



Inquiry into barriers in community sports

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Ms Lori Modde, CEO Outdoors NSW & ACT

In relation to: Data on sports-related activities and non-sports-related activities.

Hearing: 08 October 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p. 108

Transcript Provided: 13 October 2025

Answer Due: 08 October 2025

Ms Modde took on notice the following question:

Ms Modde: Fabulous. I can give you a snapshot certainly of my whole industry which is made-up as I say of those different areas. I have pulled some data out of our census. Just as a bit of background, I complete a census every 12 months and it goes out to the broader industry for completion every January. So what I did is pull all the ACT content out of there and I can tell you whatever data you would like to know from that. But what we have seen generically across the board is the movement into recreation out of sport. There has been, and I think even the Australian Sports Commission have verified this in their data, that non-competitive, non-club-based activity has certainly risen outside of COVID, and using those quotes again, and that growth is certainly increased.

I could probably get you the data from the Australian Sports Commission. I do not have that in front of me but I am happy to send that post this meeting so you can see that verified there. But from our statistics in the ACT 31 per cent of all the activities that happen in the ACT are based in the territory, but there is 43.9 per cent of those that are based in New South Wales that go to the territory for recreation activities.

Then there is 17 per cent in Victoria and the rest split between WA, Northern Territory and overseas. So you have got a bit of a tourism opportunity there, which I have spoken to Jonathan Curtis about a number of times. But on the outdoor recreation space, 22 per cent of all the activities are considered to be recreation in the outdoors. 39 per cent is education, so they are coming here for an education outcome, doing the activities of recreation but with an education outcome. So the opportunity to grow that is quite large. In New South Wales that is a lot closer. So on the New South Wales figures you would see a very close sector split between education and recreation. So—

MR RATTENBURY: And what is—sorry.

Ms Modde: No, you are right.

MR RATTENBURY: What is the nature of those recreation activities? Are there broad categories you can describe to us?

Ms Modde: Certainly. 73 per cent of all the activities do bushwalking, 73 per cent do camping, so that is, obviously, potentially combined, 56 per cent is paddle craft, 43.9 per cent is mountain biking, 41.5 per cent is rock climbing, 41 per cent is nature play, conservation is 39 per cent, road cycling and cycle touring is 36 per cent and then the list goes down for another 15 or so activities but yes, that gives you the top. I can send again if you want the data, I can send you the breakup.

MR RATTENBURY: That would be handy I am just interested in what some of those categories are.

Ms Modde: Yes.

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

As promised here is the data as discussed for ACT from the Australian Sports Commission:

		Total	Sport-related activities only	Non-sport related activities only	Both sport and non-sport related activities
Participation rate					
All	Total	92.2%	11.1%	34.4%	46.6%
Males	Total	90.4%	16.2%	26.6%	47.5%
Females	Total	93.9%	5.9%	42.3%	45.7%

For the whole country:

		Total	Sport-related activities only	Non-sport related activities only	Both sport and non-sport related activities
Participation rate					
All	Total	85.3%	14.5%	34.2%	36.6%
Males	Total	86.0%	20.6%	27.3%	38.1%
Females	Total	84.7%	8.7%	41.0%	35.1%

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And in addition from our own Census these are the activities that are currently conducted in the ACT:

Bushwalking / Hiking 73.20%

Camping 73.20%

Paddle Craft activities: Canoe / Kayaking / SUP 56.10%

Mountain Bike Riding 43.90%

Rock Climbing 41.50%

Nature Play / Adventurous Play 41.50%

Conservation Activities 41.50%

Road Cycling / Cycle Touring 36.60%

Challenge Courses / Giant Swings / Crate Stacking 36.60%

Snow Activities: Skiing, Boarding, Cross Country, Snowshoeing 29.30%

Canyoning / Caving 29%

Snorkelling / Diving 22%

Horse Riding 17.10%

Sailing / Motorboating 17.10%

Meditation / Yoga in Nature 17.10%

4WD / Quad Bike / Motorised land activities 14.60%

Angling / Hunting Activities 9.80%

Sky Diving / Hot Air Ballooning 2.40%

From the Census we have been able to evaluate that there are 93 organisations in our industry with 2230 people employed in outdoor recreation / education in ACT:

28% FT

22% PT

37% Casual

3% Contracted

10% Volunteers

With a current capacity shortfall of staff/volunteers close to 1,000.

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245,613 participants were guided by outdoor industry businesses/organisations operating in the ACT in 2024. Predicted to grow to 270,900 in 2025. However with the shortfall of staff we predict this will fall short when we evaluate our data in Jan 2026.

Tables are attached from the Clearing House

Attachment 1: [AusPlay ACT Data Tables 30 April 2025](#)

Attachment 2: [AusPlay survey results January 2024 – December 2024](#)