

Resource 35: Reducing the cost of participation

Facilities and activities are accessible: Welcome

Why is it important to reduce costs?

We know that there are significantly lower levels of participation of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Indigenous Australians in Australian sport. One of the main barriers to participation is the cost of sport (e.g. registration and membership fees, the cost to hire facilities for training and buying uniforms and equipment). People with a disability can also face a number of higher costs in order to regularly participate in sport. This can include large costs such as hiring accessible taxis, extra equipment and in some cases carers. Taking action to reduce the cost of participation benefits all members. The following provides some ideas on how to reduce the cost of participation.

- Providing a supply of second-hand equipment and uniforms.
- Introducing a flexible uniform policy.
- Providing transport subsidies for athletes and coaches (on an as-needed basis) to attend training sessions, meetings, conferences and professional development opportunities.
- Seeking sponsorship for teams and/or individuals (athletes, coaches and/or officials) to enable them to participate at the state level.
- Seeking support from and partnering with relevant community organisations to assist the participation within your sport by disadvantaged individuals and families.
- Conducting a fundraiser or applying for a grant to support participation by disadvantaged individuals and families.
- Providing a subsidy for childcare (to encourage participation of female coaches).
- Providing family discounts (membership, event entry, social events).
- Recognising Companion Cards (refer to Resource 36).
- Subsidising fees for people with a disability or alternatively only charging the insurance proportion of membership fees and waiving the administrative fee.
- Introducing flexible payment schemes (e.g. periodic payment plans and/or pay as you play systems).
- Providing discounts on membership fees for those who volunteer their services (e.g. coach or official).
- Seeking, providing and/or supporting scholarships (such as coaching and officiating scholarship) particularly for women, people with a disability, Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- Promoting government and community grant schemes that support participation (e.g. Victorian Multicultural Commission's Community Grants Program <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/grants>) to your members.

Source: Office for Disability

Developed in collaboration

Collaboration leader:



Source:

