

SPORTING Schools



EVALUATION OF THE SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Key findings for Schools



Australian parents stated that sport should be of **'high'** or **'central'** importance in the **school curriculum**



Most people surveyed from schools and sport believe there is still **room to improve** the value **schools place on sport**.

95% PRINCIPALS
94% TEACHERS
93% COORDINATORS

Rated Sporting Schools as **'effective'** or **'very effective'** at increasing the value schools place on sport.

What's working well?



Benefits to children

- > Increases physical activity and fun
- > Improves access to sport
- > Opens up pathways to community sport
- > Improves learning outcomes
- > Boosts health and wellbeing



Benefits to schools

- > Helps develop skills of school staff to teach sport
- > Injects needed funds
- > Provides access to skilled and knowledgeable external coaches
- > Enhances existing HPE curriculum
- > Parents like it



External coaches are valued as deliverers because they:

- > Provide a change to the normal school routine
- > Provide expertise in sport-specific sport skills
- > Convey passion for the sport
- > Do not drain already stretched school resources.

For more information visit sportingschools.gov.au

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Children say that they enjoyed Sporting Schools most when it:

- Avoided drills and emphasised games
- Allowed all children to practice the sport at their own pace and ability level
- Allowed for at least one 'match' where children could use relevant skills they had learned

Building on success

Schools can maximise the effectiveness of Sporting Schools through:

Strategic sport selection



- > Engage normally disengaged children through modified and inclusive sport offerings
- > Offer sports with pathways to ongoing participation outside of school
- > Increase sport offerings, with an emphasis on greater variety and higher quality
- > Identify sports that have particular relevance for the school community

Co-delivery of programs



Engaging school staff and external coaches to deliver Sporting Schools enhances two-way knowledge transfer and ongoing relationships. In schools where this happens:

- > Staff have increased confidence to run physical activity sessions
- > Schools have access to game ideas and information about sport techniques
- > Staff are able to assist coaches with behaviour management and large group control
- > Link between the school and local community are strengthened
- > Students receive a higher quality sporting experience



91%
EXTERNAL COACHES



86%
TEACHERS



Say Sporting Schools and the organised sport it delivers are very important to children achieving good learning outcomes overall.

Communication with sports



Open communication with your selected sport deliverer before commencement is crucial to:

- > Increasing sports understanding of your schools needs and characteristics
- > Establishing and agreeing to expectations for delivery in your school
- > Ensuring program delivery best meets the needs of your school and students

Key success factors

Sporting Schools is most successful when products and delivery in schools include:

- > Engaged sports coordinator
- > Co-delivery by teachers and external coaches
- > An inclusive program that accommodates a diverse range of abilities
- > Good equipment/facilities
- > A well-designed junior product
- > Experienced coach
- > Appropriate child-to-coach ratios
- > Pathway to community sport

"The value of the program is way beyond sport. The sport engages the children, and an engaged child is so much easier to teach."

Principal

The Australian Sports Commission engaged ORIMA Research to undertake an independent national evaluation of the Sporting Schools program during 2016.

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