



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Economics,
Industry and Recreation

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into barriers and opportunities for participation in community sports in the ACT

Submission number: 068

Submitter: Name Withheld

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From: LCommitteeEconomics@parliament.act.gov.au
To: [LA Committee - Economics](#)
Subject: submission received
Date: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 6:19:17 AM



Full Name and/or Organisation: [REDACTED]
Email address: [REDACTED]
Suburb: [REDACTED]
Phone number: [REDACTED]
Please select one of these statements: I would like to be contacted about making my submission confidential or having my name withheld if published.
Do you feel you have enough opportunities to participate in sport in your local community?: No
Why/why not?: Lack of close by toilet facilities
Why do you like to participate in sport?: Physical fitness, Spending time with people/Socialising, Mental health & wellbeing
If you selected 'other', please provide further details::
Does your local neighbourhood offer opportunities for you to participate in sport, organised or not?: Yes, a moderate amount
Please tell us about your experience participating in community sport. For example, what sports you play, do you volunteer for local clubs, etc: I've been a member of Capital Petanque Club, which is plays on licensed land in Weston Park, since its creation almost a decade ago. This club has grown strongly from around twenty members playing on a Sunday to over seventy members playing six days a week. The membership is made up largely of over fifty year old - providing essential age appropriate exercise and social interaction for seniors.
Why is community sport important to you?: Regular social intersection, gentle exercise and getting out into nature are critical to healthy ageing and longevity. Petanque is the perfect sport for seniors as it can be played by all abilities including people in wheel chairs. It meets all the requirements for healthy ageing.
What stops you from participating in as much sport as you'd like to?: Lack of facilities , Lack of disability access, Injuries
If you selected 'other' please provide any details::

What do you see as the biggest barriers to participating in community sport in the ACT and how would you remove them?: As people age, having closely located bathroom facilities are critical. Unfortunately there are no toilet facilities close to the Petanque piste. Those available are a ten minute walk away across uneven ground. There is also a lack of seating at the Petanque piste. A request was made to former TAMS for park benches to be located next to the piste but only two were provided.

Is there anything else related to participation in community sports in the ACT which you would like to add?: As physical ability declines Petanque is quite unique in providing a social and gentle physical sporting activity that supports fitness as the body declines with old age. The strong membership growth despite losing members to death and severe health decline, indicates the importance of access to this sport.

Would you be interested in speaking to the Committee about your experience at a public hearing?: Yes

I understand that I cannot share my submission until the Committee publishes it.: Yes