

Yachting SA and Sailability SA Programs

Sailability programs, designed specifically for people with a disability, were established as a National initiative of Yachting Australia. [Yachting SA](#) in turn established a sub-committee, [Sailability SA](#) (SSA), to coordinate all activities at state level.

Both Yachting SA, Sailability SA and individual clubs promote and facilitate participation in sailing activities for persons of all abilities. This includes Come 'n' Try and regular sailing and social opportunities integrated within the regular Sailing Club activities, programs and State events.

Key establishment needs of Sailability SA included funding for boats and equipment, facilities and venues for sailing, and trained sailors to be volunteer instructors.



The SPARC Disability Foundation provided funding to purchase the first purpose built boats. Volunteers then gave their time freely to conduct the monthly programs at five venues. Promotion was assisted by SPARC through disability support groups and promotion was done at Trade Shows, Boat Shows and shopping centres.

Facilities and equipment required included:

- Accessible clubs, ramps, toilets, showers
- Boat launching and retrieval facilities
- Lifting crane and slings
- Rescue, coach and support boats

Every volunteer was allocated a role in the program. Support personnel required included:

- Trained instructors
- Safety boat crews
- Boat rigging, launching and retrieval
- Boat loading (lifting crane and sling)
- Other off water support staff

Instructor training was organised for on-water volunteers and special training in handling and supervision of people with a disability to help them gain independence on the water.

As demand increased, additional funding was sourced from SPARC, commercial sponsorship, service groups and sailing clubs to purchase additional boats plus trailers.

Four clubs have developed local programs with activities such as Come 'n' Try days, As participation increased, Learn to Sail Programs were provided. These led to regular Sailing, Racing and Social activities for people with a disability within the club environment.



All clubs have benefited from increased activity, new memberships (people with a disability, their family & carers) as well as attracting interest from local councils and service clubs to support the programs.

Sailability SA programs have successfully offered:

- Introduction events such as Come 'n' Try sailing days
- Recruitment of participants through learn to sail programs
- Integration within club sailing and social activities
- Participation in regular club racing
- Pathways to state and national regattas