

# SPORTSAY ELECTION EDITION

MARCH 2010

South Australian Sports Federation Inc. (Sport SA)

Patron: His Excellency, Rear Admiral, Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia

-  Sports Funding
-  Sports Facilities
-  Sports Volunteers
-  Sport Education
-  Sports Industry Workforce Development
-  Sports Events

## SPORT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sport SA is the peak industry body for sport in South Australia representing 150 sport and recreation organisations who deliver sport and recreation for 805,000 adults (65.8%) and 123,000 children (64.1%) (1) South Australians.

Sport is an integral part of our lifestyle and we enjoy sport as participants, coaches, officials and spectators.

Participation in sport can be recreational, with an emphasis on fun and physical activity or have a performance emphasis on competition within an event structure.

Community sport at the grass roots level provides excellent health benefits while developing the physical and social well-being of all participants. Elite sport caters for high performance

athletes competing at a state, national or international level and the success of our athletes is enjoyed by the entire community.

Participants and the service providers of sport and physical recreation need support and resources for the sustainability of sport and our community. Sport is also the 48.5% of South Australians (2) who attend sporting events and enjoy the opportunity to see our athletes in action at every level of competition.

The sports industry continues to evolve with an increasing contribution to the economy. Employment across the sector (1% of all employed people in 2007(3)) continues to grow with predominantly small business providing the services in sport and physical recreation. In addition sport is an integral part of other industries such as events, tourism and hospitality.

Volunteers are the core of our industry and we are dependent on their outstanding contribution. In South Australia sport and physical recreation organisations have the highest percentage of volunteers (35%)(4) involved in many roles such as coaching, refereeing, administration, data management, communication, fundraising and sales.

Sport provides benefits to the economy not only in the industry outcomes of employment, expenditure and services but also as documented, participants in sport enjoy reduced health expenses and improved workforce productivity.

Sport SA as the peak industry body enjoys valuable relationships with the government through the Office for Recreation and Sport and key partnerships across the sectors of local, state and federal government to promote the provision of sport for all South Australians.

The challenges for our members are here now and the 2010 State Election provides an excellent opportunity for sport in South Australia to ensure that all political parties are aware of the issues facing our members in providing quality delivery of sport for all South Australians.

***This Election Edition of Sportsay outlines both the key areas of concern and our recommendations in relation to strategies which we believe would provide significant value to sport in South Australia.***

**John Dicker APM**  
President

**Jan Sutherland**  
Chief Executive Officer

Refs: 1. ABS 2009: Sport and Recreation: A Statistical Overview. Australia. page 15 and 16

2. Ibid Page 29

3. Ibid Page 41

4. Harrison Market Research Volunteering in South Australia 2008 Page 31



## SPORTS FUNDING

There needs to be greater recognition of the significant role that is played by sport and recreation in providing valuable community, social and health benefits. This requires an increase in the public investment in sport and recreation to ensure quality delivery and affordability of sport for all.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Triennial Grants Program to be retained.
- All Grants Programs be indexed to include the 4% for the last 5 years to increase current pool of funding to reflect the 1million participants in sport.
- Introduce a Funding Program for Major Facility Development
- Community Recreation & Sport Facilities Funding Program increased to \$3m.
- State Sports Lottery to be investigated
- Increased % Tax from Lotteries to be allocated to sport and recreation
- The Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing to have adequate funding to ensure that they are able to support sport and recreation.
- The South Australian Sports Institute to be retained with the Program funded to support national and state elite programs.



“Target Rifle State Championships”

## SPORTS FACILITIES

All South Australians participating in sport have the right to suitable, quality facilities now and in the future. We need world-class sporting stadiums.

The provision and standard of community level facilities in the State are not acceptable. A major investment in the community style facility is needed by the incoming party in order to deliver quality experiences for all participants. Currently thousands of children are unable to participate due to the number and capacity of sporting fields throughout the state. This is not acceptable and needs to be firstly recognised and secondly acted upon.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- State Sports Park – Future development or replacement with provision for the same community and state level facilities for sport.
- Major Sporting Facility in the City including Stadium
- National Level Indoor Sports Facility Quality National Level Facilities for sport to conduct National Events including for National League Teams
- Strategic Planning and Partnerships across government sectors for Sports Facility Development
- Planning for sport and recreation facilities to be a priority in all developments
- Planning approach to open space needs to reflect the quality and size required for sport and active recreation.
- Promotion of a model of sports and government working in partnership to provide quality, sustainable community sports facilities.



“ABA Basketball Finals”



## SPORTS VOLUNTEERS

Sport is sustainable due to the contribution of our volunteers. They require greater recognition with education, training and support to facilitate their involvement and reduce constraints

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Free Volunteer Training for sport –specific courses and requirements.
- Recognition of volunteers with public transport and fuel vouchers
- Responsible Officer Training to be provided at no cost to community sporting organisations.
- VOAN System to be retained and extended to include a free criminal history assessment per the new legislative requirements for working with vulnerable groups.
- Sport and Recreation Volunteer Scholarship Program to be retained.

## SPORT IN EDUCATION

Sport and Physical Education must be included in the core curriculum of all South Australian schools to reflect the significance of sport and physical activity in the holistic development and education of the individual.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Specialists Physical Education teachers in all Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Sport and Physical Education to be taught in line with guidelines for regular physical activity for healthy living.
- All schools to be supported within the global budget with resources for sport with a program similar to “be active Let’s Go” which was discontinued in 2007.
- DECS Aquatics Program to be retained
- Pacific School Games to be held in Adelaide.
- Physical Education and sports facilities built in DECS sites to meet the risk management requirements of community sport.

## SPORTS INDUSTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Government must continue to support the workforce development for the Sports Industry to reflect our economic and social contribution including traineeships in Sport and Recreation and funding for professional development to existing employees within the Industry.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ORS Youth Traineeship Funding Incentive Program retained.
- Promotion and support of traineeships in sport and recreation for the government with reference to the Career Start Program.
- Sport and the service industry to be supported appropriately with professional development programs for the sport and recreation industry (i.e. Existing Workers PPP).

## SPORTS EVENTS

South Australia has enjoyed a great tradition in world class sporting events with the strong partnerships of our volunteers, sports managers and administrators making them successful. This outstanding contribution generates significant economic benefits for South Australia and this impact needs to be directed towards greater funding for sport and recreation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- A 10 year Program of Major Sporting Events to be conducted in South Australia to be developed in conjunction with NSO and State Sporting Organisations.
- The government to investigate and support a bid for the Commonwealth Games and Pacific School Games.



“BMX World Championships at Wayville”



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*The leader of sport in SA*

