



**Disability  
Sports  
Australia**

**Submission to the Games Independent  
Infrastructure and Coordination Authority 100  
Day Review on key planning aspects for the  
Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympics**

**January 2025**

## **About Disability Sports Australia**

**Disability Sports Australia (DSA)** is a National Sporting Organisation, a not-for-profit entity, and a charity that champions active participation in grassroot sports for people with disability.

Disability Sports Australia (DSA) enhances the accessibility of sports, ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities to participate.

As a national charity and sport organisation, we operate at local, state, and federal levels to create inclusive sporting environments.

Our introduction to sport programs raise awareness of local opportunities, empowering individuals through sports and living active, healthy lifestyles.

We aim to empower individuals with disability by supporting sporting organisations to enhance their capability and build welcoming and inclusive environments through comprehensive education and resources.

We also aim to make it easier for people with disability to understand how they can become active and engaged in sport in a way that is meaningful to them.

Our work is informed by a **Disability Advisory Committee**, comprised of people with disability or direct lived experience of disability to ensure that DSA speaks with an authentic voice in disability.

**Our vision is:** Lives and communities changed through the power of sport.

**Our purpose is:** Build the capability of sport to enable participation of people with disability.

## Access for All

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provides a monumental opportunity for the Brisbane and the State of Queensland to showcase access and accessibility across not only the games events and venues but across infrastructure and the built environment more broadly.

Access is more than ramps and lifts, it's about equal inclusion and participation in and beyond the sporting arena. Getting access right will benefit the entire Queensland community and highlight the State's commitment to world leading inclusion, participation and universal design – and ensure that the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games leaves a strong and lasting legacy.<sup>1</sup>

## Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) – Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.<sup>2</sup>

1. With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:
2. To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues.
3. To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

## Making Access, Inclusion and Participation Real – Nothing Without Us.

4. The Games, both Olympic and Paralympic must have a fully inclusive and holistic approach to ensure that people with disability are included equally either as athletes, participants, volunteers or spectators. To ensure this inclusive approach people with disability must be included in the design and development process of all aspects of the Games – including infrastructure and the built environment.
5. Disability Sports Australia (DSA) is uniquely placed to support the full inclusion of people with disability in the design and development process as our mission is to ensure access, inclusion and participation of people with disability in sport and recreation. DSA has a community focused approach and is well regarded for bringing the voice of disabled people into sporting environments.
6. It is imperative that facility providers possess a comprehensive understanding of how to tailor program delivery for individuals with disabilities. Standardized

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<sup>1</sup> <https://q2032.au/plans/games-legacy>

<sup>2</sup> Article 30 – Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport | United Nations Enable

benchmarking of the confidence levels of coaches and providers in delivering inclusive programs must be enhanced both in the lead-up to and during the games. This will ensure that the generational opportunity to enhance sports participation for people with disabilities is upheld.

7. The Disability sector has enshrined the catch phrase “Nothing without Us” – this is vital in ensuring access, inclusion and participation that is truly authentic. Without the direct input from the wider disability sector access, inclusion and participation can not only be thwarted but it can go very wrong, leaving disabled people excluded, secluded or marginalised and unable to participate fully in a way they seek.<sup>3 4 5 6</sup>

## **Universal Design – Welcome Everyone.**

8. Universal design is about making sure that all people, including people with disability are welcome in any space, be it a venue, transport, home, or sporting event.<sup>7</sup> Universal design goes beyond creating a product is a whole thinking process that centres welcome as its fundamental principal. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games set an International best practice standard and should be considered a benchmark for disability accessibility, inclusion and participation.<sup>8</sup>
9. DSA has previously worked with local government authorities to support best practice in the application of Universal Design. Most recently we successfully co-designed the Blacktown Disability Sports Centre in Western Sydney. This venue was designed as “access for all” from the ground up and currently stands as the best example of a fully accessible sporting venue in Australia. The Blacktown Complex could be upheld as a blueprint for any new venues to be developed for the 2032 Games.
10. With potential for existing venues to be knocked down and rebuilt it is vital that facilities are designed beyond the bare minimum of accessibility in mind, noting that everyone will benefit from venues that are universally designed.
11. Additionally, facility design considerations should include quotas for facility usage dedicated to disability programs. This will ensure that there are adequate opportunities for the activation of disability sports within these facilities.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/london-2012-broke-promise-and-failed-to-deliver-on-access/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://theconversation.com/london-2012s-legacy-boosted-paralympic-sport-but-disabled-peoples-lives-have-worsened-187298>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-06/rio-2016-locals-question-disability-access-ahead-of-paralympics/7818244>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cyrlr5m4rj0o>

<sup>7</sup> <https://universaldesignaustralia.net.au/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://library.olympics.com/Default/doc/SYRACUSE/849336/disability-narratives-in-sports-communication-tokyo-2020-paralympic-games-best-practices-and-implications-\\_lg=en-GB](https://library.olympics.com/Default/doc/SYRACUSE/849336/disability-narratives-in-sports-communication-tokyo-2020-paralympic-games-best-practices-and-implications-_lg=en-GB)

## Recommendations

- Set up a Disability Advisory Panel to support authentic co-design of all aspects of the Games. – ensuring panel members are people with disability and or people with direct lived experience of disability.
- Ensure that people with disability have regular opportunities to give feedback on proposals and developments for the Games via surveys and public consultations.
- Commit to Universal Design across the entire Games, from communications to transport and the built environment more broadly. Looking to Tokyo 2020 as a model for International best practice.
- Facility design considerations should include quotas for facility usage dedicated to disability programs to ensure adequate opportunities for the activation of disability sports within these facilities.

## Conclusion

Disability Sports Australia fully supports the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We want to see a Games that is fully accessible, inclusive and participatory for everyone including people with disability.

DSA's extensive expertise makes it an ideal trusted partner for the Brisbane 2032 Games as we have the grassroots knowledge to lead in creating accessible sporting environments.

An accessible Games will strengthen benefits for all of Queensland; accessibility fosters economic growth, tourism, and community health, making it a gold win for everyone. A lasting legacy for Brisbane and Queensland goes beyond a one off event, planning for the 2032 Games needs to maintain the vision of a long term benefit for the entire State and all Queenslanders – that vision must be accessible, inclusive and participatory and must be reflected in all infrastructure developed for the event, from the built environment to communications and messaging. Brisbane 2032 has the opportunity to be the world's best Games for everybody.

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Disability Sports Australia Ltd. is a registered Charity with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

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