

## Lawn Bowls

While there are many health benefits from recreation or sport, the social side of participation is one of the main reasons people become involved in an activity. [Bowls SA](#) has recognised and catered for this need for many years, providing participants with the chance to play the lawn bowls at different levels, with ample opportunities for social interaction.

In 1998 Bowls SA formed a committee to look after the interests of bowlers with a disability. The committee worked with an external consultant to develop and implement a disability action plan. The committee now focuses on club and coach education, and increased marketing and promotion of the available opportunities to people with a disability.

Bowls SA has Development Officers who promote bowls for everyone and who conduct disability awareness as part of coach education.

Lawn Bowls offers a range of different opportunities for people with a disability to participate in the sport. These include one-off sessions booked by organisations for their clients, and sessions tailored to the needs of school students, and even tournaments as part of the school sport program. There are also specific programs run in conjunction with key disability organisations such as [Wheelchair Sports](#), [SASRAPID](#), the SA Blind Bowlers Club and SAMS (SA Multiple Sclerosis) Bowling Club.



People with a disability can also participate in the social Night Owls competitions run at many metropolitan and country clubs, or can be involved in social, intra-club or Pennant Bowls at their local bowling club.

Clearview Bowling Club is one of the many individual Clubs, which have paved the way for Bowls to be an inclusive sport. Clearview has members with integration difficulties who bowl in a twilight competition in summer and switch to indoor bias bowls in winter.

Participants become full Club Members and enjoy friendly competition and game instruction. As members each player has the opportunity to participate in mainstream competitions once they reach that level of competence.

Clearview also offers wheelchair bowling all year round, with special practice and coaching sessions available on Mondays. (Most bowling clubs now have suitable facilities to cater for wheelchair bowlers.) This inclusive approach benefits both people with a disability by providing greater opportunities for participation, whilst increasing membership numbers at the club.