

# IMAGINE WHAT WE CAN DO



**Paralympics Australia**

**Pathways Paris Engagement Strategy**

INFocus – April 2024

# OUR STRATEGY ON A PAGE

How we will reimagine the future to become the most successful host nation by Brisbane 2032

## WINNING ASPIRATION

### Our Enduring Belief

Sport has the power to change the world

### Our Purpose

We exist to lead Paralympic sport and create a more inclusive world

### Our Vision

To create the most successful era of Paralympic sport in Australia's history

## OUR AMBITION

### Ambition #1

**A world-leading and equitable sport system**

### Ambition #2

**Remarkable Paralympic performance**

### Ambition #3

**Our Team is a source of Aussie pride and a force towards creating a more inclusive society**

## WHERE TO FOCUS

Grow our funding to achieve sustainable growth and new opportunities...

...to lead and accelerate Paralympic sport within the high-performance ecosystem...

...that will develop and support athletes who win and thrive...

...so that we become the most loved and values driven brand for sponsors and fans...

...ultimately, accelerating a societal shift towards inclusion and equity.

## HOW TO WIN

Grow and diversify funding via new revenue streams to attract more sustainable funding

Lead, develop and leverage partnerships to build capability and enhance Paralympic sport equity and success towards and beyond 2032

Partner to establish systems and pathways that support more thriving athletes, across more sport to deliver more medal performances

Create a rich tapestry of stories and narratives for our fans and deliver values led partnership opportunities

Deliver measurable performance results and impact on social change



**Sport has the power to change the world.**

**The road to Brisbane 2032 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lead change in Australia.**

Paralympics Australia 

#ImagineWhatWeCanDo





**Paralympics  
Australia**



**1. The Opportunity**

**2. Para-Sport 101**

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# The Opportunity



# The Opportunity



## Curtis McGrath

Acquired an impairment and was already talking about becoming a Paralympian on his way to the hospital

## Jameson Leeson

Experienced Boccia for the first time because another student at school was attending an event

## Izzy Vincent

Started swimming as part of her rehabilitation and was Australia's youngest Paralympian in Tokyo

## Jarryd Clifford

Took part in a traditional sport pathway and attended targeted Paralympics Australia talent initiatives throughout his pathway.

## Paige Greco

Transferred to cycling and is now a World Champion, after spending years in the athletics pathway at state and national level



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# Para-Sport 101





# Para-sport, is not the same as Paralympic Sport

**Para sport** is a term used for sports with a pathway to the Paralympic Games. Other sports have programs for people with disability, but they may not lead to the Paralympics i.e. Wheelchair AFL, Blind Cricket or Deaf Sports.

# Paralympians, are not the same as Olympians

**Paralympians** compete at the Paralympic Games, Olympians compete at the Olympic Games, they are not interchangeable. There is no such thing as a Para-Olympians, or the Para-Olympics.

# Para-Sport Snapshot



**22**

sports are part of the Summer Paralympic Games

**6**

sports are part of the Winter Paralympic Games

**28**

sports are part of the Paralympic Games Program

**3**

impairment groups; physical, vision and intellectual

**10**

eligible impairments within these groups



# Classification



**Classification exists to create a fair and equal playing field** for para-sport and helps determine who is eligible to compete in Para-sport and who they compete against.

# Classification Example



# Key takeaways of Classification

- Classification is the testing process that groups together athletes whose disability (or impairment) affects them in a similar way in their sport.
- Classification is about fairness and creating a level playing field for all Para-athletes. It works like other ways that sport groups athletes for competition such as by gender, age or weight.
- Our aim is to minimise perceptions that Classification is scary and overwhelming
- It's necessary to understand classification but you don't need to learn how to classify. Check out the Classification Fundamentals module!

# Who can compete in Paralympic Sport

## Eligible Impairments types

### Physical Impairment

Limb Deficiency

Impaired Muscle Power

Hypertonia, Ataxia or Athetosis

Short Stature

Impaired Passive Range of Motion

Leg Length Difference

### Intellectual Impairment

Athletes have a restriction in intellectual functioning (75 IQ or below) and adaptive behavior in which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 22.

### Vision Impairment

To be eligible to compete at the Paralympic Games, athletes must have at least one of the following diagnoses:

Impairment of the eye structure

Impairment of the optic nerve or pathways

Impairment of the visual cortex of the brain

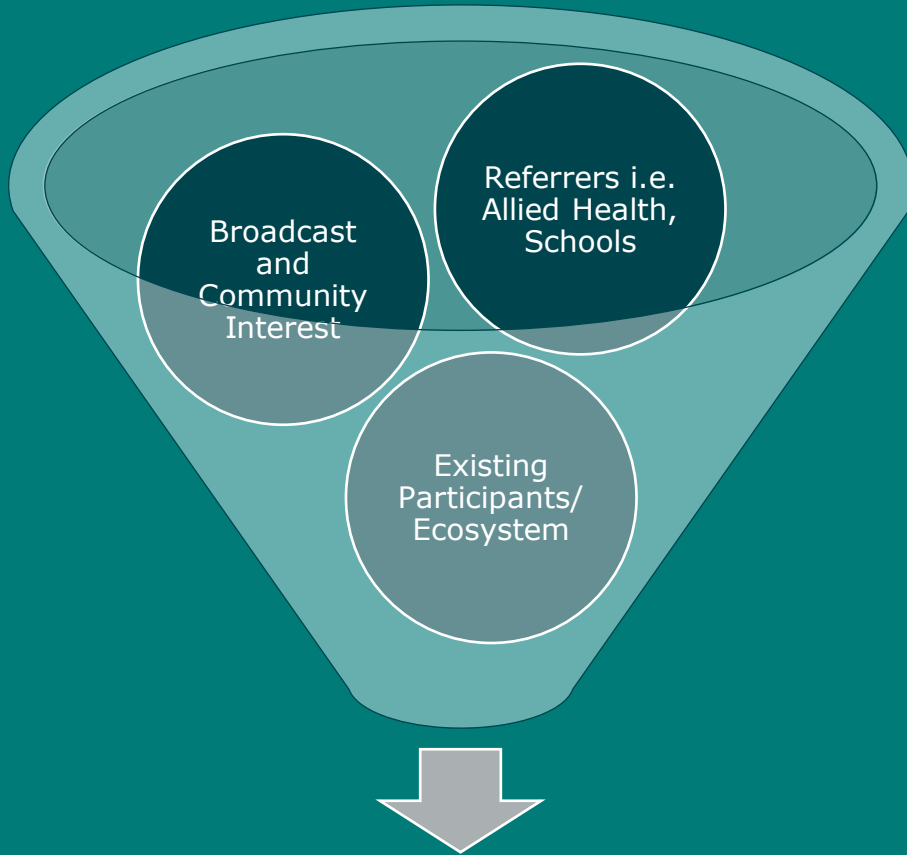
Both eyes must be affected.



# Paris 2024: The PA Start Line

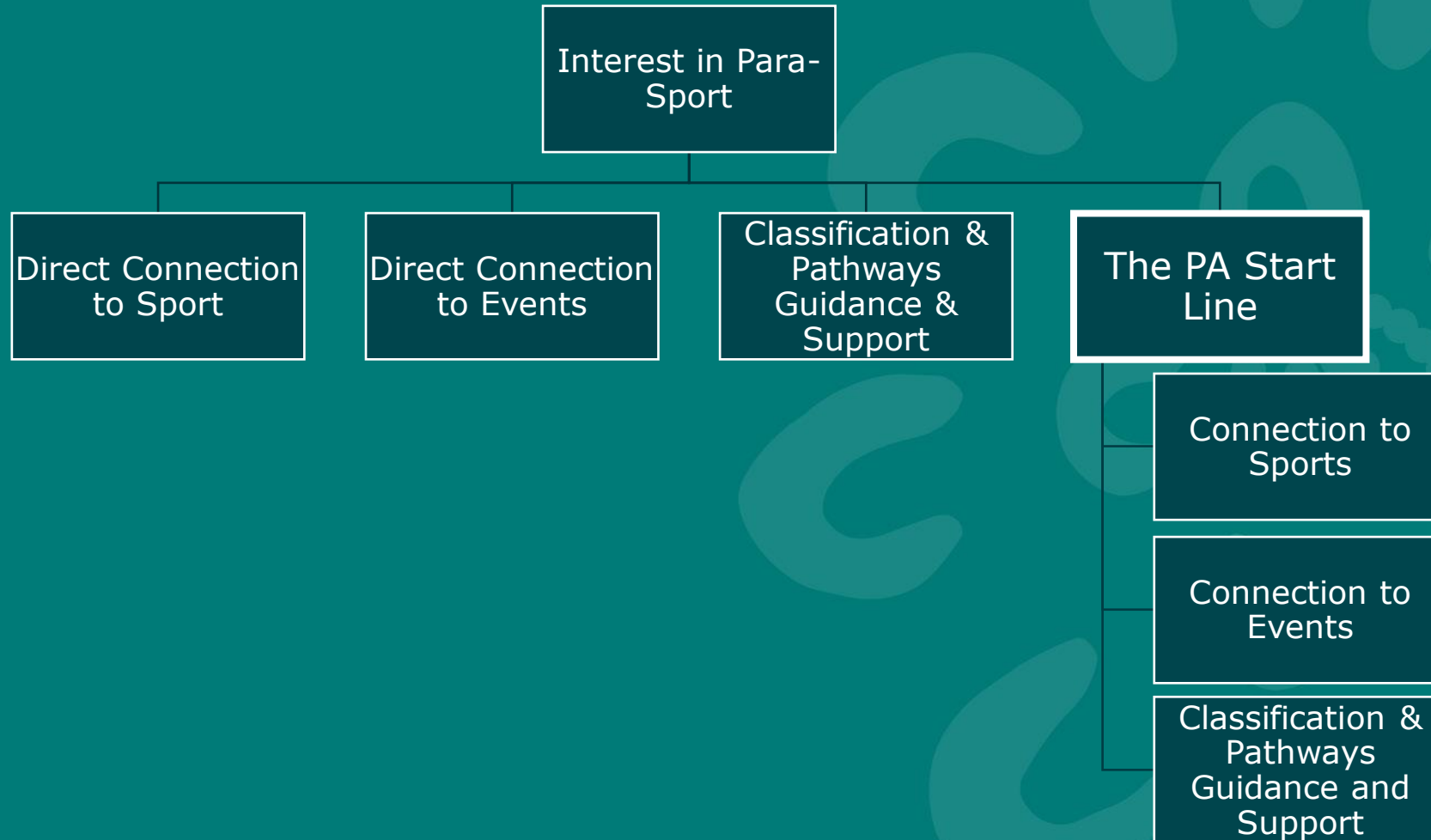


# The role we play



Paralympics Australia

# The role we play - PA



# Paris 2024 – The PA Start Line



## The PA Start Line

[Impairment Mapping Tool](#)

[Get Involved Form](#)

[Talent Search Form](#)

[Talent Transfer Form](#)

[PA Sport Pages](#)

[PA Events Calendar](#)

[Para-Sport Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[PA Referrer Network](#)

[Links to other PA Programs](#)

The Paralympics Australia Pathways Team has developed a Paris Engagement Strategy to capitalize on the significant influx in interest in the lead up, during and post-Paris 2024.

The initiatives aim to complement our existing work, create greater efficiencies and support the broader para-sport ecosystem.

A focus of this strategy is collaborating with our system partners and avoiding duplication where possible, to streamline the messages for the community.

# The PA Start Line



## The PA Start Line

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**Promoted through** Allied Health networks, School networks, and to the general community through Broadcast and Promotional Campaign.

**Shared assets** for Sports/System to utilize to assist promotion.

Opportunity for Sports/System to **promote events and initiatives** through our Events Calendar.

**Resources to learn more** and upskill staff and broader ecosystem.

# Additional PA Programs



Join **AUS**  
—SQUAD—





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Australia



# Call to Action



# What can you do to support?

1. **Understand the opportunities** for people with a disability within your sport
2. **Understand the pathway entry points** for your sport and review them online to ensure they're clear and accessible
3. **Connect with staff within your organisations** to discuss the Paralympic Pathways within your sport and how your teams can collaborate
4. Check out the **Classification Fundamentals module**, look out for **The PA Start Line** and **register for AUS SQUAD!**

# Resources and Useful Links

**Paralympics Australia website**

<https://www.paralympic.org.au/>

**Classification Resources**

[What is Para-sport Classification? \(PDF – 929KB\)](#)

[Who can compete in Para-sport? \(PDF – 609KB\)](#)

[Who can compete at the Paralympic Games? \(PDF – 951KB\)](#)

**Classification Fundamentals Course (Online)**

Paralympics Australia, in partnership with Sport Integrity Australia, released a Classification Fundamentals course that can be accessed via <https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/login/index.php> for anyone that has a Sport Integrity Australia account (or you can simply sign up for one!).

**The PA Start Line**

**Coming soon...**

**Join AUS SQUAD**

<https://www.paralympic.org.au/aussquad/>