



# RUGBY UNION

## 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 rugby union 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 rugby union 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 rugby union and provide support for the sport's grassroots participation objectives.

### PERFORMANCE DATA

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

### Programs

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

State/Territory	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
NSW	31	22	-29%
VIC	15	36	+140%
QLD	40	27	-33%
SA	4	4	0%
WA	15	17	+13%
TAS	0	0	n/a
NT	5	0	n/a
ACT	3	0	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>-6%</b>

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

The total number reflects a 6% reduction on the previous reporting period. In percentage terms, there were varied results across all delivery areas; a strong performance in VIC was mitigated by declines in both NSW and QLD. An absence of any activity in TAS, NT and the ACT presents a clear opportunity to implement some focus within these areas to encourage sites to offer rugby union programs.

## Participants

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

State/Territory	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
NSW	1114	572	-49%
VIC	437	970	+122%
QLD	1091	747	-32%
SA	107	105	-2%
WA	354	436	+23%
TAS	0	0	n/a
NT	240	0	n/a
ACT	60	0	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>-17%</b>

The total number reflects a 17% reduction on the previous reporting period. Overall participant results mirror the performance of the total program data showing a reduction of more than 500 children exposed to the sport. Whilst this decline is disappointing, the outlook for the current reporting period could be more positive as the ARU and AASC look to partner for the launch of the Try Rugby 7s program.

## Coaches

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

Category	2011/12 total	2012/13 total	Change +/-
Sporting clubs	26	36	+38%
Community members	11	15	+36%
Internal (e.g. teachers)	8	12	+50%
Private providers	9	9	0%
Students	4	1	-75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>+26%</b>

The total number reflects a 26% growth on the previous reporting period. Of note is the significant growth in the number of community coaches delivering rugby union who represent sporting clubs, schools or who are community members. This can be attributed to a proactive approach by the AASC to engage with sporting organisations and encourage rugby union 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 rugby union in Australia. The data aims to show the value of the AASC program to ARU, 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 rugby union after taking part in the AASC program or the true number of participants who attended each rugby union session, it does demonstrate the opportunity for the ARU to engage with a high volume of children and target the sport at a grass roots level. With the planned partnership through Try Rugby 7s, this opportunity is heightened further.

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 rugby union in the future as we look to align our participation objectives and begin to deliver shared sporting outcomes.