

## Key terms and definitions

The following key terms are used throughout the AusPlay survey (AusPlay) reporting and other collateral, and a definition is provided for each of them below in alphabetical order.

### Adult

For the purposes of AusPlay an adult is a person aged 15 and over. For the landline sample, an adult was randomly selected using the last birthday method; i.e. the person aged 15 and over, living in the household, who had had the most recent birthday was selected. No substitution was allowed if this person was not prepared to take part in the survey. For the mobile sample the phone owner was interviewed.

### Barriers

Non-participants (those who had not participated in any sport or physical activities during the past 12 months) were asked the reasons why they had not done so. The question was an open question, with a list of pre-coded responses (plus an 'other' category) which the interviewer used to code the respondent's answer. Multiple responses were allowed. This question was asked both of adults and, by proxy, of children.

### Child

For the purposes of AusPlay a child is a person aged 0-14. The responding adult aged 18 and over was asked whether he/she was the parent or guardian to a child aged under 15 who lived in the same household. Where there was more than one child, a random selection was done using the last birthday method; i.e. the child aged 0-14 who had had the most recent birthday would be selected. Questions on the selected child's participation in organised sport or physical activity outside of school hours were then asked of the responding adult.

### Duration

For each activity done within the last 12 months, all players were asked how long *the most recent* session had lasted. There were no minimum or maximum limits set. An average duration was calculated for each person from the durations they gave for their different activities, and this was used as an indicative session duration for reporting durations per person.

### Frequency

For each activity done within the last 12 months, all adult and child players were asked how many times, in total, they had done it (including any practice or training). The frequencies given by each person for each of their activities were summed for reporting the total frequency of participation in any sport-related or non-sport-related activities per person.

## **Input or Output category**

See 'Participation by adults'.

## **Relative margin of error (RMOE)**

The AusPlay results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sample error. Sample error is measured by the standard error and the margin of error. Knowledge of the standard error, or the margin of error, enables the 95% confidence intervals to be constructed around survey results and also enables statistical significance testing to be carried out.

The 95% confidence interval for a survey result is calculated as the survey result plus or minus 1.96x the standard error. For example, if a survey result of 100,000 has a standard error of 10,000 then the 95% confidence interval is  $100,000 \pm 1.96 \times 10,000 = 100,000 \pm 19,600 = (80,400 - 119,600)$ .

The amount 1.96 x the standard error is called the margin of error. Thus knowledge of the margin of error is sufficient to calculate the 95% confidence intervals. For this reason the AusPlay sampling error values are presented as margin of error values not standard error values. Standard error values can be calculated by dividing the margin of error values by 1.96.

Another way of summarising the sample error is to calculate the relative margin of error which is the margin of error divided by the survey result, expressed as a percentage.

## **Motivation**

All adult players were asked their reasons for participating in the three activities they played most frequently. The question was an open question, with a list of pre-coded responses, plus an 'other' category, which the interviewer used to code the respondent's answer. Multiple responses were allowed. The same motivation(s) could be provided for all three activities.

Because motivation data was activity specific, to report people's motivations for participation generally, the motivations each person provided (for up to three activities) were combined, recording when a particular motivation had been mentioned for at least one of the person's activities. This captured the full range of motivations a person had provided for participating, while avoiding double-counting cases when the same motivation had been mentioned by one person for different activities.

## **Non-participant (adult)**

All adults who had not participated in any physical activity for sport, recreation or exercise, during the last 12 months, are referred to as non-participants.

## **Non-participant (children)**

All children who had not participated in organised sport or physical activity, outside of school hours, during the last 12 months are referred to as 'non-participants'.

## **Non-player involvement**

Adult respondents were asked whether they had been involved with any sports in a non-playing role, such as an official, coach, referee or administrator in the last 12 months. Those who had are referred to as 'adults involved as non-players'.

## **NSO (National Sporting Organisation) branded products**

See 'Participation by adults'.

## **Number of activities**

Up to ten separate activities (at the output level) could be recorded for each adult and child player. The number of activities is the sum of each individual's total number of separate activities (at the output level) played during the last 12 months.

## **Organisation/venue based activity**

For each activity recorded, adults were asked whether they had played it 'through an organisation – like a club or a gym; or at a venue – like a pool or an oval'. This question replaced the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) concept of 'organised activity' because the cognitive testing identified that respondents did not conceptualise the notion of an organising 'agent' in the way intended by the question. Therefore the question was revised to better map respondents' own definitions. In recognition of the challenges to use one generic question to capture the variety of participation options, the ASC will further explore the concept of 'organised' among adults in the future. For children, only participation in 'organised' activity outside of school hours was collected.

## **Organisation/venue type**

Adult players who said that they had participated in an activity through an organisation or at a venue, and all child players, were asked through what type of organisation, or at what type of venue, they had done this activity. Respondents gave their answer in their own words, and interviewers coded their response using a list of ten types of organisations or venues, plus an 'other' option. Multiple responses were accepted for each activity.

## **Output and Input category**

See 'Participation by adults'.

## **Participant**

See 'Player (adult)' and 'Player (child)'.

## **Participation by adults**

All adults (aged 15 and over) were asked whether they had participated in any physical activities for sport, for exercise, or for recreation in the last 12 months. The order of the three terms (sport, exercise or recreation) was rotated. Up to ten separate activities could be recorded and subsequent questions were then asked about this activity (frequency, duration, whether done through an organisation or venue and which, and payment).

The respondent provided the name of each activity in their own words, and interviewers used a search facility to look up the activity in a pre-coded list provided by the ASC, containing 'input' or sub-categories which mapped on to 'output' categories for reporting purposes. Respondents were routed through questions at an output level; and if multiple versions of the output category were mentioned, only one was counted. So, for example, if a respondent had played both 'indoor netball' and 'netball', the subsequent questions asked them about any netball they had played in the last 12 months.

The only exception to this was for sports that incorporate NSO (National Sporting Organisation) branded products. The ASC wished to collect data on NSO branded products separately from the sports to which they aligned so the performance of NSO branded products can be measured separately. Therefore, for sports offering NSO branded products at a national level, the interviewer read out all of the subcategories of that sport, including the NSO branded product, and recorded at input level. So, for example, if a child had participated in netball, the interviewer probed to find out whether the child had done: 'NetSetGo', 'indoor netball' or 'netball'. If an NSO branded product had been played, this was asked about separately in follow-up questions. So, in this case, the interviewer would ask questions on frequency, duration, payment, etc. specifically for the NSO branded product of 'NetSetGo'. If another form of netball had been played, in addition to the NSO branded product, the interviewer would ask questions on frequency, duration, payment, etc. of 'netball, not including NetSetGo'.

NSO branded products were tailored to the age of the adult or child; such that adults were only asked about products available to them, and the questions for children only covered products targeted at children.

## **Participation by children**

Among children, participation was limited to outside of school hours (since parents often do not know accurately what activities are done within school), and to organised sport or physical activity (since non-organised activity is difficult for parents to define and quantify among children). The responding parent/guardian answered on behalf of a randomly selected child in their household. As with adults, a maximum of 10 activities could be recorded. Activities were coded in the same way as they were for adults.

## **Payment**

For each organised activity played in the last 12 months outside of school hours by child players, and for each activity played in the last 12 months through an organisation or at a venue by adults, a number of questions were asked about payment. Firstly, respondents were asked whether they had paid money to the organisation or venue for that activity. Those who had paid were then asked how much they had paid to the organisation or venue in total for that activity in the last 12 months. They were then asked whether they had paid 'in one go, or in instalments, or per session'. Those who had paid in instalments were asked 'how often, or for what timeframe, did you pay these instalments?'

## **Player (adult)**

Adults who had participated in some form of sport or physical activity during the last 12 months are called 'players', for ease of reference. Those who had not participated, during the last 12 months, are referred to as 'non-participants'.

## Player (child)

Among children, participation questions were limited to outside of school hours (since parents often do not know accurately what activities are done within school), and to organised sport or physical activity (since non-organised activity is difficult for parents to define and quantify among children).

The responding parent/guardian answered on behalf of a randomly selected child in their household. They were asked whether the child had 'participated during the last 12 months in any organised sports or physical activities? By organised, we mean activities that were formally arranged by a club, association, school or other type of organisation?'

Children who had participated in some form of organised physical activity outside of school hours in the last 12 months are called 'players', for ease of reference. Those who had not participated, during the last 12 months, are referred to as 'non-participants'.

## Population estimate

Reporting for AusPlay displays both percentages and population estimates. Population estimates are the estimated number of the target population (either adults or children) who would have provided that response had a census of that population been conducted. The population estimates and proportions shown are weighted estimates with the weights based on the probabilities of selection of the responding sample and also using the most recent quarterly value of the Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figure from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

## Sports club or association

'Sports club or association' is one of the avenues for participation at 'Organisation/venue type', as self-reported by the respondent.

For more information, see 'Organisation/venue type'.

## Sport-related activity

AusPlay captures a wide variety of activities (see 'Participation by adults' and 'Participation by children') and a distinction in the reporting is made between **sport-related activities** and **non-sport-related physical activities**.

**Sport-related activities** include, for example, team sports (basketball, football, Australian football, cricket, netball, etc.), athletics (including running and jogging), swimming, cycling, golf, etc. These are typically activities related to National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), although the participant may or may not play the activity through an affiliation with the NSO.

## Non-sport-related physical activity

AusPlay captures a wide variety of activities (see 'Participation by adults' and 'Participation by children') and a distinction in the reporting is made between **sport-related activities** and **non-sport related physical activities**.

**Non-sport-related physical activities** include, for example, gym/fitness activities, bushwalking, recreational (non-sport) dance, etc. These are typically activities not related to National Sporting Organisations (NSOs).