

# Resource 33: Making facilities and equipment accessible

## Facilities and activities are accessible: Welcome

Training facilities, the workplace and public sporting events should be welcoming of and accessible to all people regardless of gender, age, disability, racial or religious background or sexuality. Accessibility allows dignified and non-discriminatory entry and use of buildings, facilities, equipment and services, particularly for people with a disability. Improving access involves taking a closer look at the physical environment of the facility and the rules (written and unwritten) for accessing facilities and equipment, particularly when there are limited resources. The following tips can help to make facilities more inclusive and accessible.

### What can you do – for women and girls?

- Even if you only have male sports teams think about how female coaches, umpires and other officials can access the facility and use of showers, toilets and change rooms.
- Many women and girls prefer privacy, so install shower curtains in the change rooms.
- Have clear signage for men's and women's toilets and make sure they are clean and tidy. A sanitary disposal bin is important in the women's toilet.
- Roster access to training facilities and equipment (if there is a difference in the standard, quality or best times to train).
- Display posters and other visual images showing women and girls as well as men and boys.
- Display trophies won by women and girls and make sure their names are included on the state honour board and in association publications.
- In the association office and facilities, promote social marketing campaigns (for example, White Ribbon Day or the Enough campaigns) that make it clear that the association condemns violence. Don't hold inappropriate social activities at or outside of the association office/facilities – for example, functions that allow binge drinking, strippers or potentially offensive comedians.
- Make sure that any graffiti, tags or other material that are offensive or derogatory towards women and girls are promptly removed.
- Make sure external lighting to the office and car park is adequate.

### What can you do – for people with a disability?

- Ensure easy accessibility to all rooms in your association's office, particularly meeting rooms, toilets and change rooms (e.g. are passageways wide enough for a person using a wheelchair?).
- Some parts of a facility/complex are more accessible than others – allocate games closer to change rooms.
- Ensure that at least one toilet is an accessible toilet and is in a convenient location.
- Ensure the car park has adequate spaces for people with a disability that are clearly marked and close to the facility entrance.
- Provide a smooth and clear path between the car park and the building entrance.
- Provide clear signage.
- Consider communication cards (cards with clear images of the key aspects of your sport and/or facility).
- At sporting arenas, provide seating that is easy to access and has a clear view of the sport but does not segregate people with a disability from other spectators.
- Provide a free ticket to the carer of people with a disability when attending sporting events.
- Ensure ramps have a gradual slope, handrails and safety or kerb rails.
- Provide staff with training so they can provide assistance to people with a disability.
- Display posters and other visual images showing people with a disability involved in your sport.

- Assist local leagues and clubs to take action to ensure that their activities are accessible and inclusive for people with a disability.

### **What can you do – for people from diverse cultural backgrounds?**

- Provide information on policies, services, jobs and facilities in languages that are appropriate to the local demographic.
- Employ and/or train staff who can service and represent the needs of culturally diverse communities.
- Provide a prayer, meditation or quiet space available for all.
- Make sure that any graffiti, tags or other material that are offensive or derogatory towards people from diverse cultures are promptly removed.
- Accommodate cultural and religious needs concerning physical space and dress codes.
- Display posters and other visual images that positively reflect the diversity in the community and your sport.
- Support bi-cultural workers to become administrators, coaches and referees.
- Assist local leagues and clubs located in multicultural areas to take action to ensure that their activities are accessible and inclusive for people from culturally diverse communities.

### **What can you do – for Indigenous Australians?**

- Fly the Aboriginal flag alongside any other flags outside venues and other facilities.
- Display posters and other visual images that reflect the involvement of Aboriginal people in your sport.
- Make sure that any written information is in clear, plain English and avoid the use of jargon and acronyms.
- Support Indigenous Australians to become administrators, coaches and referees.
- Assist local leagues and clubs located to take action to ensure that their activities are accessible and inclusive for Indigenous Australians.
- Make sure that any graffiti, tags or other material that are offensive or derogatory towards Indigenous Australians are promptly removed.
- Provide a supply of second-hand equipment and flexible uniform requirements (to reduce the cost).
- Provide scholarships or other assistance for talented Aboriginal players, coaches and officials.

Source: Office for Disability

**Developed in collaboration**

Collaboration leader:



Source:

