



Rowing Australia
Disability Action Plan
2006-2007

Preamble

In 2006 Rowing Australia (RA) joined Project CONNECT, an initiative of the Australian Sports Commission designed to create greater opportunities for people with a disability to participate in sport and physical activity. Since its inception in 2002 Project CONNECT has assisted many national sports organisations (NSOs) to develop and implement Disability Action Plans. These NSOs continue to deliver strategies that will mean more people with a disability get involved in their respective sports.

Project CONNECT is divided into four main levels:

- Green – Preparation phase – 12 months
- Bronze – up to 2 years
- Silver – up to 2 years
- Gold - ongoing

The Green level provides the basis for progression through the additional stages and focuses on a National Audit and drafting of a Disability Action Plan.

Aims

In order for Rowing Australia to progress involvement in the Green Phase of Project CONNECT the following steps have been taken:

- Board Commitment to Project CONNECT
- Employ Adaptive Rowing and Competition Administrator
- Establish a Steering Committee
- Conduct a National Audit
- Draft a Disability Action Plan (DAP)

On completion of the Green Phase, RA will expand the DAP to articulate its strategies for progress through Bronze, Silver and Gold Phases.

Commitment

The RA Board met on 16 September 2006 and made a make a commitment to Project CONNECT and its values issuing the following statement

“Rowing Australia is pleased to announce our participation in Project CONNECT. This ASC initiative is aimed at increasing the development, participation and competition of sport for athletes with a disability. Rowing Australia is committed to providing opportunities for adaptive rowing (rowing for athletes with a disability) and is excited about the prospect of further developing the support provided to athletes already participating in adaptive rowing and those looking to join the sport.”

RA’s initiatives aim to also provide opportunities for people with disabilities in broader aspects of the sport such as coaching, officiating and administration.

The Steering Committee

The steering committee has been established to guide RA through the Project CONNECT process and comprises people from within and outside the sport who bring a broad knowledge of the sport with some members having expertise and/or experience in disability sport. They will act strategically and will be able to influence decision makers at various levels of the sport. The Project CONNECT Steering Committee’s membership consists of the following:

- National Development Officer
- Adaptive Rowing Administrator
- Athlete Representative
- 3 Technical Advisors
- A Disability Sport (Non-Rowing) Advisor
- The FISA Adaptive Rowing Commission Australian Representative.

Key Focus Areas of the Disability Action Plan

The Disability Action Plan (DAP) provides the framework and guidance to achieve the goals set out by Rowing in accordance with Project CONNECT. The Plan aims to address the 3 key Project CONNECT focus areas of development, participation and competition through implementing strategies in the following areas:

- Coach Education - Finalisation and implementation of the NCAS Accreditation *“Coaching Rowers with a Disability”*
- Competition – Identifying and promoting opportunities to include adaptive rowing events at a local, state, national and international levels
- Club Development – Identifying and assisting with the development of tools and strategies for clubs to improve access and inclusion
- Classification – Developing and implementing a National Classification system including processing and accreditation of classifiers

The Plan

Rowing Australia – Green to Bronze Level

2006 - 2007 Disability Action Plan

Key Result Area	Performance Measures	Support/State Association Role	Achievement Yes/No/In Progress	Comments
1. Policy				
1.1 Board Commitment	Statement of Commitment issued by RA Board in support of Project Connect Goals and Objectives	State Associations endorse and support RA's commitment	Yes	Statement made on 16 September 2006
	RA Board approve dedicated staff position and appoint RA Adaptive Rowing Coordinator	States liaise with RA Coordinator as key point of contact	Yes	RA Coordinator appointed November 2006
1.2 Undertake a national audit to determine the level of inclusion at all level of adaptive rowing	An audit conducted of state sport organisations, state sport & recreation associations and third tier organisations rowing clubs	Assist in the completion of the questionnaire and identifying avenues for networking	Yes	An understanding of the levels of disability awareness and current activities now established nationally
1.3 Stakeholder Consultation	Conduct annual stakeholder forum	Provide constructive feedback and input into direction of adaptive rowing	Yes	2007 forum conducted at national rowing championships
1.4 Establish a	Committee established	Provide constructive	Yes	Committee brings

National Steering Committee		feedback and input to steering committee members		broad knowledge of the sport and/or disability sport, both internally and externally
1.5 Endorsement of Disability Action Plan by senior management and board	DAP approved by ASC and registered with HREOC	Acceptance and endorsement of the plan by the states	In Progress	
2. Development				
2.1 Coach Education	Finalise and implement NCAS Accreditation	Implement at state level	In Progress	
	Develop coach manual and further education material	Provide feedback and input into coaching resources	In Progress	
2.2 Club Development	Develop tools and strategies for clubs to improve access	Partner with RA in development and implementation of club tools – eg. Joint activities with NSWRA and their APC support	In Progress	
2.3 Disability Sport Networks	Develop opportunities for clubs and State Associations to formalise relationships with nationally recognised disability sport organisations	Identify possible partnerships and establish connections with disability sport organisations	In Progress	
2.4 Increase access to funding	Develop a funding registry database and template for applying	Assist in identifying funding opportunities and maintaining an up	In Progress	Ensure efficiencies in application and implementation of

	for grants	to date database		funding
3. Participation				
3.1 Participation	Support 2 state based education and 'come and try' days	Queensland – Dragons Club, QRA, Sporting Wheelies Tasmania - TBC	In Progress	
	Develop "How-to" check lists for the come and try days	States to assist in development of check list	In Progress	
3.2 Access audit manual	Outline areas for inclusion of athletes and other participants with a disability	Implement guidelines defined in manual at a state level and provide support to clubs	In Progress	Provide information on participation in roles other than as an athlete - eg coach, official, administration
3.3 Communication	Further develop communication links and strategies through the Rowing Australia website, emailing and phone access	Maintain a high level of involvement in website contributions and assist in proactive dissemination of information to members	In Progress	
4. Competition				
4.1 Competition	Provide opportunities to include adaptive rowing at local, state, national and international levels	Offer adaptive events at state regattas	Yes	
4.2 Classification	Develop and implement a national classification system including processing and accreditation of classifiers	Provide feedback and input into classification system and processes. Promote opportunities for training of classifiers	In Progress	

4.3 Equipment	Produce guidelines and specifications of appropriate equipment at various levels of adaptive rowing			
4.4 Pathways	Develop a HP Club Adaptive Rowing Accreditation System	Nominate suitable clubs to take part in HP Adaptive Rowing Accreditation System	In Progress	

Contacts

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