



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: 015

Submitter: Name Withheld

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From: LCommitteeEconomics@parliament.act.gov.au
To: [LA Committee - Economics](#)
Subject: submission received
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Please select one of these statements: I understand that the committee may publish my submission along with my name, but without my contact details, unless I request that it be withheld or my submission be made confidential., 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?: Yes

Why/why not?: There is ample green natural space and recreational parkland that allows for community sports of all varieties to be played. This allows informal activities and recreational user groups to participate in a wide variety of sports. Too often sporting associations wants artificial turf

Why do you like to participate in sport?: Physical fitness, Spending time with people/Socialising, Mental health & wellbeing, Other

If you selected 'other', please provide further details:: To engage in natural green spaces and environmentally positive areas that not o my cater for sporting opportunities but also allow for a connection to country. There's nothing better then smelling freshly cut grass as you run out to train or play.

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: Have & continue to participate in a wide variety of sports Oz tag, frisbee football, archery, AFL, golf, touch, rugby, orienteering, union, cricket, tennis, the list goes on

It allows all walks of life to come together & be active with many

Why is community sport important to you?:	varying skill levels. It also ensures that community members are engaging with the environment & gaining experiences & connection to weather extremes and their associated impacts. It also creates a sense of longing & community care as people invest in the club or group on a regular basis. Today's world seems to be removing community focus & placing more emphasis on winning at all costs; overly competitive approach is not ideal
What stops you from participating in as much sport as you'd like to?:	Lack of time, Other
If you selected 'other' please provide any details::	Win at all costs
What do you see as the biggest barriers to participating in community sport in the ACT and how would you remove them?:	Community sports growing focus on elitism & “my kid being the best” detracts from what makes community sport engaging for all. Many young players & parents are turned off & leave because they no longer feel sport is for them & a positive influence.
Is there anything else related to participation in community sports in the ACT which you would like to add?:	The ACT Government must ensure that sporting recreational facilities remain natural & increase green urban space & parkland so that connection to country & broad accessibility for all people is best achieved. There seems to be a growing reliance on non resilient sporting surfaces aka fake grass that removes & destroys natural ecosystems replacing them with 100s of tonnes of plastic that degrades throughout the lifetime causing significant environmental damage & destruction
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