

BLIND SPORT NZ ANNUAL REPORT JULY/JULY

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OVERVIEW



We had two new staff members begin in August 2022, the General Manager and a new position for Blind Sport NZ (BSNZ), a Community and Programme Lead. The new position meant we increased capacity and the number of activations in the sector and community. The feedback we have been receiving after these activations suggest our work is of a high standard.

Fostering good partnerships and working in collaboration has been the key to the success we have had this year. It was difficult to find baseline data on existing partnerships, so we created a sector matrix and used this to track the engagement level with partners as it changed over time. There was a notable increase in the number of groups we engaged with and in the quality of engagement.

One constant this year has been the need to increase the awareness and presence of BSNZ in the sector. We have been chipping away at this through more regular communication over the phone or email, through our social media platform, attending sport and disability hui or network opportunities and partnering with regional groups to jointly deliver sport events or training.

As a result of conversations with sector and community groups we identified a gap in skills, knowledge, experience and resources around visual impairment in sport. There was an appetite for support and to address this we created basic VI training material. We delivered training and education sessions, in person and virtually, to our sport sector coaches and officials as well as education and service sector providers.

In the more recent months we have reached out to our international blind sport colleagues and are getting underway with a project to share knowledge and ideas around best practice models.

To round off what has been a busy year, we reviewed and updated a number of our governing documents, i.e. our Constitution and Strategic Plan to set the platform for the forthcoming year/s.

BSNZ PRIORITIES

Participation



Increase opportunities for individuals who are blind, deafblind or have low vision to actively participate in sport in their local community (with a focus on youth & those currently inactive).

Education



Support the development of coaches, instructors and teachers to build their skills, knowledge, and experiences in Blind Sport. Enable coaches & teachers to then lead quality opportunities for students in sport and P.E. at school.

Awareness & Visibility



Activate partnerships and resources to increase the awareness and profile of blind, deafblind and low vision sport in New Zealand.

Sustainability



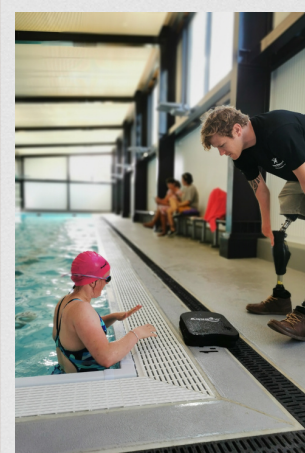
Develop key organisation and financial partnerships to support BSNZ operations and enable appropriate resourcing to achieve BSNZ strategic goals.

Participation

Highlights- Collaboration, Service delivery and Event support

Halberg Regional Games 2022
Halberg National Games 2023
FIFA Unity pitches (Akld, Ham, Wlg, Dun)
Special Olympics National Summer Games
School Girls Re-activation day (CLM)
Swimming NZ VI camps
ASB Classic inclusion day (Tennis NZ)
Festival of Disability Sport (Parafed BOP)

BLENNZ Immersion courses /Transition groups
BSNZ Bike Ride series (Auckland)
Kiwi Blind Fishing Club
Blind Lawn Bowls Nationals
Blind Sailing Open day
ABSRC Open day
Sailability Auckland Regatta
International Disability Day (Achilles NZ)



Impact

502

No. of Blind and VI participants engaged in activations

4904

Total participants engaged in activations

51

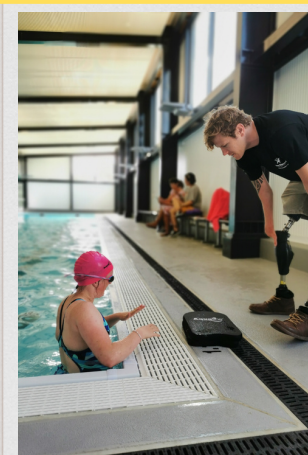
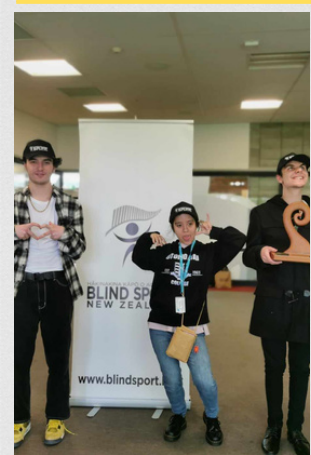
No. of deliveries/events attended

Upcoming Projects

- Woman and Girls Retreats - to increase connection and confidence.
- Virtual exercise series - creating a safe space and reduce barriers to be active.
- Find a Guide Database
- Activations (known at time of writing) - IAM games, Swimming NZ camp, ISAPA Have a go, Snow Sports Festival, Halberg Games (Blind Sport NZ Team), Canterbury Games.

Education

Training Resources	Sport Sector	Education Sector	Tertiary Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and delivery of a Basic Awareness training webinar. • Contribution of content to mainstream and disability sport print resources and Sports Tutor portal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of inclusion webinars and in person classroom or practical sessions. (Football NZ, Tennis NZ, Cricket NZ, Athletics NZ, Gym Sports, Volleyball NZ, Regional council - cycle trainers inclusion course) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLENNZ mainstream teacher and RTV professional development days, immersion courses and transition programmes. • BLENNZ SMT and staff meetings to inform next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University (Auckland, Massey) lecture presentations and practical sessions to under grad and post grad learners in specialist sectors. • Learning Support Network (LSN) webinar.



Impact



Accessible Sport Kits bookings



No. of deliveries to coaches/teachers



No. of registrations for BSNZ Online Awareness Training

Upcoming Projects

- Sport specific training resources and video development.
- Increase engagement in BLENNZ immersion courses, induction and national programmes.
- Curriculum development for PE programmes
- Professional Development for Resource Teachers of Vision (RTVs)
- Tertiary Sector expansion project

Awareness and Visibility

Accessible Sport Kits	Social Media	Networking	Marketing and Promotion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased promotion and subsequent usage of kits. (131 bookings, total reach of 3747 individuals, 10% VI youth, 87% students, 3% teachers and coaches). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased social media presence and platforms. Greater volume of posts with content relating to BSNZ activities and partner engagement opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at Women in Leadership Summit, ISAPA conference, Sport and Disability Huis and Expos . Aktive Leaders Network events. In person meetings with mainstream and disability sports orgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of programme initiatives in partner group publications and posts shared within the blind community and sport sector. (BLENNZ, PVI, PNZ, Achilles, Local Council, RST's, NSO's)



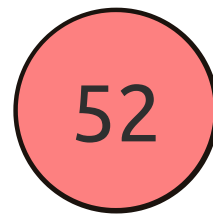
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No. of individuals reached from the Accessible Sport Kits



Facebook reach (last 90 days)



No. of posts across platforms (last 90 days)

Upcoming Projects

- Youth Ambassador programme - engagement with youth and promoting leadership.
- Scheduled catch ups with the BLVNZ Sport and Leisure Team and ongoing collaboration with BLVNZ service teams.
- Website review and revamp.
- National engagement project - to connect with the fabric of the blind community.
- Blind Sport NZ recognition event
- Mini Accessible Sport Kits initiative to promote targeted blind sports.

Sustainability

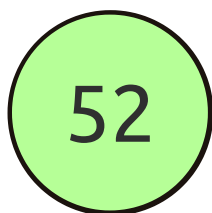
Partnerships	Organisation Capability	Governance	Advisory support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and information sharing with sport sector (DSO's NSO's, RST, Sport NZ). blind sector (BLVNZ, BSNA), education sector (BLENNZ). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural competency training. • Professional Development planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan update. • Constitution update and adoption. • Board refresh with new members onboarded. • Funding plan and strategy drafted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported organisations with capability, funding and advise where possible. • Sport pathway project initiated.



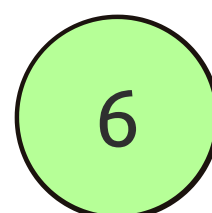
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% increase in partner engagements



No. of joint collaborations



No. of Expos & conferences attended

Upcoming Projects

- Partnership Agreements - work with identified partners to secure long term partnerships.
- Strategic Plan 2024-2026 - set strategic direction and focus for annual planning.
- Sport Pathway project - to raise areas of future focus and generate a sport support strategy.
- International Relations - expand blind sport network and connectivity.
- Database Management System - knowledge of our community.

FEEDBACK

Parents

"The funding she received from BSNZ was great in that it enabled her to stay on site and have a much more immersive experience. This would not have been possible if she was only there during the day. This allowed her to speak to them and share stories about their respective challenges, what support they have had that she (in many cases) didn't know about, and build enduring friendships with others dealing with the same challenges. As a teenager, this social aspect is particularly important."

"Immy loved goalball at school. It's one of the few times she says she feels like an equal with her peers. Wonderful!"

"Until recently he had had very little involvement any sporting activity as his disability always restricted him from being fully involved with kids his own age. Now he can't wait to get to his training sessions to be with his 'mates'. It has been a game changer for Cooper's attitude towards sport. This is due to your funding getting us there. Thank you."

Accessible Sport Kits

"A worthwhile learning experience for our tamariki! Great to build understanding, empathy, awareness and resilience"

"The whole process was easy and the kit is an amazing resource"

"I think this is a fantastic resource and having a kit that schools can borrow is a game changer. In the past when I've taught visually impaired tamariki it's been really hard to learn about and access equipment (although Blind Sport NZ and Parafed have provided support) but this kit makes it so easy for schools. I think this kit can have a huge impact!"

"OUTSTANDING MANUAL that was used HEAPS - really helpful lesson structures/drills/rules"

Mainstream schools and BLENNZ

"Thank you so much again for coming in yesterday to teach us all about goal ball. Everyone has been raving about it since and how informative it was and such a great experience. I know I will be more mindful of being inclusive in my planning."

"We are so enjoying having you as part of the team on Immersion courses – families and RTVs all comment on how enjoyable your sessions are and how much the learners benefit from your knowledge and expertise."

"That is an absolutely amazing and beautiful write up about the Youth week assembly and the work you are doing with our students and I can't wait to share it with our students whanau. Thank so much Jemma. It was so great we could make it happen."

Training

"I enjoyed it all. The short video we watched, the brief overview of a few eye conditions, making accessible posts, respectful language...it was a great introduction to blind/visually impaired sports!"

"The slides were clear and concise and Jemma was a relaxed and approachable presenter. I particularly enjoyed hearing about adaptations for ease of access - the garden canes taped to the gym floor to use as tactile markings etc"

Partnerships



"Great national and regional collaboration in action Thanks for your support of Paralympics New Zealand's Gotcha Boccia programme"



"Awesome to be working alongside Blind Sport New Zealand last week there is some pretty exciting things happening in the Taranaki we are looking forward to working with you more in the future!"



"Thanks Blind Sport NZ for your generous funding to help our Parafed Waikato youth attend the Halberg games"



"Thank you! You are a generous, inspiring bunch and I feel privileged to be working with you."



"I just wanted to pass on my thanks to you for hosting this awesome event for our members last week. Feedback I got from participants was how well organised and enjoyable this football skills session was... having the audio description happening during the event also really benefited both participants and observers alike."

We would like to acknowledge and thank our supporters and funders for their continued support of Blind Sport NZ. We look forward to continuing the momentum and success of BSNZ across Aotearoa and creating more opportunities for our community.

