

Welcoming Inclusive Network



# Community

Building welcoming and  
connected clubs



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## Building welcoming and connected clubs

Imagine your club is doing everything right: you have improved accessibility, your coaches are supportive, and your committee values inclusion, but there are no members with disability in the club. **Why?**

Because people can't join what they don't know about. Without community connections, it is hard for your club to reach the people who could benefit most from what you offer.



### Show what you stand for!

When your club's values are visible, people know they will belong.





**Inclusion doesn't happen in isolation. The most inclusive clubs are the ones that are visible and connected.**

Those who build relationships with schools, local councils, disability service providers, and community organisations. These connections open doors to new members, volunteers, and opportunities to learn.

## **Where to start?**

Becoming an inclusive club takes preparation and confidence, but it also takes courage to take the first step. You don't need to have everything perfect before reaching out. Learn as you go, listen to the people you connect with, and adapt along the way.



**Don't wait until you are ready. Start the conversation! You will learn by doing.**

## 5 ways to build connections with your community

1

**Build your confidence first by strengthening your knowledge and skills.** Connect and work with your State Sporting Association (SSA). They can guide you on inclusive practices and connect you to other clubs on the same journey.

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2

**Connect with your local government** and reach out to your club development officer or community development team. They often have resources, contacts, and grants to support inclusive initiatives. Being proactive shows that you are serious about creating positive change.



**Drop off a flyer. Disability services and NDIS partners love knowing which clubs welcome their participants.**



### 3

**Reach out to the disability community.** Once you have built some confidence, start linking with disability service organisations, support coordinators, and allied health professionals like occupational therapists or physiotherapists who work with people wanting to engage socially or through sport. Tell them about your club, your values, your goals, and the opportunities you can offer (playing and non-playing roles). Ask them to spread the word to their clients who may be looking to join something new.

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### 4



**Show your values.** The clearer your club is about its values and inclusive culture, the stronger your reputation will be. When people hear about your club through word-of-mouth or community partners, they will know it is a place where everyone is welcome.

# 5

## **Build partnerships with local organisations.**

Contact National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Partners in the Community (APM or Mission Australia, depending on where you are located) and local networks like youth centres, Police & Community Youth Clubs (PCYCs), and schools. Provide information about your club and what makes it inclusive. These organisations often act as connectors; they know people who want to be more involved in the community but might not know your club exists.



**Learn with your members. Ask them and/or their families, friends, and other supporters how you can best help someone participate.**





# inclusion solutions

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