



SPORTACCESS
FOUNDATION

Chairperson's Report

2019



BLUESCOPE

Introduction

Young Australians living with a disability face many hurdles not only due to their disability, but also the challenges they face in the day to day. Facing these challenges each day is tiring and creates overtime frustration, and a sense of isolation in not being able to enjoy what their able body friends have access to.

One of these challenges is their ability to access and enjoy sport. This year we asked our applicants if they could write a letter to the CEO of Sport Australia and the Minister of Sport, what would they like to say.

Reading through these comments we are reminded of the significant gaps that still exists and the barriers to their participation in sport. Here are just a handful of comments:

Wheelchair racing in Queensland is almost non existent! There is a lack of coaching and support for the sport here. This means we are travelling interstate regularly to attend camps and receive coaching. To find a coach or club in Queensland who will support my goals and help me get there would be amazing!

I would like to express that clubs need help and training in how they can support kids (and adults) with disabilities. My previous sporting club did not know how to best support me and instead of encouraging me to do my best they put me down until we changed clubs.

Sports participation reduces the effected of isolation for those living with and caring for an individual with a disability. In some circumstances clubs do not exist for children with high risk behaviours and as such they can not participate in mainstream sports clubs or associations. By supporting [such children] with a grant you are acknowledging diversity in sport, encouraging participation in non traditional sports programs and encouraging carers to consider innovative sports and recreation programs for children whose disability limits their community access.

The common themes of barriers to access to sport are the access in terms of equipment and clubs that have the capacity to offer modified and integrated programs, the need to educate and support the coaches and volunteers and the costs to participate due to the equipment required.



Grants and Recipients

This year Sport Access Foundation had our highest number of applications, and in three years our applications from 29 to 111.

Our grant pool from \$6,000 to \$22,000, with twenty two (22) grants available in five (5) different categories that were relevant to the wide ranging needs and levels of participation.

These five grant categories included:

- 1 **Harvey Heroes SAF Grants**
10x individual grants of \$250 each
- 2 **SAF Pathway to Paralympics Grants**
2x individual grants of \$2,000 each
- 3 **SAF Equipment Grants**
4x individual grants of \$2,000 each
- 4 **PICA Group Sporting Club Grants**
2x club / group grants of \$2,000 each
- 5 **SAF Club Equipment Grants**
2x club / group grants of \$2,000 each

1. Harvey Heroes SAF Grants

10x individual grants of \$250 each

Harvey Norman have teamed up with Sport Access Foundation to ensure more young Aussies living with a disability have a helping hand to join a local sporting club. The funds will be used to help pay for registration fees, carer cost, extra coaching, team uniforms or travel to participate in the sport.

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Katie Page, Harvey Norman's CEO said,
We're so proud to be an official partner of the 2019 Sport Access Foundation grant program. We have supported Katie Kelly OAM (SAF Founder) in her Paralympic journey and we share with her, her vision to ensure every young Australian living with a disability has the opportunity to be a member of a sporting Club.

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- 1 **Rowan Kupeckyj**
Sport: Inline Speed Skating Age: 10
From: Walkley Heights, SA
Disability: Autism
- 2 **Kirra Wright**
Sport: Athletics Age: 11
From: Wallan, VIC
Disability: Acquired Brain Injury
- 3 **Brydi Saul**
Sport: Triathlon + Athletics Age: 9
From: Inala, QLD
Disability: Paraplegic
- 4 **Brooke Simpson** Age: 14
Sport: Swimming
From: Joslin, SA
Disability: Cerebral Palsy
- 5 **Sophie Skotnicki**
Sport: Cheerleading Age: 10
From: Ngunnawal, ACT
Disability: Cerebral Palsy
- 6 **Reese Prior**
Sport: Athletics Age: 12
From: Kingsley, WA
Disability: Cerebral Palsy
- 7 **Balin Cannon**
Sport: Weightlifting Age: 13
From: Moama, NSW
Disability: Hearing impairment + Intellectual disability
- 8 **Luke Kirby**
Sport: Equestrian Age: 12
From: Woodend, VIC
Disability: Intellectual Disability + Autism
- 9 **Brady Cochrane**
Sport: Athletics Age: 11
From: Ringwood, VIC
Disability: Born with Bilateral Talipes
- 10 **Sarah Leishmann**
Sport: Cheerleading Age: 10
From: Boronia, VIC
Disability: Sensory Progressing Disorder

2. SAF Pathway to Paralympics Grants

2x individual grants of \$2,000 each

This grant is to help our future Paralympians with the additional cost incurred when competing at the highest level. This grant is for costs relating to new and upgraded equipment, to compete in an international competition in their sport, to access additional coaching support and to assist with travel costs (particularly where additional cost to travel with equipment or a carer/guide is required).

- 1 Mitchell Bond - Sport:** Wheelchair Basketball **Age:** 16
From: Leopold, VIC **Disability:** Paralysed from Neck down / Transverse Myelitis
Mitchel is part of the 2019 U/23 Australia wheelchair basketball squad. At the age of 6 months of age Mitchell was paralysed from the neck down from a condition called Transverse Myelitis. *"The grant will be used to purchase a wheel bag that can allow me to safely transport my wheels, axles and spare parts/tools during flights to National or International tournaments. I am looking to representing Australia in Japan 2019 and Canberra in 2019 and 2020 so the funding will help me to access these tournaments."*

Achievements: 2019 Vic DSR Sportsperson of the Year; 2019 U23 Australian WC Basketball Squad; 2019 Vic U23 WC Basketball team at KCC National Championship.

- 2 Jamieson Leeson - Sport:** Boccia **Age:** 16
From: Dunedoo, NSW **Disability:** Born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy
Jamieson was born with spinal muscular atrophy, has never been able to walk and has been in a wheelchair her whole life. *"I live over 6 hours from Sydney where I train 3-4 days each week so the grant will assist with travel expenses, accommodation costs, fuel, carer costs plus coaching costs plus costs for overseas competitions."*

Achievements: Jamieson won Bronze Medal in Hong Kong World Open Boccia BC3 pairs (youngest player representing Australia) and is aiming for 2020 Tokyo Paralympic gold medal in BC3 pairs.

3. SAF Equipment Grants

4x individual grants of \$2,000 each

The SAF Equipment Grant will assist developing athletes to go the next level in their sport by providing support to upgrade their equipment or to access modified equipment.

- 1 Angela Bubb - Sport:** Swimming **Age:** 13 **Club:** Logan Vikings Swimming Club
From: Shailer Park, QLD **Disability:** Born without a Right Foot

Recently competed in the Australian Age Championships Adelaide (April 2019). Angela was born without a right foot. The grant will help fund a customised swim leg. Angela said: *"As a part of my swimming training we are required to do 1000m kicks, which is extremely difficult for me having only one foot. A customised prosthetic will enable me to be more competitive."*

- 2 Sean Kendrick - Sport:** Blind Cricket **Age:** 15 **Club:** QLD Blind Cricket
From: Westlake, QLD **Disability:** Born with Bilateral Anophthalmia (no eyes)

In the Australian Blind Cricket Training Squad. Sean was born with Bilateral Anophthalmia (no eyes) so is completely blind. The grant will help to purchase a Bowling Machine. Sean said: *"I have to practice my batting with my father bowling, and he can't bowl as quick or consistently as I need to face at the national level. I would like to get a bowling machine so I can practice against the pace of bowling required."*

- 3 Teisha Shadwell - Sport:** Wheelchair Basketball **Age:** 13 **Club:** Australian Gliders
From: Rowville, VIC **Disability:** Complex Regional Pain Syndrome in Both Feet

Recently won silver at the IWBF under 25 world championship in Thailand. Teisha said: *"The grant will help upgrade my current wheelchair chair / fund a new one so that I can play to my full potential as I strive for my major goal of Paralympics 2020 and beyond."*

- 4 Ella Newbery - Sport:** Para-Equestrian / Dressage **Age:** 17 **Club:** Northside Riding Club
From: Warriewood, NSW **Disability:** Acquired Brain Injury / right sided Hemiplegia

"The grant will go towards the purchase of a custom dressage saddle. In dressage it is very important to have a stable and correct seat which will improve my riding significantly and allow me to continue to improve and ultimately reach my long-term goal of being a para-equestrian rider."

4. PICA Group Sporting Club Grants

2x club / group grants of \$2,000 each

This grant is to assist sporting clubs who provide programs and support for young Aussies with a disability to participate as a member of their club.

PICA Group's CEO Greg Nash said,
The PICA Group proudly support an inclusive and diverse workplace, so it makes sense that we promote this more broadly in the community via activities such as SAF Sporting Club grants.

1 HorsePower - Sport: Equestrian **From:** Brigadoon, Perth WA

HorsePower strive to maintain a safe and efficient horse-riding program for people with disabilities. The funding will help basic facility maintenance and upgrades such as shelving, replacement of deteriorated items and cleaning products. Of the 75 members at the club, 50 have a disability, 30 of whom are aged 7-17. Marnie Butler, Grants Officer of HorsePower said: *"We provide equine-assisted therapeutic, educational, recreational and sporting activities aimed at expanding the horizons of individuals leading to the enrichment of their lives. Providing a specialised program for such a range of disabilities at a reasonable cost to families requires assistance in the form of volunteers and grants such as this one."*

2 Randwick City Football Club - Sport: Football (Soccer) **From:** Zetland, NSW

Their focus is football for children with a disability. Ben Folino, Director and Coach from RCFC said: *"Our club auspices the Purple Hearts, a squad of footballers with a disability. The initiative started in 2010 when the club was originally formed. We have players with physical, intellectual and sensory disability. Most would be on the autism spectrum. Out of 200 members, 20 aged between 7-17 have a disability. The funds will provide coaching and engagement activities for the young players."*

5. SAF Club Equipment Grants

2x club / group grants of \$2,000 each

The funding can be used for new and upgraded equipment such as marquees, lights, accessible club room and restrooms, accessible technology for club digital, cost to implement programs specifically for children with a disability and / or education of club officials / coaches / volunteers on working with children with a disability.

1 Moreton Bay Cycling Club - Sport: BMX + Road Cycling **From:** Northlakes, QLD

Chelses Munday, Grants Coordinator of Moreton Bay Cycling Club indicated they will provide modified equipment to assist their members who have a disability to take part in both BMX and road cycling.

2 Doyalson Wyee Soccer Club - Sport: Football (Soccer) **From:** Doyalson, NSW

Kerry Sweetnaem, Club President says the club aims to help children who have disabilities, such as Autism and Down Syndrome and special needs play soccer. The funding will provide modified and specialist equipment as well as assist with registration fees for players and to provide coaching and modified equipment.



Research Project

Sport Access Foundation commenced investment in sourcing and supporting research that identifies best practices and the gaps within the sport and disability sector to improve participation in sport.

To support this work we have made submissions for funding under the NDIS Organisation and Individual Capacity Building and Economic and Community participation grant programs. We are also participating in Federal Treasury's pre-budget submission process to highlight the work of SAF and our immediate priorities.

Our Partners

Our partnership with BlueScope continues to provide us with significant resources into developing our strategy and implementation of projects.

Thank you to Mark Vassella and the BlueScope team for all your support.

We are also supported by Harvey Norman, King & Wood Mallesons, Zoggs Australia, Tagzart Design and Roberts & Morrows (Financial Services). Thank you to all our corporate partners for your ongoing support.

Board Members

This year we welcomed Morgan Lander Morgan has devoted 18 years to protecting children and other vulnerable groups in society in roles within both Not-for-Profit (NFPs) and Government agencies.

The Board now consists of 9 members and I would like to thank all Board Members for your investment and support.



Applicants, Parents and Carers and all our Recipients

I would like to thank all of you for your own achievements and commitment in your own endeavours and for reaching out to Sport Access Foundation to share your experiences. It is through your stories that we can learn and continue to promote and advocate the need for more resources into improving access to sport.



KATIE KELLY OAM
Founder and Director
Sport Access Foundation





sportaccessfoundation.org.au

