



RSM Strategic Facility Review of Bowls in the ACT

Bowls ACT Position Statement

Bowls ACT would like to thank the ACT Government and the Sport and Recreation Department for working with RSM to provide the region with a strategic review of Bowls facilities in the ACT.

Bowls ACT is excited to see the review highlighting the importance of the sport within the community in Australia and the ACT community. Bowls ACT agrees wholeheartedly that to not have lawn bowls available to the community would severely diminish the recreational and sporting opportunities available in Canberra.

The review has engaged stakeholders at various levels of the sport and provides a good coverage of the community's opinions on the current trajectory of Bowls in the ACT. By giving multiple levels of stakeholders a voice the review enables the community to look at the different recommendations with respect to others within the community.




Bowls ACT believes that the recommendations outlined within the report will serve well as a base for change in the bowls community. The recommendations outlined reflect a need for significant culture change within the sport that is based off an evidential approach and the opinions of stakeholders within the community. The sport faces a combination of factors impacting its future direction and the non-biased approach to the review gives the community a chance to recognise the importance of these factors.

The review highlights the importance of the community coming together to move forward in building the sport's base in Canberra. Bowls ACT recognises the importance of an integrated approach by the entire community including Bowls ACT, Clubs, Members, Participants, and Licensed Clubs to ensure the future of bowls is healthy for years to come. The recommendations provided will act as a base for clubs to recognise the factors having a significant impact on their own community and how to best approach them considering their specific circumstances.

In coming together Bowls Act also recognises the significant lack of resources currently available to portions of the community and the need for assistance in implementing recommendations, as highlighted within the review. Bowls ACT looks forward to working with clubs and the ACT Government on how they can look to implement recommendations where possible and providing a unified approach to the Bowls community.



Chifley Health and Wellbeing Centre
Maclaurin Cres, Chifley, ACT, 2606
@bowlsact

 www.bowlsact.org.au
 0499 587 783
 admin@bowlsact.org.au

While the report provides valuable information regarding the impact of the sport to people within the ACT it is critical to acknowledge that Bowls ACT encompasses clubs from within the region in NSW. Bowls ACT looks forward to working with these clubs to assess the appropriateness and applicability of the recommendations within the report to their facilities, members, and communities.

Ultimately, Bowls ACT would like to recognise the impact of the review in highlighting the challenges currently being faced by Bowls in the region. The underlying story of the review is that there is a need for significant investment by the entire community to ensure that the sport can grow. Without growth the sport faces a continued decline in membership and revenue for facility owners, meaning further closure of clubs and facilities. A unified approach by all clubs is required along with investment from outside sources to ensure that the sport will be available to more people in Canberra and the surrounding region for years to come into the future.




Bowls ACT looks forward to discussing with its members and community how to implement the recommendations outlined in the review in the most appropriate manner for each of the clubs within the ACT and extending the reach of the review to clubs and communities in NSW.

Ciaran O'Rourke

Bowls ACT Executive Officer



Chifley Health and Wellbeing Centre
Maclaurin Cres, Chifley, ACT, 2606
@bowlsact

 www.bowlsact.org.au
 0499 587 783
 admin@bowlsact.org.au