

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In September and October 2023, the City of Melbourne (CoM) undertook initial community consultation and research to inform the development of a draft Fair Access Sport and Recreation Allocation and Use Policy and Action Plan 2024 - 2027.

Clubs, agencies and the community were invited to provide feedback on the draft policy and action plan through consultation activities during February and March 2024. This report provides a summary of the current consultation.

PROMOTION

Participate Melbourne Page



Views
1,151

Visits
857



Visitors
625



Policy 2024-2027
148 downloads



Action Plan 2024-2027
116 downloads

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



Participants
71 engaged with project



Interviews
10



Survey responses
44



Written submissions
8



Focus groups
2 with 12 participants



Clubs
18

AGENCIES REPRESENTING:

- LGBTIQ+ community
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- People living with a disability
- Homelessness and mental health sector
- Alcohol and other Drugs sector

SUMMARY

The majority of participants were supportive of the draft policy and action plan.

DRAFT POLICY

Messaging and language

Clarity is required regarding the purpose of the policy to alleviate concerns around 'changing what is already working well'. It is important to acknowledge that clubs are at different points of their inclusion journey, and some have been prioritising opportunities for women, girls and underrepresented groups for many years.

Challenges in capturing data

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of consistency around how clubs collect and report on data. Challenges around recording data about specific attributes e.g. gender identity, disability and cultural background were also raised.

'We are running on the smell of an oily rag, so it's about how you can run a club that is supporting fair access and equity with such a limited budget.'
(club representative, interview)

Limited resources

Clubs are concerned about their limited resources to develop inclusion plans and undertake self-assessments, both in terms of time and knowledge in some instances. Limited resources were also cited as a key challenge to providing more opportunities for women and girls.

Suggestions for CoM

- Communicate clearly about the purpose of the policy and acknowledge that clubs are at different points of the inclusion journey.
- Be clear regarding data collection expectations.
- Ensure self-assessments acknowledge or reward clubs making an effort to be inclusive, regardless of whether women and girls are taking up these opportunities.
- Provide simple checklists and templates to reduce administrative burden on clubs.
- Partner with existing programs who work with clubs to develop inclusion plans and assessments.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Prioritising Facility Upgrades

Many commented on the need for facility upgrades to support access to sport and recreation opportunities for women and girls.

CoM funding and resourcing

Concerns were raised regarding the level of funding and resourcing CoM will contribute to the roll out of the policy and action plan.

Focus on training and capacity building

Training and capacity building was named as a priority to address some of the culture issues present within clubs.

Suggestions for CoM

- Appoint more staff to support clubs.
- Partner with existing agencies who deliver inclusion self-assessments and training.
- Promote and celebrate clubs that are leading inclusive initiatives and sharing learnings.
- Provide more grants and share opportunities both within and outside of CoM
- Refine action plan and include an implementation plan that sits underneath it to provide detailed steps.

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who had their say on this project. Feedback will be used to inform the final policy and action plan, which will be presented to Council for consideration in June 2024