



Stakeholder Engagement Policy

Policy version and revision information

Policy Authorised by:	Dr Phil Hamdorf	Original Issue:	August 2026
Policy Maintained by:	Dr Phil Hamdorf	Next Review:	August 2027

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Policy is to provide a consistent and strategic framework for how ASAPD engages with stakeholders to support collaboration, advocacy, communication, transparency and informed decision-making across the disability sport sector.

This Policy supports ASAPD's commitment to inclusive practice, good governance, sector leadership, and meaningful stakeholder participation in accordance with the organisation's strategic priorities and the Sport Governance Standards.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to:

- ASAPD Directors;
 - employees and contractors;
 - consultants and advisors engaged by ASAPD; and
 - any individual representing ASAPD in stakeholder engagement activities.
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3. POLICY STATEMENT

ASAPD recognises that effective stakeholder engagement is essential to strengthening disability sport in Australia through collaboration, advocacy, shared learning and stronger sector outcomes.

ASAPD is committed to:

- engaging stakeholders in a respectful, inclusive, and accessible manner;
 - creating opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to priorities and emerging issues;
 - ensuring advocacy is informed by lived experience, sector expertise and evidence;
 - maintaining transparent communication and consultation processes; and
 - demonstrating accountability through regular reporting and feedback mechanisms.
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4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Policy are to:

1. Support ASAPD's strategic direction through structured stakeholder engagement.
 2. Strengthen collaboration and coordination across the alliance and broader disability sport sector.
 3. Improve the quality of advocacy, policy input and sector representation.
 4. Foster trust, transparency and constructive relationships with stakeholders.
 5. Ensure stakeholder feedback informs organisational planning and decision-making.
 6. Promote consistent and accessible communication practices.
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5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Stakeholder engagement undertaken by ASAPD will be guided by the following principles:

Inclusion

ASAPD will seek to engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including people with disability and those with lived experience.

Accessibility

Engagement activities will be delivered in accessible formats and environments wherever reasonably practicable.

Respect

Stakeholders will be treated with professionalism, dignity and respect.

Transparency

ASAPD will communicate clearly about engagement objectives, processes and outcomes.

Collaboration

ASAPD values partnership approaches that encourage shared learning and collective problem-solving.

Accountability

ASAPD will consider stakeholder feedback and communicate how engagement outcomes have informed decisions and actions.

6. STAKEHOLDERS

ASAPD stakeholders may include, but are not limited to:

Member Organisations

- Blind Sports Australia
- Boccia Australia
- Deaf Sports Australia
- Disabled Wintersport Australia
- Riding for the Disabled
- Special Olympics Australia
- Sport Inclusion Australia
- Transplant Australia

Government and Funding Bodies

- Commonwealth Minister for Sport
- Australian Sports Commission
- Sports Integrity Australia
- Other relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies.

Participants and Community

People with disability participating in sport and recreation, families, carers, volunteers and community representatives.

Sector and Integrity Organisations

- disability advocacy organisations;
- sector peak bodies; and
- policy and inclusion organisations.

Partners and Collaborators

Strategic, academic, legal, commercial and service delivery partners engaged by ASAPD.

7. ENGAGEMENT METHODS

ASAPD may engage stakeholders through a variety of methods, including:

- meetings and consultations;
- member roundtables and forums;
- surveys and feedback opportunities;
- workshops and listening sessions;
- strategic partnerships;
- written communications and newsletters;
- conferences and events; and
- online engagement platforms.

Examples of engagement activities may include:

- member CEO/Executive Director roundtables;

- lived experience listening sessions coordinated through member organisations;
 - stakeholder engagement sessions at the ASAPD Forum; and
 - publication of annual engagement summaries outlining feedback received and resulting actions.
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8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Board

The ASAPD Board is responsible for:

- approving this Policy;
- overseeing stakeholder engagement effectiveness; and
- considering stakeholder feedback in strategic planning and governance activities.

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO is responsible for:

- implementing this Policy;
- ensuring stakeholder engagement activities align with organisational priorities;
- reporting significant stakeholder themes and outcomes to the Board; and
- promoting a culture of respectful and collaborative engagement.

Staff and Representatives

Staff and representatives of ASAPD are responsible for:

- undertaking stakeholder engagement consistent with this Policy;
 - maintaining professional and respectful communication; and
 - appropriately documenting and escalating key issues or feedback.
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9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

ASAPD will:

- periodically review stakeholder engagement activities and outcomes;
 - provide updates to the Board on key stakeholder themes and emerging issues;
 - identify opportunities for improvement in engagement practices; and
 - review this Policy at least every two years or earlier if required.
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10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- ASAPD Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- ASAPD Strategic Plan;
- ASAPD Communication policies and procedures;
- ASAPD Governance Framework; and
- relevant ASC governance guidance and standards.