



# SQUASH

## National Participation Report 2012 - 2013

### INTRODUCTION

The Active After-school Communities (AASC) program is continuing to provide sporting opportunities for primary school children across Australia. During the 2013 Financial Year, the AASC program invested approximately \$20m into grassroots sport with an estimated \$20,000 of that being allocated to squash programs. For the same reporting period, the AASC delivered over 28,000 programs and engaged approximately 760,000 participants.

With the importance of participation being pushed further up the sporting agenda, the AASC program is working closely with sporting organisations to identify opportunities that will attract children to sport and provide a platform for their ongoing participation in sport.

This report provides an overview of the key data that demonstrates the AASC's contribution to squash in Australia pertaining to the period July 2012 to June 2013. Although not as detailed as previous publications, this report outlines summary headline data which reflects the AASC's continued ability to signpost children to squash and provide support for the sport's grassroots participation objectives.

### PERFORMANCE DATA

The data provided below depicts the overarching, national squash performance data and offers a comparison against the previous reporting period. Three performance areas have been selected:

1. Number of programs – a breakdown of the total number of AASC squash programs conducted in Australia;
2. Number of participants – a breakdown of the total number of participants who took part in AASC squash programs;
3. Number of coaches – a breakdown of the total number of coaches who delivered AASC squash programs, identified by coach category.

### Programs

The table below shows the number of AASC squash programs conducted within each state or territory for the current reporting period.

State/Territory	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
NSW	12	17	+42%
VIC	11	17	+55%
QLD	8	31	+288%
SA	5	3	-40%
WA	7	4	-43%
TAS	0	0	n/a
NT	0	7	n/a
ACT	2	0	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>+76%</b>

(All data is correct at the time of grant application)

The total number reflects a 76% growth on the previous reporting period. In percentage terms, this was a very strong performance for VIC but a noticeable decline in both in SA and WA.

## Participants

The table below shows the number of children participating in an AASC squash program within each state or territory for the current reporting period.

State/Territory	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
NSW	251	479	+91%
VIC	287	328	+14%
QLD	168	963	+473%
SA	88	46	-48%
WA	156	90	-42%
TAS	0	0	n/a
NT	0	240	n/a
ACT	55	0	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>+114%</b>

The total number reflects a 114% growth on the previous reporting period. Participant results exceed the performance of the total program data and also provide a clear reflection of the impact the AASC has on the actual volume of participants with an increase of approximately 1,100 extra children exposed to the sport.

## Coaches

The table below provides a breakdown of AASC community coaches who delivered squash during the current reporting period.

Category	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
Sporting clubs	15	24	+60%
Community members	3	5	+67%
Internal (e.g. teachers)	8	8	0%
Private providers	1	3	+200%
Students	1	1	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>+46%</b>

The total number reflects a 46% growth on the previous reporting period. Of concern is the growth in the number of private providers delivering squash – this result is contrary to the AASC’s goal to engage with sporting organisations and encourage squash coaches to deliver AASC programs, thus enabling a greater opportunity for participant transition into the sport.

## SUMMARY

This report is intended to provide a summary of the relationship between the AASC program and squash in Australia. The data aims to show the value of the AASC program to Squash Australia, in addition to demonstrating its potential for future participation opportunities.

Whilst it is acknowledged the data does not address key issues such as the number of AASC participants who have continued to play squash after taking part in the AASC program or the true number of participants who attended each squash session, it does show an increased appetite for primary school aged children to play squash. It also reflects the influence of the program to drive the sport at a grass roots level and provide access to a high volume of potential, long-term squash participants.

The AASC program is currently developing its data capture and reporting capabilities with an aspiration of collating more accurate performance information. The improved data collation will enable enhanced reporting and provide sports organisations a clear reflection of their grass roots growth. It is anticipated this will contribute towards participation objectives and support participation strategies.

The AASC looks forward to engaging with squash in the future as we look to align our participation objectives and begin to deliver shared sporting outcomes.