



Maccabi Victoria & Jewish Care (Vic) All Abilities

All Abilities Needs Analysis – Executive Summary

2012 Sport & active recreation analysis & recommendations to better support people with disabilities & special needs within the Victorian Jewish Community.

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- Joint Councils Access for All Abilities JCAAA (City of Port Phillip and City of Bayside)
- Jewish Schools Integration Program
- Swimming Australia
- Tanya Munz
- United Jewish Education Board UJEB

2 PROJECT CONTACTS

A full list of project contacts is provided below.

Project Management Group

Surname	First Name	Organisation	Role
Burger	Nikki	Maccabi Victoria & Jewish Care	Research Project Officer
Gibson	Louisa	Access Inc	Project Manager
Hamilton	Sharon	Maccabi Victoria All Abilities	Committee
Jaffe	Russell	Jaffe Consulting Pty Ltd	Consultant
		Maccabi Victoria Sports Foundation	President
Kreiner	Kevin	Jewish Care	Manager Disability Services
Sheeziel	Phil	Maccabi Victoria Sports Foundation	Trustee

Project Contacts

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Connolly	David	City of Port Phillip & Bayside	Sport Development Officer
Flaherty	Maureen	Jewish Care	General Manager
Goodhart	Sharon	Jewish Schools	Integration Coordinator
Lerner	Jacquie	Maccabi Victoria	Events & Volunteer Manager
Markus	Andrew	ACJC, Monash University	Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilisation
Munz	Tanya	ACJC, Monash University	Research Associate
Newton	Marlo	UJEB	Executive Director
Parke	Eli	B/Nei Akiva	Merakez
Woods	Michael	Swimming Australia	Community Sport Inclusion Coordinator
Zanetti	Ombretta	City of Stonnington & Glen Eira	Recreation Access Officer

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 Project Objectives

Maccabi Victoria and Jewish Care (VIC) All Abilities partnered to conduct an analysis of the Victorian Jewish community with disability/special needs. Four strategic objectives were examined:

1. Identify the number of Jewish people in Victoria with special needs and the nature of their disabilities;
2. Identify their sporting & recreational needs and aspirations;
3. Identify current and future programs and projects (especially involving Maccabi clubs) to meet their needs and aspirations, developing their potential as far as possible;
4. Develop a Service Blueprint supported by a series of recommendations that could be considered to improve the overall participation in sports and recreational activities for people with a disability.

3.2 Project Methodology

The Project was jointly funded by Maccabi Victoria and Jewish Care (VIC). The All Abilities Project examined and analysed the sport and active recreational needs of Jewish people in Victoria with disabilities- it was not possible to include passive recreation within the scope of this project. Information and data relative to the key objectives was gained through a range of techniques to derive informed conclusions and recommendations:

- Semi structured interviews with key stakeholders (face to face and over the phone);
- Participants Survey using online Survey Monkey;
- Maccabi Clubs Survey using online Survey Monkey;
- Internet and background research;
- Several Project Management Group meetings held to review developments and guide the overall project.

3.3 The number of Jewish people in Victoria with special needs and nature of their disabilities

Using the 2011 census enumerated figures; there are an estimated total of 2,645 Jewish persons living in Victoria of all ages (based on those requiring a carer for core activities) with disability/special needs (Markus and Munz, 2012). It can be assumed that for those under 60 years, there will be a primary disability diagnosis that does not account for age/frailty requiring care (Kreiner, 2012). As such, there are an estimated 517 (240 males and 277 females) Victorian Jewish people with disabilities/special needs (Markus and Munz, 2012).

From discussions with key organisations providing services to the Victorian Jewish disability sector, it is evident that most are finding database upkeep problematic and are unable to access key demographic statistics with ease or guaranteed accuracy. The total figure derived from database estimates is 477. However, due to overlaps, this figure may be as low as 200 persons.

3.4 Summary of Key Survey Findings - Participant Survey

48 people commenced the survey and 40 completed it (83.3% completion rate). The top three age group responses were; 31-40 yrs (25.0%), 18-25 yrs (16.7%) and 13-17 yrs (16.6%). There was an even response rate from males and females.

Note: In this section, some percentages total greater than 100% due to respondents being able to select more than one response to a question.

3.4.1 How Participants are Affected by Disability

The most common ways in which participants are affected by disability are; intellectual impairment (66.7%), ASD (22.9%) or physical impairment (18.8%). 73.9% receive a Disability Support Pension and 43.8% have an Aide to assist with core activities with a further 29.2% “sometimes” needing an Aide.

3.4.2 Sport and Physical Activity Profile

68.8% of respondents participate in physical activity; 31.3% do not - an almost two thirds: one third ratio. 43.8% participate in physical activity 1-2 times/week. 27.1% do not participate in any physical activity and 16.7% exercise 3-4/ week. 68.6% of respondents play sport with a club and 31.4% do their physical activities outside a club environment.

3.4.3 Most Popular Sports/Physical Activities

The five most popular sports or activities are; swimming (56.8%), ten pin bowling (50%) and walking (43.2%), followed by fitness/gym (34.1%) and dance (31.8%). The top three reasons why the participants most like to play sport and being active are; “it’s fun” (47.7%), “it helps me improve my skills,” (40.9%) and “it’s a good way to make friends” (38.6%).

3.4.4 Barriers preventing participation in sport/physical activities

Almost 80% of respondents experience barriers to participating in sport/active recreation, including; lack of support (25%), unsuitable times (20.5%), not liking sport (15.9%) and expense (15.9%). 20.5% experienced no barriers to participation.

3.5 Summary of Key Survey Findings - Maccabi Victoria Clubs

24 Survey e-invitations were sent to the 22 Maccabi Victoria clubs, the All Abilities Group and Maccabi Victoria, itself. 22 responses were received, an excellent 91.6% response rate.

Note: In this section, some percentages total greater than 100% due to respondents being able to select more than one response to a question.

3.5.1 Club Size

The majority of clubs (45.5%) have 50 members or less, followed by 13.6% that have 50-100 members. 9.1% have 100-150 members, 9.1% have 200-250 members and another 9.1% have 450-500 members. An estimate (upper end) of total members from the response group for the 2012 season is 3,950 members. A mid-range estimate is 3,425. Please note; these figures exclude the Lawn Bowls and Golf clubs, who did not provide a response.

3.5.2 Level of Inclusive Club Activity

The majority (54.5%) of clubs do not presently have members with disabilities. 27.3% have members with disabilities and 18.2% were unsure. The three most common responses to disability type were; intellectual impairment (62.5%), physical impairment (3 clubs) and those not sure of the disability type (3 clubs). More than half the clubs (57.1%) offer an “integrated” participation option for people with a disability. 26.6% offer no participation options and the remaining 14.3% of clubs offer “concurrent” (training/playing at the same time) options.

3.5.3 Barriers and Concerns to Making Clubs More Inclusive

The top three responses to the barriers of being more inclusive of people with disabilities are; “physical ability and level of play” (57.1%), “lack of understanding about opportunities,” (52.4%) and “concerns regarding integration and how to manage” (42.9%).

3.5.4 Awareness and Attitudes around Inclusion Strategies and Training

In accessing sport and recreation, 72.7% of clubs are aware that Maccabi Victoria’s All Abilities group provides programs/services to people with disabilities. 36.4% were unaware of any services available, confirming a low level awareness of services available. Only four clubs have a “policy” document in place that includes a statement about discrimination and equitable access. Nine clubs responded “no” and another nine, “unsure.” 85.7% of clubs do not have a strategy for inclusion of members with a disability.

Only 9.5% of club committee members have undergone disability awareness training and only 9.1% of club coaches have undergone disability awareness/inclusion training. The majority of clubs 63.6% do not have a designated person who can be contacted in relation to disability/inclusion opportunities enquiries. Again, the majority of clubs (86.4%) do not provide

specific information for people with disability via typical promotional channels (website, newsletter, social media, etc.)

3.5.5 Opportunities for Inclusion

28.6% of clubs have the capacity to mentor someone with a disability into volunteer roles. The top three responses to identification of inclusive mentoring opportunities were; “scoring,” “club administration” and “assistant coaching.” In offering assistance to people with disabilities, 53.8% could “conduct a skills clinic,” 46.2% could offer “coaching assistance” and 46.2% could support a buddy/mentor program. Five clubs could “provide a coaching session at a local holiday camp.”

3.5.6 Support for Members Experiencing Financial Hardship

81.8% of clubs provide support to members in financial need. Of the clubs providing financial support, all (100%) provide financial support through membership fees subsidies. Additionally, 5 clubs provide coaching fee support. Based on responses, the total estimated value of financial support is approximately \$12,150 per year.

3.6 Key Considerations

The quality and aspirations of the partnership between Maccabi Victoria and Jewish Care (Vic) Inc in relation to the establishment, ongoing promotion and support for people of all abilities to participate (where appropriate), in sport and recreational activities, should not only continue but be enhanced throughout the Victorian Jewish Community through the securing of appropriate financial resources.

The partnership was established for the promotion and advancement of the rights, welfare and social inclusion of people with disabilities engaged in sport and recreational activities, by, but not limited to:

- Identifying opportunities for the participation of Jewish people of all abilities in sports and recreation opportunities;
- Supporting and encouraging innovation and improved sporting and recreational practices;
- Encouraging, conducting and supporting research concerning sporting and recreational activities for people with disabilities in the Jewish Community;
- Assisting in obtaining appropriate funding and support for organisations working with people with disabilities and their carers;
- Securing the funds to support the employment of a Project Officer through Maccabi Victoria as the auspice organisation to drive key initiatives and achieve outcomes.

This Partnership established for the All Abilities Project should be maintained as a steering committee to focus on resourcing and implementing future strategies for Inclusive Sport and Active Recreation based on the key findings and considerations identified in this Report.

3.6.1 Number of Jewish people in Victoria with special needs and the nature of their disabilities

Recommendation One

The actual number of Jewish people in Victoria with disabilities and special needs is extremely difficult to ascertain. Based on the 2011 census figures, it is likely to be higher than the number of persons that we were able to identify from our research. We need to develop a more comprehensive, coordinated and more meaningful way of capturing minimal data sets within our communal organisations.

Consideration should be given to:

- Key organisations (Jewish Care, Maccabi Victoria All Abilities, Access Inc., B'Nei Akiva Shevet Uval, JSIP and UJEB) delivering services and programs to the Victorian Jewish disability establishing a more robust and accurate way of capturing data sets of Jewish people in Victoria with special needs, key demographic information as well as the nature of their needs;
- Investing in a single record client database that could possibly be shared with the various Jewish agencies that work in the disability space to enhance service coordination;
- Exploring ways to access the All Abilities population that is not currently reached by existing services; and
- Further developing and engaging the disability networks, seeking “buy in” from parent groups, etc.

3.6.2 Sporting & recreational needs and aspirations

Recommendation Two

There is currently an ad-hoc approach to identifying and providing sporting solutions and options for people with disabilities and special needs in our community. We need to more precisely identify the areas where we should concentrate our energies in order to maximise the benefits for those affected and create improved opportunities to participate.

Consideration should be given to:

- Strengthening existing partnership arrangements and resource capacity of Maccabi Victoria and Jewish Care (VIC), consistent with their leadership roles in the community, to oversee the overall sport and recreation experiences of people with disabilities in the Victorian Jewish community. This needs to be based on an explicit strategic commitment to improving and upgrading the sport and physical recreation experiences of this sector;
- Maccabi Victoria to prioritise the establishment of greater opportunities for the disability sector to access sport/physical activity. This development needs to be articulated in its strategic plan and measured against increases in membership/participation;
- Maccabi Victoria and Jewish Care (VIC), to develop strategies to overcome barriers for people with disabilities to participate in sport/active recreation (lack of support, unsuitable times, not liking sport and expense), aiming to engage a significantly greater percentage of people with disabilities in the Victorian Jewish community into sport;
- To look at broadening the range of sporting and recreational options available to people with special needs;

- Initially concentrating future resources on programs and services in the five most popular sports or activities selected; swimming, Ten Pin Bowling, Walking, fitness/gym and dance;
- Possible incentive mechanisms to be implemented to monitor attraction, engagement and retention of people with disability into sports associations, along the lines of Swimming Australia's "Go Club Inclusion" program that rewards clubs for their inclusion practices; and
- Establishing educational programs that emphasise the health benefits of participating in sport or active recreation a minimum of three times/week.

3.6.3 Current and future programs and projects

Recommendation Three

There is currently a lack of understanding of the needs and aspirations of those with disabilities and special needs within the Maccabi clubs and other community organisations. We need to work towards improving the understanding of our clubs and the community and develop strategies and programs that will assist achieving better outcomes for all.

Consideration should be given to:

- Developing a Membership System by which to collect accurate annual membership numbers and member details from all Maccabi Clubs;
- Maccabi Victoria creating and implementing an "Inclusion Policy" as a priority in establishing pathways to develop the "all ability" potential as far as possible;
- Maccabi Victoria supporting the clubs to undertake steps to increase diversity; to become proactive in creating accepting and inclusive sporting environments, and to understand the potential for everyone to participate at the level and role of their choice;
- Maccabi Victoria providing training and support for their clubs to increase their awareness and experience in inclusion-related practices, and for their coaches to undertake appropriate education in the area of inclusion;
- Maccabi Victoria developing a Communications/Social Media Strategy linking to its Inclusion Strategy whereby opportunities for people with disabilities are proactively promoted through all channels (website, newsletter, social media, etc.), increasing reach & profile;
- Maccabi Victoria and the various clubs promoting their programs in the local council "All Abilities" or equivalent newsletters with the aim of reaching new audiences;
- Developing strategies that will raise the presence and profile of the Maccabi / Jewish Care (VIC) All Abilities group in the community;
- Developing Inclusion strategies (including "one off" activities and events that support people with disabilities), especially programs for mentoring people with disabilities into club volunteer roles; and
- Developing reporting processes that captures data relating to clubs providing financial support and in-kind support to members with a disability, including the amount and nature of support, to be provided to Maccabi Victoria and Maccabi Victoria Sports Foundation. This level of accountability could then be considered for subsequent support by the auspicing bodies.

3.6.4 Service Blueprint

Recommendation Four

There is a need to develop coordinated plans and strategies to support people with disabilities and special needs in our community over the long term in a way that is sustainable, practical and relevant to the needs of those affected. We need to ensure the buy-in and commitment from all relevant stakeholders.

3.7 Conclusion

A strategic and multi-faceted approach to increasing sport and active recreation participation opportunities for people with disabilities in Victoria is urgently needed.

To achieve this multi-faceted approach and implement the recommendations outlined in this report, a whole of community approach is needed; appropriate resource allocation and a shared communal aspiration to create a vibrant and viable Jewry that has Inclusion as a central tenant of its being.

It is noted that a separate study and plan would be needed for passive recreation needs of the target population as this report does not cover passive recreation needs.