



ASAPD

AUSTRALIAN SPORTING ALLIANCE
FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

ONE VOICE FOR AN INCLUSIVE SPORT AUSTRALIA (OVISA)



WHAT IS OVISA?



One Voice for an Inclusive Sport Australia (OVISA) marks a significant step forward in advancing inclusive sport and active recreation opportunities for people living with disability.

Building on the strong foundation established through the Inclusion Alliance Project launched in 2017, OVISA is an Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability (ASAPD) led national partnership framework designed to strengthen collaboration, build capability and create stronger connections across Australia's inclusive sport and active recreation sector.

OVISA brings together National Sporting Organisations for People with a Disability (NSODs), National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), inclusive sport and active recreation providers, disability service organisations, researchers, government agencies and other sector stakeholders who share a commitment to creating welcoming, accessible and inclusive sporting environments.

OVISA has three key goals:

- Foster collaboration that elevates inclusive sport and active recreation opportunities for people living with disability and advances an inclusive sport environment.
- Build the capability of organisations to deliver high-quality, inclusive programs across all levels of participation.
- Ensure people living with disability remain at the centre of decision-making and outcomes to create welcoming, accessible and inclusive sport and active recreation environments throughout Australia.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN OVISA?

Participation in OVISA provides organisations with:

- Access to a national network of inclusive sport and active recreation organisations.
- Opportunities to collaborate on projects, initiatives and advocacy activities.
- Access to shared knowledge, resources, training and professional development opportunities.
- Increased visibility and connection across the disability sport and active recreation sector.
- Opportunities to influence sector priorities and policy development.
- Enhanced pathways for participants to engage in sport and active recreation.
- Access to partnerships that improve organisational capability, sustainability and impact.

WHAT DOES OVISA ACHIEVE?

OVISA will:

- Bring together inclusive sport and active recreation services designed for and with people living with disability.
- Strengthen the capability and confidence of organisations and individuals through targeted skill-building initiatives.
- Collaborate with disability communities to ensure people living with disability are at the centre of all decisions and actions.
- Advocate for systemic change that advances inclusivity, accessibility and empowerment.
- Build sector knowledge and capability to deliver high-quality inclusive programs.
- Promote awareness and education to support innovation and continuous improvement.
- Establish platforms for people with lived experience to contribute insights and guidance, with appropriate recognition and remuneration.
- Support organisations to navigate and meet government, governance and compliance requirements.

HOW DOES OVISA WORK?

OVISA operates through four interconnected partner groupings designed to support organisations with differing roles within the inclusive sport ecosystem.



1. ASAPD MEMBERS

One Voice for Australia's Peak Disability Sporting Organisations (NSODs)

ASAPD Members are nationally recognised disability sporting organisations responsible for leading participation and pathway opportunities from grassroots and community level, right up to elite competition within their respective sports.

Their role includes:

- Supporting welcoming, accessible and inclusive sport environments.
- Leveraging partnerships and shared resources to improve sustainability and efficiency.
- Strengthening planning, engagement and operational effectiveness.
- Connecting NSODs with NSOs and broader sector stakeholders.
- Supporting shared service initiatives that reduce duplication and increase impact.
- Ensuring disability sport programs are effectively connected across all OVISA partners.

Examples:

Blind Sports Australia, Boccia Australia, Disabled Wintersport Australia, Riding for the Disabled Australia and other recognised NSODs.

2. AFFILIATE PARTNERS

One Voice for Inclusive Sport and Active Recreation Organisations

Affiliate Partners are organisations that directly deliver sport, active recreation or participation opportunities to people living with disability but sit outside the nationally recognised NSOD framework.

Their role includes:

- Broadening participation opportunities and community engagement.
- Building sporting communities and participant pathways.
- Developing leadership, governance and organisational sustainability.
- Sharing knowledge and promoting best practice.
- Advocating for resources and support to strengthen service delivery.
- Accessing guidance regarding governance, compliance and national frameworks.
- Contributing to a national information hub for accessible sport opportunities.

Examples:

Disability sport providers, community recreation organisations, specialist participation programs and disability-specific sport initiatives.

3. NSO PARTNERS

One Voice for Nationally Recognised Peak Sporting Organisations

NSO Partners are mainstream sporting organisations committed to increasing participation opportunities for people living with disability within their sports.

Their role includes:

- Leading and guiding inclusive participation pathways.
- Implementing leading practice inclusion initiatives.
- Building sporting communities and participation opportunities.
- Strengthening collaboration with NSODs, Affiliate Partners and Sector Partners.
- Developing research and evaluation partnerships.
- Building organisational leadership and inclusion capability.

Examples:

National Sporting Organisations recognised by the Australian Sports Commission.

4. SECTOR PARTNERS

One Voice for Inclusive Sport and Active Recreation Organisations

Sector Partners are organisations whose primary role is to support, influence, strengthen or enable the broader inclusive sport and active recreation sector.

Unlike Affiliate Partners, which directly deliver programs, Sector Partners focus on sector development, advocacy, research, education, policy, capability building and systems improvement.

Their role includes:

- Providing guidance and expertise to strengthen inclusive practice.
- Promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing across the sector.
- Supporting alignment of policies, programs and resources.
- Building organisational capability to design, deliver and evaluate inclusive initiatives.
- Developing partnerships that expand participation opportunities.
- Advocating for the value and benefits of inclusion.
- Influencing cultural and systemic change across sport and active recreation.

Examples:

Universities, research institutions, disability advocacy organisations, government agencies, peak bodies, consultants and sector development organisations.

HOW IS OVISA GOVERNED?

OVISA is facilitated by ASAPD and operates as a collaborative partnership model that supports alignment across the disability sport and active recreation sector.

Participating organisations contribute to the ongoing development of OVISA through consultation, working groups, collaborative projects and shared strategic priorities. The model is designed to encourage collective leadership, shared responsibility and continuous improvement across the sector.

MEASURING SUCCESS



OVISA will seek to achieve:

- Increased participation by people living with disability in sport and active recreation.
- Stronger collaboration across the sport system.
- Improved organisational capability and sustainability.
- Greater alignment of programs, policies and resources.
- Increased representation of lived experience in decision-making.
- Improved accessibility and inclusion outcomes across participating organisations.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Organisations interested in becoming part of OVISA are encouraged to contact ASAPD to discuss the most appropriate partnership category and opportunities for involvement.

Whether your organisation delivers programs directly, supports sector development, conducts research, advocates for inclusion or leads participation pathways, OVISA provides a platform to work collaboratively toward a shared vision:

An inclusive, connected and sustainable future for Australian sport and active recreation.