at the end of the day, in a very small community, volunteers are needed to provide these services. And it's usually the same people volunteering on the other committees in the community, they end up getting burnt out. (Online feedback form)

Oversight of sports organisations needs improvement, when funded by the State and Federal grants they need to be more transparent and accountable - too many are not adhering, some State sport organisations are substandard in supporting, protecting and developing participants, officials and volunteers in their sport (Online feedback form)

The "Fund My Community" program which involved communities putting forward projects and voting on the best ones to fund was a popular and successful initiative. Such a program could be developed for Active Lives as part of the usual grant funding programs (Online feedback form)

Outside of funding support, participants identified other types of **support for clubs** and groups. Suggestions included dedicated staff within Councils to support clubs, providing training and resources to support the ongoing education, training and development of coaches, staff and volunteers, and reducing "red-tape" and operational costs.

Reduction of government red tape (Hallett Cover Community Workshop)

Better operational support/resourcing for clubs and groups (Berri Community Workshop)

Reduce bureaucratic load on clubs (Elizabeth Community Workshop)

Expert coaches and administrators (Port Pirie Workshop)

Disability training for clubs (Whyalla Community Workshop)

More support for volunteer groups, including practical, real-life education (Murray Bridge Council Workshop)

Federal and State compliance and utility providers to charge significantly less for sport and recreation clubs (Elizabeth Community Workshop)



A good STARCLUB officer has been a game changer in our area. There seems to be a lot more successful grant applications in our area. There is a big difference between an active STARCLUB officer and a complacent one" (Online feedback form)

Better facilities and volunteer support. Our volunteers are exhausted and barely have the capacity to help free of charge anymore (Online feedback form)

Local sport and recreation events or tournaments were raised as 'game changers' to encourage participation and boost local economies. These were particularly important to **regional areas**.

Multi-sport carnivals and events similar to Master Games (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Twilight sports (Murray Bridge Council Workshop)

Commonwealth Games in South Australia (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Encourage the South Australian Government to consider putting in Adelaide's bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games to coincide with South Australia's bicentenary (Written submission)

Investment to support regional economies and growth (Murray Bridge Council Workshop)

Riverland Active Day (celebration of all recreation sport activities (Berri Community Workshop)

Delivery of The Big Project; recognition of Barossa as the food and wine capital of Adelaide through walking / cycling / recreation trails that contribute to a place that families love to live, stay and work (Online feedback form)

Many participants identified **increasing inclusion in sport and recreation** as a 'game changer' for their communities. This included increasing participation of young people through to seniors, improving cultural inclusion, supporting females in sport and people of lower financial means.

Increased and more inclusive/diverse participation (Port Lincoln Community Workshop)

Programs that start involvement in sports and physical activity at a very young age (Port Augusta Community Workshop)

Mash-up sports day combining more sports to attract young people (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Introduce a walk to school program (Whyalla Community Workshop)

Racism – I have seen a boy teased because of his culture and he left the club (Woodville Community Workshop)

Programs directed at middle-aged men and women from the farming sector" (Clare Council Workshop)

Engaging CALD vulnerable communities through sport with lower participation fee (Woodville Community Workshop)

Sports that they can participate in no matter what their age - most sports and financial assistance are provided to sports that are aimed at the younger generations, older people can be overlooked (Online feedback form)

Change of policy within schools to make activity/exercise mandatory (Online feedback form)

Seeing other people of all shapes and sizes being active and enjoying it at the same time (Online feedback form)

Reducing costs was also raised by many as a 'game changer'. Financial incentives for participation were frequently mentioned. Most related to extending the sports voucher system's reach or value. Other incentives related to awarding participation through forms of rebates (eg tax deductions or lower insurance premiums). Lowering participation costs in general was also raised along with supporting advancement through removing cost barriers to participate at the state or national level. Providing affordable/free access to facilities for use by groups was also mentioned.

Financial incentives, including health insurance and medical discounts with proof of activity, and tax deduction for sport/recreation fees and equipment (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Tax deduction for involvement in sport (Whyalla Community Workshop)

Sports library to borrow equipment (Whyalla Community Workshop)

Extend age for sport vouchers to include all ages (Woodville Community Workshop)

The lowering of costs for club or facility membership to the absolute minimum level possible (Clare Community Workshop)

Multiple sport vouchers for summer/winter sports (Port Lincoln Workshop)

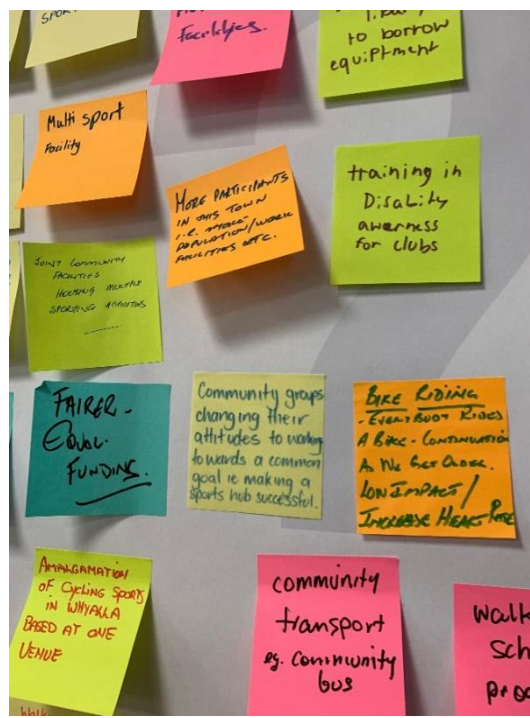
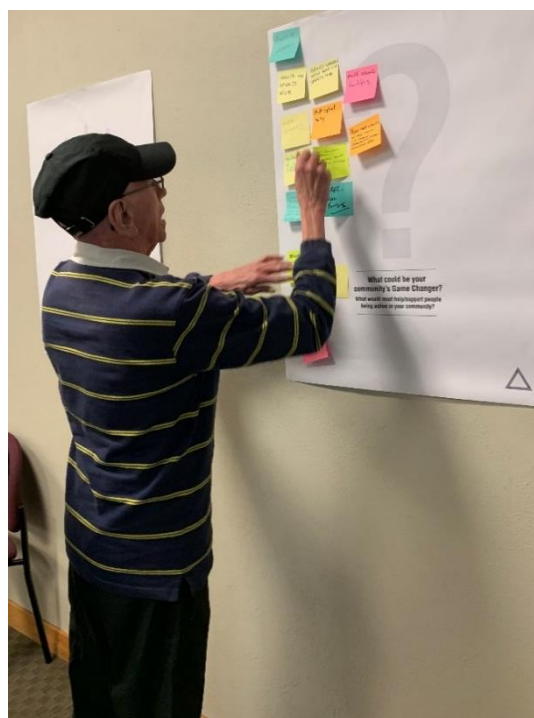
No cost for elite athletes when selected to represent state or country (Woodville Community Workshop)

The Iceland model – give every child \$650 to be active (Clare Community Workshop)

Subsidies for adults to take part in fitness classes and sport (Online feedback form)

All members of sporting organisations should have a simpler discount system to purchase equipment starting with footwear (Online feedback form)

Free access to gyms, and more bike and walking trails that lead somewhere (Online feedback form)



Game Changer workshop activity



Costs aside, participants also suggested their communities could be healthier and more active if the perception of activity was changed, **participation was “fun”** and a **diversity of opportunities** and the benefits of being active were **better promoted**. Some suggested that participation could be improved if the culture and formats of play were more fun and positive (rather than overly competitive) and if the benefits of leading a healthy active life were better understood.

Improving promotion of non-organised sport activities (Clare Community Workshop)

More education about the relationship between health and sport (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

More non-competitive options of popular activities for young to learn and old to enjoy (Online feedback form)

Making organised sport ‘short, sharp and fun’ (Woodville Community Workshop)

Changing the public's perception of activity (Online feedback form)

Offering a variety of opportunities at various levels and in various activities. Making it easy and DESIRABLE to be involved (Online feedback form)

Knowledge of what activities are available within local communities, to whom, when and at what cost (Online feedback form)

Community social activities which have exercise as part of the recreational activity (Online feedback form)

Getting professional athletes to come and meet people at a sporting hub and chatting about their lives in sport (Online feedback form)

Some participants were seeking better recognition of **‘smaller’, ‘minority’ or unstructured sports** in their communities. This related to better provision of spaces for, and acknowledgement of, less popular or non-mainstream sports through funding support (as mentioned previously in this section), better promotion and coverage, as well as by providing a diversity of opportunities for people to participate. Acknowledging forms of activity that are not an organised sport was also considered important.

Increased knowledge and understanding about roller derby (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

More media coverage for non-mainstream sports (Whyalla Community Workshop)

Improve the variety of sporting clubs beyond the usual football, netball and basketball (Clare Community Workshop)

Ensure unstructured sport and leisure - play anytime approach, is supported to create flexibility in participation and remove the 'structured competition' approach which restricts higher levels of participation (Online feedback form)

An area of particular interest, more so in regional areas, was improving the **transport options** (other than private vehicles) to get to activities.

Accessibility to the region through roads and train (Clare Community Workshop)

Easy cost effective transport options (Berri Council Workshop)

Community transport – e.g. community bus (Whyalla Community Workshop)

7.0 Burning issues

Across the workshops, participants were asked to share their ‘burning issue’ about sport and active recreation. The issues identified covered a variety of themes, which are summarised below.

Many comments were made about **facilities**, particularly in terms of there being a lack of facilities and their (un)suitability. Suggestions were made regarding the need for facilities for particular sports or active recreation (eg. swimming pools, skateboarding, equestrian, skateboarding, gymnastics, athletics) or a gap in facilities in particular locations (eg. Whyalla, Glandore Oval or Aldinga).

Many comments were made about the need for existing facilities to be **more accessible** or open for use by multiple clubs or the general public or identified the **need for upgrades to existing facilities** to improve accessibility by the whole community such as through providing female/gender diverse change rooms and toilets, or improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Better roads, trails and **facilities for walking and cycling** were often suggested as were **spaces for unstructured** sport and recreation. Other suggestions were for facilities or facility upgrades that would enable **use all year, in all weather and at day and at night**.

Age, condition or lack of facilities and public walkways (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Basic health and safety at facilities – toilets, water, power (Kadina Community Workshop)

Opportunities for less structured sports and flexible outdoor spaces (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Need for pump tracks and cycling areas for age 2-5 kids – i.e. a place to learn to ride (Victor Harbor Community Workshop)

Bike paths and tracks for cycling around the region (Berri Community Workshop)

State model for facilities sharing (Victor Harbour Community Workshop)

More athletic tracks around the state open to public use and roller-skating indoor venues of international standard (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Under-utilised golf courses and horse tracks and lack of acquisition of new open space (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Lit facilities for evening sports (Port Augusta Community Workshop)

Management and improvement of winter sport facilities and funding (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

Not enough community sport spaces available to grow sport or make it available to more people (e.g. lack of women’s facilities) (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Funding processes were a ‘burning issue’ for many people. Participants identified the need for a more streamlined funding process and greater transparency of how applications are assessed. Some commented that they felt that funding processes were skewed towards larger, more well-resourced clubs or organisations, want more support in preparing applications and to be kept informed during the process. Some felt that clubs should be funded directly rather than being ‘filtered’ through State organisations or Councils. A particular area of concern was the focus of funding on mainstream sports to the detriment of smaller, less mainstream sports.

Simplifying the grant process for clubs (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)



Reducing the competitive nature of the SRDI grants to encourage greater collaboration between organisations (Written submission)

Ensuring SRDI [Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program] grants go to peaks or industry providers with expertise in the area and not to private providers and or consultants (Written submission)

Small clubs' access to grants (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Funding for small grass roots clubs in rural areas to promote community involvement (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Skewed funding towards organisations who can generate large revenues (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

Lack of visibility of selection criteria for funding/grant program (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

Bureaucracy of administrative bodies are not delivering the services needed, as well as making it complicated for community to access grants (Clare Community Workshop)

Funding for Tier 1 sports continues to grow and opportunities increase, leaving smaller sports struggling to stay afloat (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Need to make sure 'smaller' sports are supported, eg rifle shooting. It's not only about the active, mainstream sports (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Support for a **diversity of sports**, especially those considered 'mainstream', was a 'burning issue' with many people commenting that too much focus is given to the top mainstream and Olympic sports and not enough to smaller or less mainstream sports. Participants were wanting more even or equitable support across all sports through funding, planning, engagement and promotion.

With planned development of Goolwa Oval, every consideration has been given to football, cricket and netball. Tennis and hockey have not had any input (Victor Harbour Community Workshop)

STARCLUB should provide funding and training for all sports, not just the popular ones (Port Augusta Community Workshop)

Too much emphasis on the big 5 sports with very little opportunity to focus on the rest (State Sporting Organisation Workshop)

Even funding distribution amongst sports (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

A greater recognition of the role of gyms and PT's [personal trainers] (Industry and Peak Body Workshop)

You're the Office for Recreation and Sport, but to the public your focus appears to be on sports, rather than recreation (Facebook post)

Assistance for small sports and support for grass roots movement for all sports (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

The strong takeover of all available green space by SANFL for football (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Squash is the perfect sport for all age groups as it is able to be played in a controlled space, is not weather dependent and has the advantage of being played by virtually any individual (Written submission)

Ensuring that sport and recreation was **inclusive to a diversity of people** was also an issue for participants. A range of comments were made regarding the need to include people of different ages, genders, cultural backgrounds, abilities, family composition and financial means, through funding, facilities and approaches.

Getting more girls to participate in organised sport (e.g. basketball) (Port Lincoln Community Workshop)

Infrastructure improvements are required for accessibility for all members of the community (Port Augusta Community Workshop)

Keeping all ages active in their community (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Funding for under privileged people to access sport (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

All gender, age and ability change rooms (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

We need an upgrade of courts at Flinders Park Tennis Club into half court tennis for seniors (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Creation and support of female sport facilities (Clare Community Workshop)

Not including people with disabilities in sport opportunities (Whyalla Community Workshop)

The cohort of people most often raised were **children and young people**. A 'burning issue' for many was the need to get school aged children engaged in sport and active recreation and to maintain their participation. Concern was raised about the declining focus on sport and physical activity in schools and the spare time of children and young people as well as the challenges with retaining participation of young people in organised sport at the 'top end' of junior competitions.

Youth retention past middle school (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

Funding for 'sport in schools' coaches (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

Lack of PE teachers at schools cause an overreliance on parents to volunteer as coaches, coordinators, umpires, etc. (Industry and Peak Body Workshop)

Swimming lessons and outdoor education in school curriculum (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Loss of 'top end' juniors – jobs, year 12, lose interest (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Declining rates of after school sports in schools (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Children and young people aren't choosing active recreation in their spare time (active play, walking, cycling) (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Keeping children involved into adulthood (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

Across the regional workshops **acknowledging the needs of regional areas** was a common 'burning issue'. Participants commented about the importance of sport and recreation to regional communities but that adequate facilities, travel costs combined with the lack of public transport, the ability to attract funding and declining rural population are all challenges. Participants were looking for greater consideration of regional difference and needs in the planning, funding and delivery of sport and active recreation outcomes.

Existing equity/inequality between metropolitan and regional areas, including: facility grants, general funding, and regional vs metropolitan communities in general. AND Sporting bodies being recognised as the backbone of country communities (Murray Bridge Council Workshop)



Small rural communities rely on community and sport facilities (Clare Community Workshop)

The SSO developing statewide rules in the metro context (Port Augusta Council Workshop)

Cost to play in country may be cheaper, but cost to access high level competition is far greater (Port Augusta community Workshop)

A one-size fits all affiliation fee isn't equitable for country sports (Port Augusta community Workshop)

No public transport limiting access for all ages (Naracoorte Councils Workshop)

Lack of infrastructure to hold national/international events (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Nothing for disabled people or the elderly in small communities (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

Inequity for small communities to be funded (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Sustainability of sport in the regions. Declining rural populations, particularly inland on Eyre Peninsula (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Another 'burning issue' was the **affordability of participation and club operations**. Participation costs including membership, uniforms and equipment were raised as a challenge that could potentially isolate some people in the community. Expanding the eligibility of sports vouchers to all ages, more sports and summer and winter was suggested as a way of improving affordability and participation. For clubs' high operational costs, in particular utilities and insurances, were identified as a 'burning issue'.

We need to reduce cost of sport. Why do we pay many insurance and capitalisation fees to many national bodies for multiple sports instead of working together? (State Sporting Organisations)

Costs – to play, as spectators, uniforms, membership (Port Lincoln Community Workshop)

Rising utilities costs to clubs – grants for (Port Augusta Council Workshop)

Cost of water to maintain sport grounds (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Cost – sport is becoming elitist (Elizabeth Community Workshop)

Lifecycle costs in operational delivery of activities (admin/game day/infrastructure) (Berri Councils Workshop)



Participants undertaking workshop activities at Clare workshop

Supporting club operations by helping to reduce the administrative burden on clubs and better support the administration or governance of clubs, as well as the need for trained staff and coaches was commonly identified. Many comments also related to addressing the lack of volunteers, volunteer “burn out” and challenges with retention, succession and administration of volunteers.

Ensuring volunteer support (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Lack of volunteers for a variety of reasons such as compliance issues, lack of spare time, lack of desire and club community, ageing groups (Port Augusta Community Workshop)

Lack of trained coaches and personnel to organise sporting events (Port Augusta Community Workshop)

Poorly managed clubs and clubs that rely on grants (Kadina Community Workshop)

Volunteers – recruitment, financial support, educating, managing, rewarding (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

How to help people who want to start their own club when there is already a club at a given facility (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

STARCLUB process hard if there is no support (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Streamlining of club/local association constitutions/committees to make it easier for small communities (Victor Harbour Community Workshop)

Red tape for volunteers (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Volunteerism, club succession planning (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Volume and continuous growth of legal and administrative requirements negatively impacting on appeal and viability (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Better planning and collaboration for sport and active recreation was identified by many participants. People suggested that decisions need to be based on evidence (data), in particular needs analysis and population trends, as well as be measured. It was also suggested that regional planning as well as locally targeted approaches are needed to plan for sport and active recreation. Improving collaboration and communication across State government departments as well as Councils and clubs was suggested. The use of school facilities after hours was again raised as a good collaboration opportunity. People also suggested that planning should be informed by **better communication** with clubs and communities (in particular young people).

Mount Barker needs a sports hub given regional growth in area (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Acquiring more space for new opportunities while consolidating underutilised infrastructure (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Needs and opportunity analysis about facilities and activities/programs (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

Better-informed planning, regional planning and better data (e.g. AusPlay data has high level of uncertainty) (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Better data on population trends and needs (Glenelg Community Workshop)

The changing facility needs of sports and facility planning, which should not occur in isolation from other social infrastructure (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

The importance of a locally-responsive approach (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)



Quantifying/measuring active participation (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Better alignment between departments and clubs. Co-operation between State Government departments (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

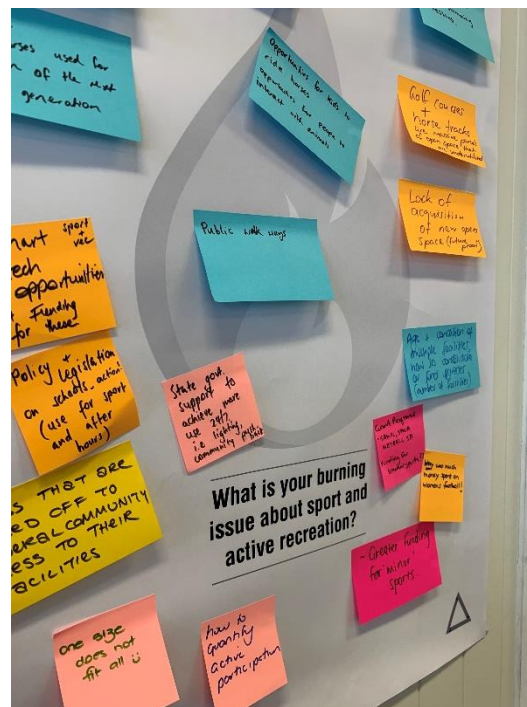
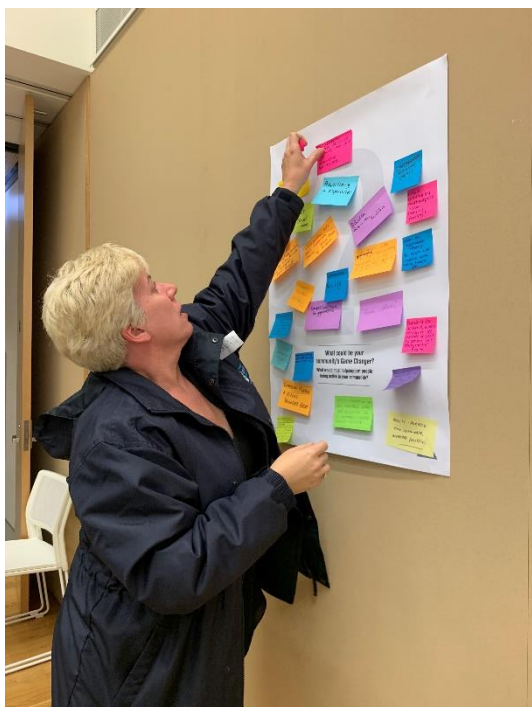
Small clubs struggling 'solo' when combined could be so much stronger (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Lack of communication between SSO, clubs and Councils (Elizabeth Community Workshop)

Find out what the people want. Survey and give young people what they want not limited choices, skate etc. (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Councils need to engage with their communities (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Questions about the **racing industry** were raised by some participants particularly via social media including many comments around why the ORSR funds the racing industry (Facebook posts) and the need to “*stop exploiting animals! It’s not sport its cruelty*” (Facebook post).



Burning issue activity

8.0 Innovation

Participants in the statewide consultation shared examples of something innovative they have seen elsewhere that gets people active. The examples identified covered a variety of themes, which are summarised below.

Many people identified **multiple use facilities** shared by different clubs and activities, including **sharing school grounds**. Particular examples of multiple use facilities were provided including Starplex at Trinity College in Gawler, the ARC at Campbelltown, Tennis SA court access App, Shepparton Sports Hub and the Salisbury athletics and soccer facility.

Reserves that incorporate multiple spaces for different forms of play and unstructured recreation were also mentioned such as Point Malcolm Reserve at Semaphore. The Penneshaw Football and Netball clubs were provided as an example of co-located clubs with a family friendly playground in between to support attendance and activity for different ages. Some participants also suggested that multiple use hubs could house other community facilities or services such as libraries and health practitioners in addition to sporting clubs.

One ground many clubs (Port Pirie, Community Workshop)

School facilities shared with sports (Woodville, Community Workshop)

Joint use of facilities (i.e. ARC Campbelltown) and school sites, including horse-riding trails used with walking trails and green loops through the Council areas (Campbelltown Workshop)

Country Clubs use the same facilities for multiple sports (for example in Cummins and Karkoo) (Port Lincoln Community Workshop)

Joint partnership between local government and private providers (e.g. multi-storey recreation centres adjacent shopping centres including car parking, recreation space, health care providers, shared utilities and more) (Metropolitan Council staff Workshop)

'Schools as community hubs' State Government initiative which worked with sport, local government, schools to share facilities (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Complete service centre – aquatics, gym, sports courts, libraries and allied health/GP. (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Multiple use aside, other **facilities, formats or enhancements were suggested by participants** that increase access and participation such as lighting, indoor facilities, synthetic surfaces or pop-up play infrastructure.

Improved lighting at and around sport facilities that supports afterhours access for community users (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Indoor Croquet Facility (Berri Community Workshop)

Lighting to use facilities at night (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Funds for sport infrastructure in public parks – soccer goals, football goals, cricket nets in a small area of a local park (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)



Bringing traditionally segregated recreation activities (e.g. skateboarding) into intergenerational spaces (Freemantle Skate Park) (Council Staff Workshop)

'Drop in' or 'pop up' sports events (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

Charles Caine Reserve – dual line marking, e.g. lacrosse and soccer (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

School ovals with synthetic surfaces for multi-purpose uses (Mount Barker Community Workshop)

Numerous suggestions were made about ways to **support children, young people and seniors** to be active including school holiday programs, in-school programs, targeted seniors programs and youth social inclusion programs.

Setting up summer holiday programs in caravan parks (Woodville Community Workshop)

"Growing for Gold" come and try program run through Salisbury Council (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

Shorten one day of the week during school period for sport and eliminate clashes with work or club sports (Woodville Community Workshop)

Sports vouchers for pensioners (pilot done in Western Australia) (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

AFL – Active for Life Session with older people (Woodville Community Workshop)

Schools-based programs with professional coaching (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Singapore Sports School (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

SK8 therapy: support for the people on the ground in emerging sports (Woodville Community Workshop)

Many participants suggested that **unstructured open spaces, trails and activities** provide innovative opportunities to get active. Bikes and walking trails were raised by many as well as fun interactive features that can be built into open spaces as ways to encourage people outdoors.

Bike tracks and walking tracks, including tracks lining adjacent towns (Kadina Community Workshop)

Interactive walking trails/cycling trails (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

Free water park on the foreshore for visitors – like Qld/NSW (Victor Harbour Community Workshop)

'Cradle to grave' activities – walking, swimming, dancing (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

Explore city on bike, skate, scooter. (North Adelaide Workshop)

Outdoor fitness equipment or circuits (Port Augusta Council Workshop)

Distance markers on paths and trails so people know how far they have walked and could walk towards (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Open spaces that do not involve organised sport - e.g. parks, reserves, walking trails (Mount Barker Community Workshop)



Make things fun 'fun theory' - stairs as piano keys that make music when walk up them – Sweden (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Games in the park like in Geraldton (WA) including button lights up, you run 8 press button and run 8 press each button in time (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Children in Clare and Naracoorte walking to school (Clare Councils Workshop)

Swing that recharges mobile phones while swinging in Denmark (Metropolitan Council Staff Workshop)

Providing **alternative formats and fun programs** were also suggested as innovative ways to get people active. These recognised that not all people want to seriously compete, as well as at times recognising the need to balance activity amongst other life responsibilities.

Walking soccer for seniors (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Naracoorte Hockey Club had freezers so families could store shopping while their children played sport (Clare Councils Workshop)

Social weeknight sports (Berri Community Workshop)

'Re-thinking' when sport is played – more mid-week competitions to free up facilities on the weekends (Elizabeth Community Workshop)

Parkrun (Kadina Community Workshop)

15 minutes exercise challenge at work (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Street play (piloted in Campbelltown Council) (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Welcome events for new parents to the sport (Port Pirie Community Workshop)

Some ideas were shared regarding **incentives and improving affordability** to encourage participation.

Feed kids at end of session so they come and participate (Ceduna Community Workshop)

Sports vouchers for retirees (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Group organised events with free entry to all (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

Government-provided vouchers for youth to spend on sports (Canberra) (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Port MacDonnell Football Club – don't charge junior fees but parents do volunteer roles to raise money (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)

Do 30 squats to get free train pass (Russia) (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Technology based ideas were identified as a particular area of innovation to people being active. This included the use of technology to improve the function of facilities but also as a way to engage people- including using E-sports to increase participation.

Technology to make lines appear/disappear on multi-use courts (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)



Integration of augmented reality in the clubs' clubrooms to engage kids in exploring the areas around them and promotion of geocaching to get people out 'treasure hunting' (Murray Bridge Council Workshop)

We are using new technology to help volunteers have an interactive reference tool on hand to deliver training sessions based upon knowledge of elite coaches, sports people and medical professionals (Written submission)

Zoom/City of Playford Northern Sound System e-sports league (Industry and Peak Body Workshop)

Skype training sessions (Glenelg Community Workshop)

Intelligent play – track capacity of ovals – intelligent-play.co.uk (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

A state sports 'portal' where people can access information to sport and recreation activities that are near/available (Elizabeth Community Workshop)

Community events were identified as an innovative way of getting people active. These may have a sports and recreation focus or could be a different type of community event that incorporates fun physical activities such as the Burra Races which included fun family activities such as tug of war.

Burra Races (Clare Council Workshop)

Fund community carnivals that are open to everyone to participate in a sport (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Rowing and canoe events on South Park Reservoir (Melbourne) (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Parades on closed roads done in Belgium and France (North Adelaide Community Workshop)

Participants also highlighted some innovative examples of **policy and planning** in the areas of town planning, risk management, behaviour change, cross-department collaboration and funding.

Reducing legal liability to enable a greater diversity and proliferation of sport/rec opportunities (Campbelltown Community Workshop)

Doctors to prescribe physical activity (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Nudge theory and innovative town planning and fun technology (Industry and Peak Body Workshop)

Investments from other areas of Government (e.g. Health) (Murray Bridge Community Workshop)

City blocks dedicated to activity – run, climb, jump, e.g. Ho Chi Min City (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Investment into new ideas, people, thoughts, pilot programs (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

Cross-Government investment in sports related activities and infrastructure in Western Australia (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Some participants shared ideas to better support the **staffing and administrative needs** of organisations

Shared admin officers through summer and winter sports (Woodville Community Workshop)

Support for grassroot 'not for profit' clubs (Hallett Cove Community Workshop)

Ways to share resources/ideas across codes and regional councils (Victor Harbor Community Workshop)

Mini bus or community bus available to sporting clubs (Victor Harbor Community Workshop)

Volunteer register across whole community; SACA: cricket connects online resource about club roles for volunteers; Volunteer job description: "sunset committees"; Volunteer match making register – clubs register what they need, eg Wattle Range Council; Free entry fees for canteen volunteers (Mount Gambier Community Workshop)



Participants undertaking workshop activities at Glenelg and State Sporting Organisations workshops



9.0 Working better together

At Council, State Sporting Organisation, State Recreation Organisation, Industry body and for profit service provider workshops one of the key lines of enquiry was about understanding how governments and sport and active recreation organisations could work better together to deliver sport and active recreation outcomes. A number of online surveys and written submissions also referred to opportunities for delivering better outcomes together. This section outlines the feedback provided in relation to this aspect.

Various suggestions for **improving communication** were raised by the statewide consultation. These included undertaking better consultation with sport and active recreation organisations when planning or designing facilities or programs to ensure that particular requirements of sports and other activities are adequately accommodated in their design, as well as providing online hubs of information and key contacts to speak to on different matters.

Suggestions were also made about **the role State Government and Local Government** can play in facilitating discussions between different parties. For example, it was identified that there is a need for State Government to help 'broker' or facilitate regional discussions and Local Government to help facilitate local club and community networks and advocate to local members about community needs.

Developing an online 'Government hub' to allow people to log onto a central place to ask questions and access all templates, policies and information (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

In conjunction with Local Government, develop a database to capture key data for sport and recreation assets (Written submission)

Facilitate open discussion between State government agencies and SSOs and create key contact points in each department (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Councils to facilitate networking between clubs, organisations and community (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Share information across Government and create a network of people to address common issues (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Spend more time campaigning local and federal members about what is wanted and needed, and to build better relationships across government beyond ORSR (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

State Government to help facilitate regional conversations between Councils and the community and stakeholders (Port Augusta Councils Workshop)

Ask the people who collectively live in the greater area what they would like as an ongoing collaboration. The experts get this wrong every time (Online feedback form)

An extension of improved communication was the desire for **better understanding**- better understanding of each stakeholder groups' needs and circumstances (eg State or local government, clubs and organisations) as well as a better understanding and recognition of sport and active recreation and its benefits more broadly such as economic development through tourism, contribution to preventative health care, reduced spending in the health sector and increased resilience, health and wellbeing of communities. It also includes understanding that to deliver sport and active recreation benefits, there needs to be a combination of both the 'hard' infrastructure such as facilities as well as the 'soft' infrastructure such as well-designed and delivered programs and activities.

State government to understand issues associated with facilities (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Recognise the role that Local Government plays in supporting people to be active, which is not high spending to conduct programs. Recognise that programs are as important as facilities (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Go to sport and recreation events, meet with club members and meet regularly with minor sports to fully grasp the issues of their sport (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Improve communication and consultation with community groups and clubs to better understand funding and support needs (Mayors and Elected Members Workshop)

Remove cost shift or rate caps that limit the capacity of local Government to upgrade and develop (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Increasing focus on the broader benefits of sport – health, education, tourism, economic development (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Facilitating better public access to evidenced based resources and delivering consistent messaging on exercise across education, health, local government, transport and sport sectors which supports Australians to exercise more (Online feedback form)

In **regional areas**, Councils suggested specific activities that acknowledge their difference to Metropolitan Adelaide. These included bringing major events to the regions to boost local economies and participation, leveraging off natural assets such as the River Murray, coast or national parks and acknowledging that regional groups may not have access to the same opportunities as metropolitan groups. Regional areas also identified that they did not feel that their clubs and groups' financial contribution via affiliation fees to peak bodies was resulting in a positive return in regional areas and identified a lack of support in the regions from peak bodies.

Prepare a River Recreation Plan (Berri Councils Workshop)

Decentralisation of major events so regions can benefit from them as well as metropolitan area (Port Augusta Councils Workshop)

There is a loss for regional communities when paying organisational fees as often there is little support or return in investment compared to metropolitan clubs (Port Augusta Councils Workshop)



As a small country community it would seem that government is so busy creating "hubs" that smaller isolated areas are going to end up losing what facilities that have now, as they will never receive any grant funding to improve them (Online feedback form)

Sport and recreation organisations suggested ideas for **improving the support provided to clubs**. In particular they called for more support to be provided by Councils to promote the sports and active recreation activities available in their communities, as well as the need for more support to be provided for the ongoing development and training of coaches, club officials and office holders. It was also identified that State Government has a role in **building the capacity of Local Government** to help deliver and promote sport and active recreation outcomes.

Sport and recreation organisations also identified the need for **reducing red tape** which is an issue for Councils as well as groups and clubs.

Coaching hub to get qualifications and support for all coaches (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Councils to provide better support for small clubs, including promotion (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Reduce red tape and increase cooperation across Government about common objectives with a clear agenda and guidelines (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

State Government to work with Local Government and build capacity in Local Government to deliver outcomes for the community (Berri Councils Workshop)

Establish a central lookup site or App for all recreational trails by are, get local government to invest and jointly promote the trails and facilities in their local area (Written submission)

Improvement of funding arrangements was a frequent theme of feedback across all workshops that discussed working together better (also discussed in section 5). This included feedback relating to funding timing, application timeframes and alignment such as the need for longer-term funding that occurs irrespective of election cycles, better alignment of federal, state and local funding cycles (to enable better delivery of joint projects utilising funding from various levels of government), creating consistency across local government funding programs and linking funding to the delivery of Council strategic plans.

Specific suggestions included providing small kick start grants, research and development or pilot grants, sustainability upgrades, and using "access and inclusion" as a criteria in assessing grants. It was also suggested that transparency of funding decisions needs to be improved, particularly in terms of what receives funding, what does not and the reasons why, that it would be helpful if applicants could apply for funding to support staffing to help deliver sports and programs and small funding grants should be made available to for profit providers recognising that they also can contribute positively to the sport and active recreation sector, particularly through new ideas, innovation and research and development.

Policy and funding consistency among local governments (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)



Projects that are part of a strategic objective that has been prioritised, has community / local club backing through consultation (Online feedback form)

Align State and Local Government priorities for funding and contribute to fund the strategic priorities of Councils (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Being more open and transparent about grant funding (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Election cycle gets in way. Develop ways to work better outside election cycles (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Include staff wages and positions in funding criteria and recognise that otherwise sports' own ability to achieve efficiencies and effectiveness is limited by the fact that sports are run only by volunteers (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Make 'safety' a central component of funding applications – this includes safe sporting surfaces, welcoming and inclusive club cultures, accessibility for all, routes to and from venues etc- people need to feel safe (Berri Councils Workshop)

Short-term funding approach is reactive. State and federal funding cycles are out of sync. Provide 5-year funding commitments to allow for planning and delivery aligned with Council planning processes (Berri Councils Workshop)

Co-ordinate all levels of Government to fund facilities – federal, state, local government, clubs/groups (For Profit Providers Workshop)

Extend grants to for profit providers for innovation, pilot programs and R&D. Funding start-up programs that need a 'small kick' to get going (under \$5K)" (For Profit Providers Workshop)

The need for **strengthened coordination and collaboration** across the sector was raised. This included better coordination across State Government departments to deliver on common objectives, as well as better coordination of efforts across all levels of government, community, clubs and organisations and service providers. Providing access to school grounds after hours was provided as an example of how State Government departments and clubs could collaborate to deliver outcomes. This was particularly raised in terms of providing an opportunity to address challenges associated with cost, time pressures and travel, integrating physical activity into the daily life of children and young people and their families and better utilising existing facilities more of the time. Another opportunity for across government collaboration was in relation to providing infrastructure that supports unstructured physical activity and active travel such as walking and cycling.

The role of sport and active recreation in health and wellbeing more generally (physical, mental, social etc) was recognised and the contribution it makes to preventative health care as well as a treatment for a range of diseases/conditions. The opportunity to work better with the Department for Health and other agencies that provide support in relation to health and social services such as Centrelink were identified in order to facilitate increased physical activity. This includes for example, incentivising physical activity via requirements of Centrelink allowances, working with General Practitioners to "prescribe physical activity" and promoting the broader benefits of being active for mental and physical health.



Sharing staff, resources and data across the board were other examples of collaboration.

The epidemic of loneliness and youth suicide can all be addressed I believe with communities working together to get more active and enjoy being together to support each other (Online feedback form)

Co-ordination across all levels of Government and between different departments to achieve common objectives and to use funding for integrated outcomes (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Invest time in inter-government collaboration (Online feedback form)

'Working together' with the community and other non-sport organisations, not-for profit sector, service providers (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Activate school sites and build shared use with Councils for sport (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Share school facilities and maintenance costs (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)

Sharing human resources and making them available at cheaper cost to associations and achieve efficiencies through better co-ordination (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Co-ordinate across different Government agencies to deliver holistic facilities, services and programs eg -health, SA Police, education, transport (Berri Councils Workshop)

Financial incentives from Government for participation by Centrelink/benefit recipients (Port Augusta Councils Workshop)

Government should invest in a multi-pronged approach in order to promote and support active lifestyles as this will deliver multiple benefits in terms of reducing burdens on the health system through building healthier communities (both physically and mentally) and more connected communities with less social issues (Online feedback form)

For sport and recreation organisations it was important that a **diversity of sports is supported** through equitable access to Council land for non-commercial sport, funding and through sports and physical activity programs at schools. As mentioned above and in section 4, the opportunity the school environment provides to integrate daily physical activity into children's lives, expose children to a diversity of sports and active recreation opportunities and address other challenges associated with being active was a consistent theme.

Be inclusive of all sports at schools (State Recreation Organisations Workshop)

Decrease teacher paper work and encourage more "active" classrooms (Facebook post)

Local government needs to ensure equitable use for non-commercial sport outcomes (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Extending access to strength and conditioning education beyond mainstream/elite sports and support services to enable people to continue to participate (e.g. physio, Pilates, massage) (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Suggestions were made for how **facilities could be better planned** for. For instance, state and local government ensuring adequate supply of open space and recreation facilities in new developments or urban growth or infill areas, regional and master planning, State Government driving planning for facilities, using an evidence based approach to inform planning, developing facilities standards to maximise use and State Government gifting of land.

ORSR to inform provision of sport and recreation activity in new residential development areas (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

State government drive/plan facilities (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

Evidence based decision making for sport and recreation planning (State Sporting Organisations Workshop)

State Government to provide leadership regarding where regional facilities should be located in the Riverland region, eg 'this is where a swimming pool will go' (Berri Councils Workshop)

Establish benchmarking for facilities standards which are clear about what should be delivered to accommodate the most use of that facility by the community, eg don't need state level standards all the time, yet this is often linked to funding criteria (Berri Councils Workshop)

Government policies that facilitate opportunities through funding and gifting land (Port Augusta Councils Workshop)

Effective master planning, assistance with master planning and engagement with all sectors of the community (Metropolitan Councils Staff Workshop)



Participants undertaking workshop activities at Whyalla workshop



10.0 Implications of the statewide consultation

This Statewide Consultation Summary Report documents in detail the consultation process and who participated and summarises the key themes that emerged, including common issues across the State for sport and active recreation as well as regional differences and needs which can help guide how the government may support and invest in sport and recreation into the future.

To aid the next stages of the three priority projects (Game On, Getting South Australia Active, the South Australian Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan and the Grants Review) all of the consultation information gathered has been reviewed and synthesised with a focus on identifying feedback most relevant and pertinent to each priority project for further consideration and investigation in subsequent stages of those projects.

In addition, three standalone executive summaries under separate cover have been prepared in relation to the three priority projects.

10.1 Considerations for the South Australia Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan

One of the key messages that came through the statewide consultation was the connection between the provision of safe, high quality, appropriate, well maintained and operated facilities and the ability to provide quality, diverse sport and active recreation opportunities that attract and retain participants and members.

People often identified issues associated with the age condition, functionality and maintenance of existing facilities as well as a general lack of facilities to accommodate needs and demand for sport and active recreation.

Another aspect that was often spoken of was the way in which sport and active recreation clubs and groups are the 'heart' of communities, and to lose any of them will have a significant adverse impact on the social fabric of their town or community. The physical facilities and infrastructure that provide the 'spaces and places' that supports these activities is therefore critical, and for some clubs and groups is an ongoing challenge to maintain and operate, or provide in the first place.

Across the state, people identified a range of facilities and infrastructure that they considered was needed in their communities to support physical activity (refer Figure 7 and Figure 8 in section 6).

In addition to the specific infrastructure needs identified aspects to particularly note for the purposes of the Infrastructure Plan include:

- The common lack of fundamental facilities that support the participation and inclusion of all members of the community, in particular female participants, people with disabilities and all-ages. Specific examples include the lack of female change rooms, change rooms that separate junior and

senior players, toilet and change room facilities for people with disabilities as well as general Disability Discrimination Act compliance around accessibility to facilities

- The desire for existing facilities to have their flexibility and use extended through the installation of lighting to enable night time use and improve safety, and shade or cover to enable activity during extreme heat. In relation to lighting, this could be at courts, ovals, pitches or playing fields or along walking and cycling paths and trails to encourage active travel and physical activity after hours/ at night
- The desire for a combination of facilities that support structured sport and active recreation opportunities such as multi-use facilities, stadiums, courts, ovals, club rooms etc as well as infrastructure that supports unstructured physical activities such as cycling and walking trails or connections, more open or green community spaces, adventure play and playgrounds, better utilisation of natural aquatic assets (eg. River Murray or foreshore areas), skate parks and outdoor courts for casual use
- The need for infrastructure that supports active travel such as walking and cycling trails. This type of infrastructure was also identified as a way to enable the integration of no cost, physical activity into people's daily lives
- The costs of participation in organised sport are prohibiting participation which amplifies the importance of providing access to low cost/no cost opportunities for physical activity, such as open space, playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, bike paths and cycling trails.
- The potential for new synthetic surfaces including hybrid models to be installed to enable increased frequency and use of sporting fields, or other methods such as multiple line marking of ovals and pitches to enable use by multiple sports (eg at Charles Cane Reserve)
- The need to ensure that spaces and places are available for a diversity of sport and active recreation opportunities which includes catering for the needs of 'smaller' or 'minority' activities outside of what many participants called the 'major sports'. Many people considered that there was limited focus on sports other than football, cricket and netball, and a lack of consideration of the needs for facilities that provided a 'home' and catered to the needs of other sports and activities. Examples include roller skating/roller derby, shooting, archery and athletics
- Sport and active recreation facilities also include 'ancillary' facilities such as clubrooms and kitchens which play an important role in creating club identity and enabling social connections. At many facilities these are old and of dysfunctional design and are posing safety and accessibility issues. This poses safety issues for staff and volunteers and impacts their ability to be efficient and effective in their roles
- Costs associated with operating and maintaining facilities is often challenging for clubs and groups and these are in some part passed on to the end user. In particular, high utility costs usually associated with water for irrigation and power and the cost of operating, updating and maintaining existing facilities are key costs.

There is opportunity to reduce ongoing operational costs as well as improve the environmental sustainability of facilities through installation of solar panels, water sensitive urban design features including capture and reuse of stormwater for irrigation and greening to reduce urban heat and provide shade

- There is a perception that there is inequity between the provision of and support for sport and active recreation infrastructure in regional areas compared to metropolitan areas. People in regional areas went to lengths to emphasise the important role and contribution clubs and groups play in small communities in regional areas. They also identified that the 'tyranny of distance' is an ongoing challenge to participation in regional areas, and that where facilities are dispersed across the region, this can further impact participation as it combines with other challenges such as cost of travel, time to travel and access to transport, emphasising the need for more and diverse facilities to be provided 'locally'



- There is a need to better integrate the provision of sport and active infrastructure with transport options. This could be via better active travel linkages such as walking and cycling trails, public transport routes or provision of new or innovative transport options such as ride share, carpooling or community bus services
- The opportunity schools offer to provide increased accessibility and provision of sport and active recreation opportunities. This includes as a way to counteract the challenges of time poor parents through providing physical activities at places where children already are, the inactivity of children and the affordability of participation
- Multi-use, shared or community hub facilities were most commonly identified as being a gap in provision. Many people used these terms interchangeably, and often meant multiple clubs and groups and sports and activities using one facility. For many, they associated this type of facility with high quality, safety, modern design and being a way to cater to a range of needs and accommodate a range of requirements in one location. It was also seen as a way of reducing or sharing costs across different clubs and groups and also offered opportunity to share resources such as volunteers, office space and facility manager

In providing multi-use facilities, there is a need to balance their provision against the strong identity many country towns and other communities associate with their traditional and locally based facilities and clubs.

- Examples identified that people considered 'innovative' or good models of multi-use/ shared facilities include the ARC at Campbelltown, Starplex at Trinity College in Gawler, Shepparton Sports Hub and the Salisbury athletics and soccer facility
- The need for evidence based decision making in relation to the planning and provision of sport and active recreation infrastructure. This includes gathering data from a range of sources including stakeholder and community consultation, to identify needs/demands and gaps in provision. This data should then be used to 'work out' what is needed, where and in what order of priority. This process should be done collaboratively with other levels of government, between different agencies and with other organisations to identify opportunities to deliver infrastructure together, or better utilise existing infrastructure
- There is a desire from some people for 'direction' about 'what is needed where' and want State Government to lead where regional facilities should be located
- Consider how to integrate or leverage technological 'elements' into infrastructure to encourage and facilitate physical activity. This could include the use of Apps, E-sports or 'fun features' that are activated through being physically active
- Recognise that catering for non-sport related activities at multi-use facilities such as community meeting spaces also contribute to health and wellbeing, enable connections to be made and may inspire physical activity in non-participants
- Recognise that a well-functioning, sustainable facility is more than its physical provision, and that a range of other aspects need equal attention such as governance arrangements and systems and processes that support its ongoing operation, management, maintenance and programming
- Ensure that relevant sport and active recreation experts are consulted when designing facilities to ensure that they accommodate the requirements of the sports and other activities to be undertaken there
- Work with schools to share facilities and provide increased opportunities for physical activity during and after school hours. This includes developing models, policies, guidelines and processes to support shared use
- Consider innovative ways to provide pop up infrastructure such as road closures at off-peak times for 'pop up' sport and active recreation use or reclaiming road reserves for the provision of active travel infrastructure

10.2 Considerations for Game On, Getting South Australia Active

The statewide consultation shows that there is a strong vision for all members of our community to have a healthy, active future.

This future is one where all people are active, more of the time, and where being active is the 'norm' and entrenched in all people's daily lives and not seen as a 'chore' or requiring extra effort.

This future is also one where being active is publicly promoted and the many benefits of physical activity are well understood and valued including the contribution it makes to:

- Physical health, including as a preventive health care measure *and* treatment of chronic diseases
- Mental health
- General health and wellbeing
- Social connection and reduced isolation
- Development of fundamental movement skills
- Building community resilience
- Learning 'life skills' such as team work, how to win and lose, discipline, commitment and routine
- Economic development of towns, regions and the State.

The contribution sport and active recreation makes would be recognised more broadly, by all sectors of the community, including all levels of government and across different government agencies and not seen as being the sole responsibility of the sport and recreation portfolio. This includes understanding that investment in sport and active recreation can contribute to the achievement of whole of government objectives including those relating to jobs and the economy.

A healthy, active future is one where the range of challenges or barriers to being active currently being experienced are reduced or addressed, so that regular physical activity is better facilitated and it is essentially easier for people to 'get moving'. Key challenges identified by the statewide consultation such as being time poor and costs to participate and deliver facilities and activities will no longer be getting in the way of being active as we think creatively about ways to improve affordability, and how alternative formats and fun approaches can be applied to enable physical activity.

The 'savings' that are made through the contribution sport and active recreation makes to general physical, mental and social health and wellbeing and prevention and reduction of lifestyle diseases would be well recognised. There is a change in how investment in sport and active recreation is perceived with it being appreciated as a way to make savings in other areas.

This healthy, active future will also be one where there is a diversity of facilities, programs and options for people of any age, gender, ability, background or circumstance to participate and be active any time of the day or night or time of the year. All people feel welcome and included, and participation is lifelong.

There are a wide range of choices to participate and 'smaller' or 'minority' sports and active recreation activities are well supported as well as those commonly referred to as 'mainstream' or 'major' sports.



All people's aspirations are catered for ranging from participation that is fun and an opportunity to be involved and active through to pathways for those people who want to advance and compete at elite levels.

Facilities and infrastructure that supports physical activity are accessible and close to where people live. They are high quality, modern, safe, fit for purpose, well-maintained and designed to meet the requirements of the sport or active recreation activity and meet the needs of regional and metropolitan communities, including responding to growing or changing populations and demographics.

There will be both structured and unstructured opportunities ranging from multi-use facilities and hubs through to spaces for unstructured, informal options that support active travel and play such as green open spaces, playgrounds and walking and cycling trails.

A healthy, active future is also one where sport and active recreation clubs and groups are financially sustainable and resilient and have skilled and energised staff and volunteers and the membership needed to operate effectively and provide quality activities and programs.

It is also where the sport and active recreation sector as a whole, including clubs, State sporting and State recreation organisations, for profit providers and all levels of government and community come together to collaborate and work together for improved outcomes, and help more people get active, more of the time.

And finally, a healthy, active future is one whereby all members of the community are fitter and happier and experience less disease, mental health issues, obesity, social isolation or drug problems.

In addition to the above vision for the future, aspects to particularly note for the purposes of Game On, Getting South Australia Active include:

- The desire for the ongoing availability of the spaces and places that support *structured* sport and active recreation opportunities such as multi-use facilities, stadiums, courts, ovals, club rooms etc as well as those that support *unstructured* physical activities such as cycling and walking trails or connections, more open or green community spaces, adventure play and playgrounds, better utilisation of natural aquatic assets (eg. River Murray or foreshore areas), skate parks and outdoor courts for casual use
- The need to make sure a diversity of options and choice is available and accessible to all people, no matter their age, gender, ability or cultural background. How to ensure this diversity of options and choice is provided across the State is challenging, particularly in regional areas. Although it was recognised that 'one of everything' cannot be provided in all locations/communities, people felt that the investment required should be balanced against the broader contribution sport and active recreation makes and the 'savings' and other benefits it delivers to the State such as preventative health care and treatment of chronic diseases, improved mental health and wellbeing, improved social connections and reduced social isolation, improved resilience of communities and economic development opportunities
- The facilities or infrastructure needs that people considered were needed in their community to support being active (refer Figures 7 and 8 in section 6)
- The cost to participate in sport and active recreation was *the* key challenge or barrier identified to participating in physical activity, particularly that associated with organised, structured sport. Costs include membership/registration fees, uniforms, equipment, entrance/grounds fees and travel. Many people identified that without stable and growing club membership their clubs become

unsustainable and in some cases are not able to 'field' teams in competitions or lead to clubs folding. Suggestions to make participation more affordable include subsidies that reduce the burden of club and other fees, extending the reach of sports vouchers to all ages and playing seasons and tax or welfare incentives

- The costs associated with operating and maintaining facilities was often raised and recognised that these are in some part passed on to the end user. In particular, high utility costs and the cost of operating, updating and maintaining existing facilities was identified, that repair and maintenance costs are 'crippling' for small clubs
- People identified a lack of facilities across the State. Often when talking about a lack of facilities people identified the need for multi-use facilities or sporting hubs in their community, and the need for a 'home' for smaller sports
- Being time poor was another key challenge identified by the statewide consultation, with people identifying a diversity of work and life commitments that mean time is pressured and there is little space and time for physical activity. For some people, this reason for a lack of physical activity was likely more a function of priorities or a lack of understanding about the importance of being active from a physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing perspective. Whatever the reason, key opportunities identified to address being 'time poor' included:
 - > Provide flexibility in terms of the time of day, days of the week and sport and recreation activity formats. Ideas suggested include providing game formats of shorter duration or being able to 'turn up' and play as part of a team sport even if you are not a consistent member of that team, or the wearing of bibs rather than the need to wear a uniform to play. One person referred to this as developing "takeaway" sport and active recreation opportunities
 - > Provide a range and diversity of opportunities to be active, including via structured, organised sport as well as non-structured, flexible opportunities
 - > Increase promotion of the value of being active and the many physical, mental and social health benefits it delivers and support individuals to consider it a priority in their daily life
- The need for infrastructure that supports active travel such as walking and cycling trails. This type of infrastructure was identified as a way to enable the integration of low cost/no cost, physical activity into people's daily lives as well as support the active travel of children independently.

People identified that most parents will not allow their children to actively travel to activities by walking or cycling as they are concerned about safety aspects. Ideally to support use by all ages, this type of infrastructure should be separated from vehicular traffic or designed to reduce potential conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, connect key facilities and open spaces, be well designed for natural surveillance, have lighting to enable afterhours/night time use and constructed of safe surfaces for walking, running, cycling and 'small wheels' such as prams, walkers and skateboards
- There is a need to better integrate the provision of sport and active recreation infrastructure with transport options. This could be via better active travel linkages such as walking and cycling trails, public transport routes or provision of new or innovative transport options such as ride share, carpooling or community bus services
- The opportunity to make existing facilities 'work harder' in terms of the opportunities they provide for increased physical activity. For example, extend the flexibility and use of courts, ovals, pitches or playing fields and along walking and cycling paths and trails through the installation of lighting to enable night time use and improve safety, and install shade or cover to enable activity during extreme heat
- There is a desire for strengthened coordination and collaboration across the sport and active recreation sector. This includes between different clubs and groups, peak bodies and organisations, for profit providers and allied industries such as health professionals and educators



- There is a desire to see better coordination across State Government departments to deliver on common objectives, as well as better coordination of efforts across all levels of government, community, clubs and organisations and service providers

Providing access to school grounds after hours was provided as an example of how State Government departments and clubs could collaborate to deliver outcomes. This was particularly raised in terms of providing an opportunity to address challenges associated with cost, time pressures and travel, integrating physical activity into the daily life of children and young people and their families and better utilising existing facilities more of the time. Another opportunity for across government collaboration was identified in relation to providing infrastructure that supports unstructured physical activity and active travel such as walking and cycling.

The opportunity to work with Federal Government agencies for example, Centrelink, to require volunteering or physical activity as part of payments or through tax rebates was identified. Working with health professionals such as general practitioners to prescribe physical activity and the private health insurance sector to provide assistance via health insurance were also suggested

- There is a clear desire for people to be active over the entire course of their life. Many people spoke about a healthy, active future being one of life-long involvement, again recognising the range of benefits this delivers including the development of fundamental movement skills in children, physical, mental and social health and wellbeing for all members of the community, reduced chronic lifestyle diseases, reduced social isolation and less falls in older people

There are range of challenges to participate at different stages of life including cost barriers (for example, people identified that seniors need access to the sports voucher system too as they cannot afford the fees when on a pension), the availability of appropriate programs or activities that are suitable for all ages and abilities, the ability to participate when caring for babies and young children (often suggestions were made that about providing crèche or child minding support), and competing demands and priorities particularly for busy parents and working adults

- There is a perception that there is inequity between the provision of and support for sport and active recreation infrastructure in regional areas compared to metropolitan areas. People in regional areas went to lengths to emphasise the important role and contribution clubs and groups play in small communities in regional areas. They also identified that the 'tyranny of distance' is an ongoing challenge to participation in regional areas, and that where facilities are dispersed across the region, this can further impact participation as it combines with other challenges such as cost of travel, time to travel and access to transport, emphasising the need for more and diverse facilities to be provided 'locally'
- There is also a perception that there is inequity in how 'smaller' or 'minority' sports and active recreation activities are supported compared to 'mainstream' or 'major' sports. People commonly expressed concern over the sustainability of smaller sports and activities and that mainstream sports tend to get more support even though they often have better resources. Supporting smaller sports was seen as an important component of providing a diversity and choices to increase physical activity
- There is desire for better promotion and marketing of sport and active recreation. This includes publicising information about sports, clubs and groups, active recreation opportunities and activities available
- There is a desire for more public promotion generally about the need for, and benefits of, physical activity to raise awareness and increase motivation to 'get moving'
- People often identified the opportunity schools provide for children to learn about physical activity integrate physical activity into children's daily lives and establish good physical activity habits from an early age. Providing physical activity at school can also help counteract key challenges identified to participation such as time poor parents and affordability

One of the key concerns identified by the consultation was that many children are not learning fundamental movement skills and this needs to be urgently redressed as it impairs cognitive development and the learning of key life skills such as team work, how to win and lose, leadership and discipline

It was identified that there is great opportunity to improve the delivery of physical education within educational institutions including childcare, kindergarten and schools and that there is a need to improve the way in which physical education is valued within the teaching environment so that it is elevated as an important area of learning.

There is also opportunity to work with schools to share facilities, however, currently this is proving difficult to achieve at many campuses, there is no real guidance or policy regarding how to do this well, and is often up to the 'whim' of individual principals. It was identified that there is a need to develop models, policies, guidelines and processes to support shared use of school facilities

- The lack of easily accessed facilities was another key barrier to being active. People suggested that regional planning was required to identify what facilities were needed where, particularly in relation to new development areas or regional communities. Having modern, multi-use hubs that supported a diversity of sports and clubs was a commonly identified solution. Again the role of walking and cycling paths to enable people to actively travel was identified
- Inclusion of all people was commonly identified and there is a strong desire for facilities and sport and recreation opportunities to be welcoming and accessible to all people regardless of age, gender, cultural background, ability or financial means. Female change rooms, disability access, targeted programs for young and old, affordable programs as well as cultural acceptance of difference were raised as specific examples needing attention
- Multi-use, shared or community hub facilities were most commonly identified as being a gap in provision. Many people used these terms interchangeably, and often meant multiple clubs and groups and sports and activities using one facility. For many, they associated this type of facility with high quality, safety, modern design and being a way to cater to a range of needs and accommodate a range of requirements in one location. It was also seen as a way of reducing or sharing costs across different clubs and groups and also offered opportunity to share resources such as volunteers, office space and facility manager

In providing multi-use facilities, there is a need to balance their provision against the strong identity many country towns and other communities associate with their traditional and locally based facilities and clubs

- Clubs are struggling with the administrative and cost burden of operations, facilities maintenance and maintaining membership. Of particular significance is the pressure on volunteers – attracting them, training them, sustaining them and managing burn out. It was frequently commented how much volunteers do and how critical they are to the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities

There is desire from clubs and groups to be better supported including in the areas of governance, volunteer management, training and development, facilities and operations costs and in streamlining administrative and funding processes. There were also calls for the reduction of 'red tape' and/or simplification of procedures, policies and requirements associated with volunteering.

- There is a desire for greater accountability regarding those applicants that receive funding and how they implement it to ensure that what was applied for is 'delivered on the ground'. This includes making sure outcomes are quantifiable and visible able to be evaluated
- There is a need to support clubs and groups with the ongoing attraction, training, education and professional development of coaches and officials. Coaches play a critical role at clubs and groups and are key role models for children and young people. They also have a range of roles and responsibilities that they need to undertake including managing interactions with parents, supporting children and young people to learn and progress through a particular sport or activity



and assisting children with special needs. Often coaches are volunteers and don't necessarily have the range of skills and experience required and therefore need better support. This can be a challenge particularly in regional areas where access to their affiliated body or other expertise may be limited or more difficult.

- To increase participation of some people in physical activity it was identified that there is a need to keep things fun so as to attract participants who may not be interested in competitive sport. For others, physical activity may need to be incentivised such as through health care rebates and tax rebates or 'prescribed' by a General Practitioner
- There is opportunity to integrate or leverage technological 'elements' into infrastructure to encourage and facilitate physical activity. This could include the use of Apps, E-sports or 'fun features' that are activated in public spaces such as parks and ovals or streetscapes through being physically active.

10.3 Considerations for the Grants Review

One of the key messages that came through the statewide consultation was the connection between funding and resources and the ability for clubs and group, Councils, peak bodies and other organisations to provide quality, accessible and diverse sport and active recreation opportunities for all South Australians.

Cost was *the* most commonly identified challenge or barrier to the delivery of sport and active recreation identified by all stakeholders across the statewide consultation, closely followed by the condition, functionality and maintenance of facilities and a lack of facilities. People commonly identified the inextricable link between the provision and availability of accessible, quality, fit for purpose facilities with the ability for people to be active, and often suggested that the key opportunity to address this was through funding and investment in the physical infrastructure that supports sport and active recreation.

Funding and investment support for the 'soft' infrastructure such as well-designed and delivered programs and activities, the systems and processes that support the efficient and effective operation of clubs and groups and the training and education of staff, coaches, officials and volunteers was also recognised, and a range of suggestions were made regarding how to better target financial support to support these other aspects of the sport and active recreation sector.

One of the particular focuses of the statewide consultation was to understand what criteria people considered to be important to the decision making process when thinking about how to invest in sport and active recreation. This feedback is particularly relevant to the Grants Review as it can be used to reflect on existing criteria used and the focus for future funding programs. Across the State, people consistently identified the following key criteria (refer Table 10).

Table 10 Key criteria for investment decision making

Key criteria	Description
Facilities that are multi-use/shared	<p>People commonly identified that funding support should be provided where a proposal was for a multi-use or shared facility. Often this was because they considered this represented the best way to achieve 'bang for buck' and deliver a diversity of sport and active recreation choices and opportunities to communities</p> <p>People also identified that multi-use or shared facilities offered broader opportunities beyond sport and active recreation, such as providing spaces for 'spin off' community activities and increasing community connectedness</p>
Responds to identified needs	<p>Many people identified that funding be awarded based on evidence of the need or demand. It was commonly identified that this should include an audit of existing supply and demand and include information that shows the need for the proposal as well as community consultation findings</p>
Results in increased participation	<p>The proposal for funding should result in increased participation. This was talked about in a number of ways including, increasing numbers in a particular sport or activity, increasing numbers at a particular club or group or</p> <p>increasing participation of particular target groups that may not traditionally participate in organised sport or active recreation or have their needs accommodated</p>
Promotes access and inclusion	<p>Proposals that result in increased access and inclusion was also considered important. This could include the upgrade of a facility to improve physical accessibility for people with disabilities and upgrade of facilities to accommodate specific needs such as providing gender inclusive change room and toilet facilities. It could also be about delivering a sport or active recreation activity in a way that is more inclusive of different ages and abilities or providing inter-generational activities, abilities or catering for people with a disability or cultural needs</p>
Aligns with existing strategies and plans	<p>Funding to be awarded based on proposals that align with, and help deliver on, directions identified within existing strategies and plans such as Council strategic plans, regional plans, State Sporting Organisation plans, club plans, State Government agency plans. This was considered important as these plans and strategies would have already undertaken research, investigations and consultation to inform their directions</p>
Demonstrates future proofing	<p>The proposal should demonstrate future proofing in terms of how planning for growth and ongoing sustainability has been considered and accommodated. For example, participants identified that proposals that were master planned, gave consideration to how they could be staged over time and how they would be operated sustainably (financial management and other systems, staffing/volunteers, costs, maintenance, programming etc) should be considered favourably</p>
Equity of funding (between sports and clubs, regardless of size and popularity, and communities)	<p>Funding to be allocated equitably across all sports and active recreation activities, and not be determined based on size or popularity of the activity</p> <p>Funding to also be allocated equitably between communities, across metropolitan and regional areas</p>
Demonstrates a collaborative/partnership approach	<p>Funding allocated to projects that deploy a partnership approach whereby multiple stakeholders come together to deliver sport and active recreation in a coordinated way</p>
Delivers community benefit	<p>An application needs to be able to demonstrate how the proposal delivers benefits to the community. Often this related to ensuring that</p>



Key criteria	Description
	the proposal receiving funding would result in something that provided equity of access to all members of the community and was not restricted to, for example, club member use only
Results in positive health and wellbeing outcomes	The need to show how the proposal contributes to physical, mental and social health and wellbeing outcomes
Updates or upgrades existing infrastructure	Funding allocated to the update or upgrade of existing infrastructure to for example, bring an existing facility up to contemporary standards such as installing female/all gender inclusive change rooms and toilet facilities or improving physical accessibility for people with disabilities or extending the use of a facility such as through the installation of lighting
Demonstrates a proven track record of achievement	Having a track record of achievement was identified as an important criteria, particularly as a way of demonstrating that by investing in that proposal/applicant, there could be confidence that it would be implemented successfully
Delivers economic benefit to the region	This criteria recognised the broader impact sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure can deliver in terms of economic benefits to towns, regions and the State

In addition to the key criteria for decision making discussed above, aspects to particularly note for the purposes of the Grants Review include:

- The desire for greater transparency from the ORSR regarding who receives funding, where and what for. Some people called for all funding applicants to receive advice about what will be recommended prior to public announcement, and many people expressed a desire for more feedback on why their application was unsuccessful
- The desire for greater accountability of those applicants who do receive funding in terms of ensuring that what they applied for is 'delivered on the ground'. Some people called for the establishment of clear and measurable outcomes to be established and reviewed and monitored by the ORSR
- The desire for more information to be made available to clubs and groups about what grants and funding is available when. One suggestion was to create a 'database' of all grants that apply to the sport and active recreation sector and publicly promote this
- There is a perception that funding is allocated inequitably across the State, with more funding going to metropolitan Adelaide than regional areas. Often people in regional areas called for funding and grants to not be awarded on a per capita basis, as this could/would disadvantage regional areas. Instead it was suggested that funding be awarded on a percentage or ratio basis
- There is a perception that funding is given to the 'best grant writers' and that many smaller clubs and groups don't necessarily have the level of expertise or time needed to prepare a high quality application. Many people also identified that they felt the grants process is difficult and time consuming and found it overwhelming, while others identified that over recent years there has been a simplification of processes for some grants and programs and that this was working well. Some participants also identified that ORSR staff have been very helpful in reviewing draft grant applications and provided useful and constructive feedback and encouraged all clubs and groups to 'run' their application past ORSR staff first. Suggestions were made for ways to improve the application process such as the ability to submit an application in an alternative format such as a video
- Many people felt that there is a focus on funding mainstream sports to the detriment of smaller, less mainstream sports. This was a consistent theme across the statewide consultation whereby people commonly identified that they felt there was inequity of support for smaller or minority sports and activities. Often people talked about the need for greater support for 'grassroots' sports and activities and felt that bigger, mainstream sports such as football, cricket and netball were favoured.

- It was identified that STARCLUB field officers play an important role in supporting clubs and groups to put together applications for grants or funding. People who had drawn on the assistance of their STARCLUB field officer recommended that all clubs and groups seek their input during the application process, including for review of the application as well as to seek advice regarding how best to target their application to the funding available and the types of facilities and programs needed in their community/region
- The need for better coordination across all levels of government and between different State Government agencies regarding the timing and delivery of grant and funding programs. Often timing can be out of kilter which means clubs and groups try to 'cobble' together different bits of funding from different sources at different times in order to deliver an overall project.

A more integrated approach could enable a greater funding pool to be available for sport and active recreation, particularly if a more expanded view is adopted across government of the contribution that sport and active recreation makes to a range of community outcomes eg economic development, health, transport, tourism, education etc. This type of approach could facilitate better understanding of the benefits of sport and active recreation across different government portfolios, and reinforce that integrated delivery can contribute to the achievement of multiple objectives of government that do not solely reside with ORSR.

- For profit providers that work within the sport and active recreation sector contribute positively to sector, particularly through new ideas, innovation and research and development. Currently, for profit providers are not able to apply for grants or funding, but their contribution could be further enhanced if this opportunity was made available.
- There is a desire for longer-term funding that occurs irrespective of election cycles and better alignment between federal, state and local funding cycles to enable better delivery of joint projects utilising funding from various levels of government.

In addition to the above, a number of specific aspects were identified that may inform the consideration of focus for future funding or grant programs including:

- The update or upgrade of existing facilities that supports the participation and inclusion of all members of the community, in particular female participants, people with disabilities and all-ages. Specific examples include the lack of female change rooms, change rooms that separate junior and senior players, toilet and change room facilities for people with disabilities as well as general Disability Discrimination Act compliance around accessibility to facilities
- Additions or alterations to existing facilities to extend or improve their flexibility and use such as through the installation of:
 - > Lighting to enable night time use and improve safety, at courts, ovals, pitches or playing fields or along walking and cycling paths and trails to encourage active travel and physical activity afterhours/ at night
 - > Shade or cover to enable activity during extreme heat or other weather conditions
 - > New synthetic surfaces including hybrid models to enable increased frequency and use of sporting fields
 - > Other methods such as multiple line marking of ovals and pitches to enable use by multiple sports (eg at Charles Cane Reserve)
- Infrastructure that supports active travel such as walking and cycling trails. This type of infrastructure was also identified as a way to enable the integration of no cost, physical activity into people's daily lives
- The need to ensure that spaces and places are available for a diversity of sport and active recreation opportunities which includes catering for the needs of 'smaller' or 'minority' activities



- Update or upgrade of 'ancillary' facilities such as clubrooms and kitchens which play an important role in creating club identity and enabling social connections. At many facilities these are old and of dysfunctional design and are posing safety and accessibility issues. This poses safety issues for staff and volunteers and impacts their ability to be efficient and effective in their roles
- Installation of measures which reduce the financial impact of utilities and improve environmental sustainability of operations such as via the installation of solar panels, water sensitive urban design features including capture and reuse of stormwater for irrigation and greening to reduce urban heat and provide shade
- Support the establishment of systems or processes that help reduce the administrative burden on clubs, better support their governance and volunteer training, retention and recruitment
- Training, development and education of staff, coaches and officials
- Support the development of policies, guidelines or processes that facilitate:
 - > Shared use of existing facilities such as schools
 - > The development of schemes that support bulk purchasing schemes for utilities and insurances
- Support for new and innovative ways to encourage physical activity and participation such as via:
 - > Closing roads at off-peak times for 'pop up' sport and recreation use or reclaiming road reserves for the provision of active travel infrastructure
 - > Integrating or leveraging technological 'elements' into infrastructure, programs or activities to encourage and facilitate physical activity. This could include the use of Apps, E-sports or 'fun features' that are activated through being physically active