

Private Sector Pathways (PSP) Program

Challenge Statement Form

Innovative solutions to improve sport participation and performance for individuals with disabilities

Challenge Statement

This Private Sector Pathways (PSP) Challenge is aimed at finding innovative Queensland based organisations that can apply their solutions to enhance sport participation and performance for people with all forms of disabilities.

Sport and physical activity play a crucial role in promoting physical fitness, social inclusion, and overall well-being for individuals of all abilities. However, people with disabilities often face significant barriers to active participation in sports and physical activities. These barriers may include limited access to adaptive equipment, insufficient awareness of inclusive programs or competitive pathways, and the absence of innovative solutions to address specific challenges associated with their disabilities.

We know that many children and adults without disabilities try a wide range of sports before finding the sport they want to actively pursue and children and adults with disabilities often do not have the same opportunities for sport sampling. Our goal is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in a wide range of sports leading to more active and healthy lives, and improve the talent pool available for state, national and international competitions, particularly the Paralympic Games.

Challenge Owner

The challenge owner is Sport and Recreation (including the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS)), within the Department of Tourism and Sport (DTS).

The QAS and Sport and Recreation have partnered with Advance Queensland to seek out innovative solutions that will assist people with disabilities to have improved opportunities in sport. The collaboration aims to address key objectives:

- the QAS's commitment to inspire extraordinary sporting success and optimise athlete performance; and
- Sport and Recreation's dedication to promoting active lifestyles for all Queenslanders.



Challenge Context

The Current Situation

Across Australia, opportunities exist for people with disabilities to train in various sports. Organisations such as Disability Sports Australia, Sporting Wheelies, and State Sporting Organisations play a crucial role in offering these programs. However, the current landscape is hindered by a range of limitations that prevent widespread participation. Currently, disabled sport participation encounters numerous limitations, including restricted access to specialised equipment, lack of information on possibilities, financial constraints, logistical challenges, low community engagement, limited program expansion, and difficulty in recruiting skilled coaches. All these issues are particularly relevant in rural areas.

These limitations have significant impacts, hindering participation and performance due to the limited availability of essential equipment tailored to different disabilities and inadequate support from coaches with expertise in working with people with disabilities.

The scarcity of resources not only hinders athlete development but also constrains overall growth, participation, and inclusivity of sports programs, especially in rural regions. Limited program options, high travel costs, and affordability concerns further impede full participation, particularly for financially disadvantaged individuals and families. Athletes with disabilities in remote communities face amplified challenges due to high travel expenses and logistical constraints.

Addressing these limitations is crucial for fostering inclusivity, enhancing athlete development, and promoting the growth and participation of sports programs in Queensland. By ensuring equitable access to resources, information, and support, barriers to participation can be dismantled, enabling individuals of all abilities to fully engage in sports and benefit from its physical, social, and psychological advantages.

Moreover, overcoming these challenges is essential for realising the broader goals of the QAS, which include maximising the number of potential medal-winning athletes. By addressing the limitations faced by people with disabilities to participate in sports, we foster inclusivity, enhance athlete development, and unlock the untapped potential of talented individuals. Ultimately, by removing barriers and providing equitable opportunities, we bolster the pipeline of talent and increase our collective chances of securing more medals for Queensland on the national and international stage.

Challenge Imperative

In the hopes of increasing participation and promoting healthier lives for individuals with disabilities alongside inclusive communities, it's imperative to develop innovative solutions that prioritise affordability, education, community engagement, and accessibility across all aspects of inclusive sports.

Potential solutions may also focus on improving the experience in several ways. These include developing more inclusive equipment, creating easily accessible information platforms for potential athletes, and enhancing training programs for coaches. Additionally, initiatives can explore partnerships with NDIS for comprehensive programs and implement talent identification initiatives for Paralympic pathways.

We recognise that there's no perfect solution, therefore this challenge is providing scope for up to 3 successful applications to be selected and piloted with the QAS, Sport and Recreation, or one of their key stakeholders.

Intended objectives/outcomes

While not essential or exhaustive, the example imperatives listed below significantly contribute to the holistic development, participation, and inclusivity within the disabled sports ecosystem.

Your innovative solution may resolve one, multiple or non-listed imperatives identified below:

Imperative	Short Summary
Healthier Lives	Any potential solution must prioritise the promotion of healthier lives for individuals with disabilities. By ensuring accessibility to sport programs that offer regular physical activities opportunities, the solution must aim to improve overall well-being.
Cost	Develop innovative approaches to foster inclusive participation in disabled sport by implementing cost-effective measures. Solutions must aim to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to opportunities in sport that increase accessibility, engagement and social interaction without or with reduced financial barriers.
Education	Potential solutions must aim to raise awareness and education for opportunities in sport such as pathways, programs, coaches, and sport. This will enhance confidence, understanding and competence for those with disabilities to explore avenues for participation in para-sport and inspire ambition.
Community Engagement	Solutions must develop innovative approaches that foster inclusive communities and social connections for individuals with disabilities through sport. This could involve organising sport leagues, events, or clubs that encourage participation – with statewide application.
Inclusive Equipment	Developing innovative and affordable adaptive sport equipment and assistive technologies that enable people with disabilities to participate in a wide range of sports and physical activities prior to committing to their chosen sport. Solutions should be user-friendly and customisable to accommodate various disability types, severity of impairment and sport requirements.
Accessible Information	Creating platforms, apps, or other digital tools that provide comprehensive information on inclusive sport programs, facilities, and events. These solutions should facilitate easy access to schedules, location details, and program registration for individuals with disabilities.
Training and Coaching	Design virtual or in-person coaching products and training tools for coaches and instructors, it should ensure that coaches and instructors are well-equipped to work with athletes with disabilities. This may include adaptive coaching techniques and resources.
NDIS	Implement innovative solutions that aim to partner/collaborate with the NDIS in developing comprehensive programs addressing participation. However, it's important not to rely solely on the NDIS for facilitating the coordination of support services that could enhance the overall sport experience for individuals with disabilities.
Paralympic pathways	Develop approaches that will allow individuals with disabilities to access talent identification initiatives and Paralympic training pathways among aspiring athletes. The solution should aim to empower individuals with disabilities to pursue athletic excellence while promoting overall health and well-being as a fundamental requirement.

The Stakeholders Involved

In the diverse ecosystem of adaptive sport, numerous stakeholders play an integral role in enabling individuals to thrive and excel. From equipment providers to government agencies, each entity contributes uniquely to breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity in sport.

Parents and Guardians: Parents and Guardians act as unwavering champions, navigating accessibility hurdles and fostering confidence, to pave the way for disabled individuals to experience the transformative power of sport. Through their advocacy and proactive involvement, Parents and guardians allow their children to navigate challenges, access resources, and embrace the enriching opportunities sport offers for physical, mental, and social well-being.

Caregivers: Caregivers provide crucial physical and emotional support that empowers individuals with disabilities to overcome hurdles and experience the joy of sports. From navigating adapted equipment to offering encouragement, caregivers act as a constant lifeline, enabling individuals to push their limits and thrive in the competitive spirit of sports.

Coaches: Coaches provide tailored guidance and support, adapting training methodologies to address specific needs, and fostering an inclusive and encouraging environment. Their expertise and understanding contribute significantly to overcoming barriers, empowering athletes with disabilities to actively participate and thrive in the world of sport.

Health Providers: Health providers, including Allied Health, Physiotherapies, Rehabilitation Centres, and Hospitals, provide tailored rehabilitation programs and offer ongoing support to address specific needs. Through personalised guidance and expertise, health providers can empower athletes with disabilities to navigate barriers and achieve their athletic goals, fostering inclusivity and promoting overall well-being.

Equipment Providers: Specialised equipment helps to unlock sports previously deemed impossible. By understanding individual needs and tailoring equipment, equipment providers become essential allies, transforming limitations into possibilities.

NDIS: The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides funding for Australians who have permanent and significant disability with funding for support services. This funding can be attributed to attaining specialised equipment like adaptive wheelchairs or prosthetics, personal assistance for training and competition, and even skill-building programs to navigate specific sports.

Queensland Government: The Queensland Government tackles the barriers that prevent individuals from experiencing sport, through initiatives including “Activate! Queensland” strategy, and partnering with organisations including Sporting Wheelies. Through funding assistance and raising awareness through campaigns, the Queensland Government aims to provide inclusivity and practical support to all Queenslanders that want to participate in sport.

Sponsors: Sporting sponsors play a vital role by providing financial support for adaptive equipment, training programs, and accessibility initiatives. Additionally, sponsors often collaborate with organisations to raise awareness, advocate for inclusive policies, and promote positive representation and participation of athletes with disabilities in sports media.

Challenge Solution

Outcomes Desired

The solution will aim to enhance participation, performance, education, awareness, and opportunities for para-sport among all Queenslanders. It will aid in identifying potential athletes, empowering disabled athletes' dreams, and facilitating participation within accessible, affordable, supported, and safe environments.

Technical and/or Regulatory Considerations

Universally accessible: To create an inclusive solution, it's essential to ensure it caters to individuals with diverse disabilities, spanning from physical impairments to sensory limitations or cognitive challenges. This approach involves designing a solution that addresses the needs of a broad range of users, regardless of the severity of their disability, thereby accommodating as many individuals as possible without discrimination or exclusion.

Independence from third-party reliance: Avoiding reliance on third-party entities like NDIS for ongoing funding or coordination is crucial, as dependencies and limitations may surface regarding the eligibility, availability and scalability of the proposed solution.

Compliance: If the potential solution is focussed on technology primarily crafted for improving athlete performance, the project stakeholders can assist to navigate the ethical, technical, and regulatory constraints set forth by the governing bodies, such as the Paralympics.

Design Benefits

Accessible design: Prioritising accessible design, signals the importance of inclusivity and ensures solutions meet diverse needs. The goal is to create solutions for local inclusivity in Queensland and to promote para sports globally (which could have greater commercial opportunities for the successful solution).

Boost industry confidence: By showcasing the mass-market reach and highlighting the collective benefits rather than individual outcomes, solutions can instil industry confidence in the value and impact of investing in inclusive sports participation initiatives. This potential solution should emphasise the broader societal benefits but also encourages continued support and investment in initiatives.

Commercial Opportunities

Affordability: Incorporating affordability as a cornerstone is imperative in the solution. This ensures that inclusive sports participation remains accessible, creating immediate opportunities in Queensland while laying the groundwork for broader scalability in the future. By prioritising cost-effectiveness, the selected solution can make these solutions viable for a diverse range of users, thereby enhancing their commercial appeal.

Achievability: The selected solution must emphasise achievable goals and realistic approaches for successful implementation. By focusing on attainable deliverables and milestones, the path to scalability becomes clearer, offering promise for sustained growth beyond the initial deployment phase. This approach fosters confidence among stakeholders and investors while also driving further interest in the commercial viability of the solutions.

Simplicity: Potential solutions must prioritise user-friendly interfaces and streamlined processes to encourage widespread adoption of inclusive sports participation. By minimising barriers to entry, such as complex interfaces, the solution will attract participants and potential commercial users beyond Queensland. This emphasis on simplicity fosters ease of use and integration, thereby maximising the commercial potential of the solutions.

How to apply

Applications can be submitted via <https://dsiti.smartygrants.com.au/PSP-ParaSport-2024> and should include the following:

- A clear description of the solution, including its key features, benefits, and value proposition.
- A roadmap for implementation, including timelines, resources, and milestones.
- A plan for measuring the impact and success of the solution, including metrics and evaluation criteria.
- A budget that outlines the financial requirements for implementing and maintaining the solution.
- A summary of the team's qualifications and experience, including relevant skills and expertise.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch their solutions to a panel of experts and the successful applicant/s will enter a contract and pilot their solution with the Challenge Owners.

Successful Applicant(s)

The winning proposal(s) will be selected based on its innovation, feasibility, impact, and alignment with the challenge objectives. The successful applicant will receive grant funding of up to \$100,000 (excluding GST) through the Advance Queensland initiative, to develop and pilot their proposed solution for up to 6-8 months with QAS and Sport and Recreation stakeholders.

\$300,000 is available for this PSP Challenge, more than one applicant may be awarded a grant to participate.

Project Duration

The duration of the project is estimated to be up to 6-8 months. If a suitable solution to the challenge is found, project commencement is most likely to start in June 2024.

As part of the assessment process, shortlisted applicants will be notified and invited to a Solution Presentation Day. This will be an opportunity for you to present your proposed solution (either in person or remotely) to the Challenge assessment panel.

Presentations are expected to be up to 20 minutes long, with time afterwards for Q&A. Full details will be provided in due course.

More Information

The Advance Queensland [Private Sector Pathways \(PSP\)](#) program aims to solve corporate challenges with solutions generated by proven innovative Queensland small to medium enterprises and scaleups. For more information about the PSP Challenge, contact Advance Queensland's Private Sector Partnerships team at partnerships@dtis.qld.gov.au

Further information about QAS and Sport and Recreation strategies can be found at:

- [Our strategy | Queensland Academy of Sport \(gasport.qld.gov.au\)](https://gasport.qld.gov.au)
- [Activate! Queensland Strategy | Department of Tourism and Sport \(dtis.qld.gov.au\)](https://dtis.qld.gov.au)

Together, we can break down barriers and create a more inclusive and accessible sports environment for people with disabilities through innovation. Join us in this endeavour to make a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities.