



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

Active After-school
Communities

Helping kids and communities get active

ATHLETICS

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 \$600,000 of that being allocated to athletics 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 athletics 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 athletics and provide support for the sport's grassroots participation objectives.

PERFORMANCE DATA

The data provided below depicts the overarching, national athletics 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 athletics programs conducted in Australia;
2. Number of participants – a breakdown of the total number of participants who took part in AASC athletics programs;
3. Number of coaches – a breakdown of the total number of coaches who delivered AASC athletics programs, identified by coach category.

Programs

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

State/Territory	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
NSW	551	567	+3%
VIC	184	333	+81%
QLD	236	349	+48%
SA	116	111	-4%
WA	116	175	+51%
TAS	20	36	+80%
NT	13	20	+54%
ACT	18	28	+56%
TOTAL	1,254	1,619	+29%

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

The total number reflects a 29% growth on the previous reporting period. In percentage terms, this was a strong performance for all but one of the delivery areas – the 4% reduction in total programs in SA is the key result which does not conform to trend.

Participants

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

State/Territory	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
NSW	15657	15904	+2%
VIC	4633	8131	+76%
QLD	6874	9886	+44%
SA	3047	2549	-16%
WA	3376	4285	+27%
TAS	559	854	+53%
NT	562	786	+40%
ACT	676	999	+48%
TOTAL	35,384	43,394	+23%

The total number reflects a 23% growth on the previous reporting period. Participant results mirror the performance of the total program data but also provide a clearer reflection of the impact the AASC has on the actual volume of participants with an increase of 8,000 extra children exposed to the sport.

Coaches

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

Category	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
Sporting clubs	183	265	+45%
Community members	308	388	+26%
Internal (e.g. teachers)	278	348	+25%
Private providers	112	110	-2%
Students	117	158	+35%
TOTAL	998	1269	+27%

The total number reflects a 27% growth on the previous reporting period. Of note is the significant growth in the number of community coaches delivering athletics who represent sporting clubs. This can be attributed to a proactive approach by the AASC to engage with sporting organisations and encourage athletics coaches to deliver AASC programs as a means to enable greater levels of transition.

SUMMARY

This report is intended to provide a summary of the relationship between the AASC program and athletics in Australia. The data aims to show the value of the AASC program to Athletics 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 athletics after taking part in the AASC program or the true number of participants who attended each athletics session, it does clearly show an increased appetite for primary school aged children to play athletics. 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 athletics 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 athletics in the future as we look to align our participation objectives and begin to deliver shared sporting outcomes.