



# Annual Report 2021/2022

# FROM OUR CHAIR

This year saw wheelchair sport return to full service after a disruptive couple of years due to COVID. Encouragingly, we saw another strong year of Membership growth, meaning more people are playing wheelchair sport across NSW/ACT than at any stage in history.

The Board continues to be amazed at the generosity of our Donors. Every year, this special group of people support our work for people living with disabilities, providing unwavering support for the work we do. We say thank you, not only for the generosity this year, but for your enduring support.

In addition, we can not do the work we do without our extraordinary volunteers. Giving of their time throughout the year, our Volunteers share a passion for ensuring everyone should receive the life changing benefits of sport.

We are incredibly lucky at Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT to have such an engaged and participatory group of Partners behind our work. Across Government and Corporate, our Partners have supported our work this year with energy and passion.

Whilst we have had a record year, there are still many more people to reach and welcome into our community. We look forward to an even bigger year in 2022/2023.

Nick Taylor - Chair of the Board

# ABOUT WHEELCHAIR SPORTS NSW/ACT

## Our Vision

Everyone in NSW can enjoy the benefits of sport alongside each other

## Our Mission

To change the lives of people with a disability through participation in sport

## Our Values

Dignity: We believe everyone has great value

Tenacity: We fight fiercely for inclusion

Resilience: We get up and go every day

Camaraderie: We are in it together

# 2021/2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**1,245  
members**



**\$2.2m  
raised**



**Inaugural  
Rolling  
Rainbow  
Sports Day**



**First ever  
Roll on  
October**



**Gladiators won  
the Wheelchair  
Rugby National  
Championships**



**Launched the  
Wheelchair  
Basketball  
Waratah League**



**Celebrated  
our 33rd GIO  
Oz Day 10k**



**Added Seated  
Throws to  
our Sports**



# OUR SPORTS

## WHEELCHAIR AFL



Wheelchair AFL gained great momentum across NSW/ACT this year.

In addition to our Weekly Training Hubs, we sent the inaugural Rolling Rams to represent NSW/ACT at the Wheelchair AFL National Championships, together with our Co-Delivery Partner AFL NSW/ACT. A strong performance from the team in their first year has generated great interest in this emerging sport, with big plans for 2022/2023.

# OUR SPORTS

## WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL



Our biggest participation sport got even bigger in 2021/2022, with the sport of Wheelchair Basketball being included in the Waratah League. This significant inclusion is testament to many years of advocacy and hard work from the pioneers of this great sport. Our NSW Juniors also competed well at the Kevin Coombs Cup, in addition to another wonderful Wheelchair Basketball Illawarra Festival.

# OUR SPORTS

## WHEELCHAIR RUGBY



An incredible year for Wheelchair Rugby with defending champions the NSW Gladiators winning the 2022 Santos Wheelchair Rugby National Championships and the ACT Buccaneers taking out the Division 2 gold medal. We also established the first Wheelchair Rugby Club Challenge in Newcastle, inviting even more members to take part in this great sport.

# OUR SPORTS

## WHEELCHAIR TENNIS



For the first time since 2020 we were able to run the Wheelchair Tennis Sydney Open and Wheelchair Tennis NSW Open, both proudly sponsored by GIO. We had 45 athletes taking part, including some international players and doubled the amount of junior participants from previous years.

# OUR SPORTS

## WHEELCHAIR TRACK & ROAD



As always the GIO Summer Down Under Series, culminating in the GIO Oz Day 10k, was the highlight for our wheelchair track and road athletes. We had 22 athletes take part in the GIO Oz Day 10k, tackling the 10km track in searing summer heat.

Open Men's Winner: Jake Lappin

Open Women's Winner: Madison de Rozario

Quad Winner: Jono Tang

Junior's Winner: Cormac Ryan

# OUR SPORTS

## FRAME RUNNING



This year we continued to grow the sport of Frame Running. During the GIO Summer Down Under Series we were able to offer Frame Running athletes the opportunity to be classified for National competitions. We also secured funding to purchase more frame runners for athletes to use and held Come N Trys in both NSW and the ACT.

# OUR SPORTS

## SEATED THROWS



We were thrilled to add the sport of Seated Throws to our repertoire this year. An important aspect of Para-Athletics, Seated Throws has some outstanding talent in NSW/ACT and big things are expected over the next few years. Seated Throws was included in the prestigious GIO Summer Down Under Series this year, signalling the dawn of a new era for the sport.

# OUR SPORTS

## DISABILITY LAWN BOWLS



One of the most enthusiastic and talented communities within Wheelchair Sport are our Lawn Bowlers. In 2021/2022 we again held the NSW Singles Classic and NSW Championships for Disability Lawn Bowls, both with great success. In addition, the NSW Wizards represented us at the National Championships, rounding out another great year for the sport.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## JUNIOR WHEELIES CAMPS



With the support of Macquarie Group, our Junior Wheelies Program had another record participation year. In addition to our iconic Junior Wheelies Christmas Camp, we held our inaugural Junior Wheelies Winter Camp this year. A great weekend was had by all, with a range of new sports and great new friendships made. Further, we held School Holiday Camps in Sydney, Canberra and Newcastle, welcoming many new Juniors to our community.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## HER SPORT FESTIVALS



Our HER SPORT Festivals were another wonderful celebration of the girls and women in wheelchair sport this year. Providing a warm and welcoming first entry point into wheelchair sport, the HER SPORT Festivals were an opportunity for established athletes to welcome new athletes into our sports, with events specifically designed for girls and women. We thank our HER SPORT Committee for their volunteer work to guide our HER SPORT Festivals this year.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## ROLLING RAINBOW SPORTS DAY



In its inaugural year, our Rolling Rainbow Program is designed to ensure wheelchair sport is safe and welcoming for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Culminating in our Rolling Rainbow Sports Day, this program is one of the most joyful things we do. Alongside the day, we are also working to ensure our Policies, Communication and Website are created with inclusion in mind, in order that wheelchair sport be a place and space for everybody.

# OUR DONORS



For more than 60 years, Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT has had generous Donors ensuring our sports can always be delivered. Responding to our Tax Appeal and Christmas Appeal each year, our Donors give generously so that people living with disabilities can enjoy the life changing benefits of sport.

We are grateful to every single Donor, who continues supporting our Vision of a world where everyone gets picked to play.

# OUR PARTNERS



Proudly funded by



# OUR VOLUNTEERS



The beating heart of Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT remains our incredible volunteers who give so generously of their time throughout the year. Across all 9 sports, our Volunteers represent the best of our community, supporting our Members to fulfil their sporting dreams each year.

# OUR ROADSHOWS



We had another great year with our Roadshow Program. Thanks to our long term partner, Transport for NSW, we were able to provide schools with important road safety seminars to assist the NSW Government in their Toward Zero Strategy. Our Roadshow presenters visited schools all around the state , with 207 roadshow presentations to schools and vacation care providers reaching 16,917 students. We sincerely thank Transport for NSW for their ongoing support of our Roadshows.



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