

Sports equipment library

Description and Benefits

Sports Equipment libraries can provide resources for individuals and families to utilise equipment that they may not be able to afford or, they may wish to 'try before they buy'. It also enables individuals and families to actively participate in sport and recreation in areas where they encounter difficulties in accessing programs or services due to isolation or lack of available equipment.

The types of equipment that can be available from sport equipment libraries can include: basketballs, soccer balls, netballs, footballs, cricket sets, athletics equipment, golf sets, mini squash sets, mini portable basketball posts and many more items.

Sports equipment libraries may operate independently by councils, local community centres/health care centres or libraries. They can be mobile or permanently attached to an accessible building. More and more libraries are looking at adding additional services as they continually strive to meet the needs of their communities (Bryant and Pengelly, 2008). McNicol (2003) found that joint use libraries can work extremely well and have the potential to be an integral part of the local community. In many areas, they enable a better standard of library service to be provided than would have been possible otherwise.

All venues for sports equipment libraries require ease of access and proximity to sports fields/ playgrounds. This facilitates collection and effective use of the library. The provision of safety guides with any sport equipment loaned is also necessary for all physical activities.

Membership to sport equipment libraries may vary depending on how the sports equipment library is operated and requires consideration before establishment. Sports equipment would be loaned to community members within the local area for up one month.

Size and distribution of the problem

General data about physical activity (including available data for Gippsland) can be found at <http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Physical-activity--Size-and-distribution-of-problem>

Spurrier, Magarey et al.(2008) have found that increased physical activity in children was positively associated with more outdoor play equipment and a larger backyard size. Whilst the size of these correlations were small, these findings are consistent with a number of other studies (Ferreira et al., 2006, Salmon, 2003).

According to the ABS (2003) the total expenditure by Australians on participation in organised sports and physical activities was \$2,762.6m at an average per participant of \$693 in 1996-97. Clothing and equipment accounted for 29.5% of the total expenditure. If this proportion of expenditure could be relieved through the use of sport equipment libraries, more individuals and families may be encouraged to participate in physical activity.

Leadership

- Local Council Library, Toy libraries and Kindergarten Libraries – to operate sport equipment libraries
- Schools
- After-school physical activity providers
- Sporting clubs

Suggested Partners, their roles and responsibilities

Active After-school Communities: Schools and out of school hours care services (OSHCS) can express their interest in participating in the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program. Funding to assist the purchase of sporting equipment may be available. Expression of interest forms to join AASC are available from: <http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/aasc>

Resources for Implementation

Maribyrnong City Council Sports Equipment Library
http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=5163

Cook Shire, Far North Queensland Sports Equipment Library <http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/sports-equipment-library>

City of West Torrens, South Australia, Toys, games and sporting equipment hire
http://www.westtorrens.sa.gov.au/Library/Resources_collections/Toy_sports_collection

The [Achievement Program](#) is a Healthy Together Victoria Initiative which replaces the 'Go for your life' program. This initiative will recognise achievements in promoting health and wellbeing and support the development of safe, healthy and friendly environments for learning, working and living in:

- schools and early childhood education and care services
- workplaces and workforces, and
- local communities.

Participating organisations will receive guidelines, resources and support to help meet [statewide benchmarks](#) for health promotion. They will be linked with local health professionals, organisations and programs to access additional support.

The benchmarks within the Achievement Program that are aligned with this intervention are contained within the "Active play/physical activity" health priority area.

For Early childhood education and care services the relevant benchmarks are 1 & 3.

For Primary schools the relevant benchmarks are 1 & 3.

The Healthy eating and oral health benchmarks can be downloaded from the following links
[Early childhood education and care services](#)
[Primary schools](#)

Recreation Sport Equipment Hire. Christchurch City Council, NZ
<http://resources.ccc.govt.nz/files/RecSportEventEquipmentHire-recreationsport.pdf>

[Australian Sports Foundation](#) - To access funds for sports equipment.

Evaluation Tools

CDC (2000). Physical Activity Evaluation Handbook. Atlanta, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/handbook/pdf/handbook.pdf>

References

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<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/47225A8C215D1A1ACA257191007C1D1C?OpenDocument>

Bryant, M. & Pengelly, R. (2008) Diversification ... where libraries, ruffraff and Crusty Demons meet! . *The Electronic Library*, 26, 662 - 672.

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com.ezproxy.lib.monash.edu.au/Insight/ViewContentServlet;jsessionid=CE5D09A7961E689195521114701B1BCD?contentType=Article&Filename=Published/EmeraldFullTextArticle/Articles/2630260504.html>

Ferreira, I., Horst, K., Wendel-Vos, S., Kremers, S., van Lenthe, F. & Brug, J. (2006) Environmental correlates of physical activity in youth - a review and update. *Obesity Reviews.*, 8, 129-154.

McNicol, S. (2003) Dual use public and school libraries in the UK. . Accessed on 9 January

http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/docs/Dual_use_libraries_supplementary_report.doc

Salmon, J. (2003) Home and neighbourhood: the influence of the environment on children's physical activity. *Royal Australasian College of Physicians ASM Hobart*.

Spurrier, N., Magarey, A., Golley, R., Curnow, F. & Sawyer, M. (2008) Relationships between the home environment and physical activity and dietary patterns of preschool children: a cross-sectional study. *International Journal of Behavioural Nutritional Physical Activity.*, 5.

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2432071>