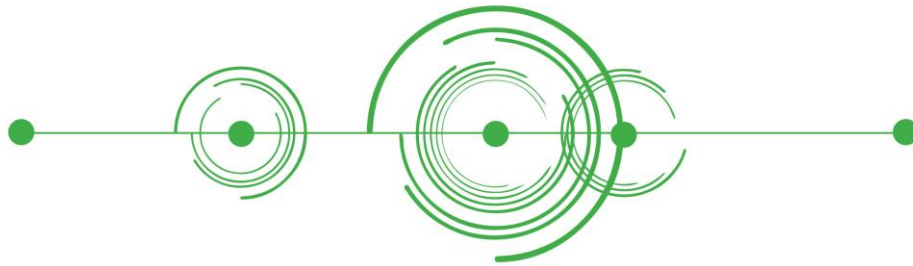


# Sport and Recreation Strategy



## Foundation Paper 3 Participation Analysis

### Summary



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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participation in sport and recreation plays an important role in maintaining and improving health and wellbeing. Being involved in sport and recreation can improve physical and mental health, develop community connections and social wellbeing<sup>1</sup>.

Boroondara has undertaken a series of statistically valid surveys to inform the development of the Sport and Recreation Strategy. These surveys<sup>2,3,4</sup> are supplemented by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data<sup>5,6</sup>.

Results of these surveys reveal a strong appetite by the Boroondara community to participate in sport and recreation. The Boroondara community identified more than 55 sport and recreational activities that they had participated in during the previous 12 months.

Boroondara participation data found that parks, playgrounds and swimming were the most popular activities for children under 5 years of age. As children move to primary school age, structured sport becomes the preferred activity with swimming, basketball, Australian rules football (AFL) and tennis being the most popular. For those aged 15 years and older, there is a gradual shift towards participation in a broader array of activities with unstructured activities becoming more popular as the community ages.

Sport and recreation participation can be thought of as a continuum with structured activities being popular for young people and as people grow older, unstructured activities become the dominant choice. It is suggested that unstructured activities are popular as they are available all the time and therefore suit those trying to fit their sport and recreation needs into busy lifestyles.

The surveys also revealed gender differences in participation and the way people find out about sport and recreation opportunities varies across age groups. A lack of time was identified across all age groups as the most common barrier to participation.

While overall the Boroondara community's participation is relatively high as compared to national and state averages, there are some members of the community who do not participate in sport and recreation to the same degree. Research suggests that the participation rates among people with a disability are recorded as lower when compared to those without a disability<sup>7</sup>. Similarly, the participation rate among people born overseas was lower compared to those born overseas from an English-speaking country<sup>8</sup>. Females record a lower participation rate in structured activities when compared to unstructured activities<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> VicHealth Participation in Physical Activity Summary (2010)

<sup>2</sup> Boroondara City Council: *Youth Sport and Recreation Audit 2014* (unpublished), Market Solutions, Local Government Research Group, Anna Lethborg, 29/10/2014

<sup>3</sup> Boroondara City Council: *Sport and Recreation Audit 2013* (unpublished), Market Solutions, Local Government Research Group, Anna Lethborg, 18/05/2014

<sup>4</sup> Boroondara City Council: *0 to 4 year old Sport and Recreation Survey*, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4177.0 - *Participation in Sport and Recreation*, Australia and Victoria (2005-06, 2009-10, 2011-12 and 2013-14)

<sup>6</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4901.0 - *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*, Australia and Victoria. (2006, 2009, 2012)

<sup>7</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics [Participation by People with a Disability 2011](#), 2011

<sup>8</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 4156.0.55.001 [Socio Economic Variation in Sport and Recreation Participation Rates](#) 2014

<sup>9</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Women in Sport The State of Play](#), 2013

An analysis of participation in sport and recreation activities has been undertaken to predict future changes in demand within Boroondara. Those activities that were identified as being likely to increase in demand were analysed further to ascertain whether there was capacity to cater for predicted increases. Boroondara sport and recreation activities that are showing an increase in demand which may not be met by existing facility provision include:

- Basketball
- Netball
- Australian rules football
- Soccer
- Skate and BMX
- Hockey

With the exception of Skate and BMX and hockey, the sporting activities identified above will be reliant upon facilities that cater for multiple sports such as highball courts and sports grounds. There may be the need to increase the provision of highball, skate and BMX facilities and increase the carrying capacity of sports grounds.

Emerging themes uncovered in this paper which are relevant to the Sport and Recreation Strategy are identified in the table 1 below.

*Table 1: Key themes from Foundation Paper 3: Participation analysis*

<b>Emerging Key Themes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
<p><b>Communication preferences</b></p> <p>Internet search engines/the council website are the most popular way for residents to access information about sport and recreation in Boroondara for all age groups, with the exception of older adults (80+), who preferred to phone council. Young people (age 15-24) are more likely to use social media to access information compared to other age cohorts.</p>	<p>Continually strive to ensure information channels cater to the preferences of all age groups, cultural backgrounds and abilities.</p>
<p><b>Open space and neighbourhood parks for passive and unstructured recreation</b></p> <p>Parks and playgrounds were revealed as being of great importance to residents, particularly as a means of recreation for children under 4 years and their families. The importance of neighbourhood parks was highlighted with many revealing they like to participate in sport and recreation activities within walking distance from home. Further to this, unstructured recreation was found to become more important as people aged.</p>	<p>Continue to recognise the value of parkland and open spaces as a place for structured sport and passive recreation.</p> <p>Council should continue to assess the suitability of open space and parkland that respond to the diverse needs of the community, balancing the needs for structured and unstructured recreation across all ages and stages.</p>

Emerging Key Themes	Implications
<p><b>High participation across the municipality</b></p> <p>Sport and recreation participation rates by residents of Boroondara are significantly higher for all age cohorts compared to National and State trends.</p>	<p>Balancing the opportunities and demands that come with a community that loves sport and recreation is a key challenge. Attention is also required to be paid to those in the community that have lower participation rates or face additional barriers to participation, such as people with disability, people from specific ethnic backgrounds, and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.</p>
<p><b>Barriers to participation</b></p> <p>Despite having high participation rates for all age groups, Boroondara residents indicated there are other activities they would like to participate in.</p> <p>Adults and young people indicated that being too busy/a lack of time as the main reason for non-participation in activities they would like to participate in.</p> <p>People with disabilities are less likely to participate in structured sport and recreation in particular.</p>	<p>Council can play a role in keeping abreast of the local participation of the Boroondara community in sport and recreation and their particular needs and requirements to participate. Communicating and providing information to local providers and organisations on the trends and lifestyle choices of the community will facilitate responsive programs and initiatives that reflect community need and continue to enhance participation in physical activity.</p>
<p><b>Age differences in popular activities</b></p> <p>The different age cohorts in the municipality show different patterns of participation.</p> <p>For children in their early years (aged 0-4 years), parks, playgrounds and swimming are the most popular sport and recreation activities</p> <p>Boroondara has particularly strong junior participation in sport. For young people (aged 5-14), structured sport becomes the preferred activity with swimming, basketball, Australian Rules Football (AFL) and tennis being the most popular activities</p> <p>For adults (aged 15+ years), there is a gradual shift towards participation in a broader array of activities with unstructured activities becoming more popular as people age</p> <p>For people aged over 65 years, there is a general drop-off in organised sport.</p>	<p>Recognise the different and evolving needs of different age groups in the community and facilitate opportunities that respond to the various needs of age cohorts within the community.</p>
<p><b>Gender differences</b></p> <p>Males and females show different patterns in terms of frequency of participation, and popular activities participated in.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to the sporting preferences of both males and females in future planning to encourage increased participation.</p>

<i>Emerging Key Themes</i>	<i>Implications</i>
<p><b>Cultural differences</b></p> <p>People who speak a language other than English revealed various differences in participation preferences, including frequency of participation, and barriers to participation.</p>	<p>The participation patterns of culturally and linguistically diverse residents should be taken into account when planning the provision and management of future sport and recreation activities.</p>
<p><b>Most popular sports / Growing sports / trends</b></p> <p>Basketball, soccer, Australian Rules football, skate and BMX have all shown a consistent participation increase for 5-14 year olds since 2005, nationally, statewide and in Boroondara.</p> <p>For residents aged of 15 years, the same trend has been seen for jogging</p>	<p>That Council remains up to date with current and emerging participation trends.</p> <p>Evidenced based data has informed the key issues and participation trends identified through the Sport and Recreation Strategy. The Strategy provides a framework to inform decision making when considering the allocation of finite resources. The underpinning principles of the Strategy aim to ensure resources are targeted to maximize community outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Facilities: Projected demand for sports that use sportsgrounds, highball, hockey and skate and BMX facilities</b></p> <p>Participation data reveals the capacity of current facilities to cater for projected demand will not be adequate for Australian rules football, soccer, basketball, netball, hockey and skate and BMX. The facilities that cater for these sports can be described as sports grounds, highball courts, hockey pitches and skate and BMX facilities.</p>	<p>An analysis of projected demand and facility capacity has been undertaken. An analysis of the planning precincts and participation needs will inform and guide where development or enhancements should be targeted.</p> <p>The Central, South East and South West precincts have been identified as the most appropriate locations for highball stadiums. The North East and North West precincts have been identified as the most appropriate locations for skate and BMX facilities.</p> <p>The South West precinct has been identified as a priority precinct for soccer pitch improvements and the Central and North West precincts are priority precincts for Australian rules football ground improvements. The Sports Asset Management Plan will identify the most appropriate locations for improvements to sports grounds.</p> <p>The North West and North East have been identified as priority locations for a hockey pitch. It is proposed to facilitate discussions between clubs and schools located in these precincts however other school sites close to existing clubs may be considered.</p>

The themes identified from this paper will assist in setting the direction of the Sport and Recreation Strategy to respond appropriately to the findings.

## 2. FOUNDATION PAPERS - OVERVIEW

This paper is one of four documents that make up the Foundations Papers. Information contained within these documents provides the evidence base for the development of the Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy. The headlines for these four papers are:

### Foundation Paper 1 Policy Context and Research

- » Policy context from a global, national, state and local context
- » The case for a focus on sport and recreation
- » Evidenced based research and data
- » Australian Bureau of Statistics data analysis

### Foundation Paper 2 Demographic Profile for City of Boroondara

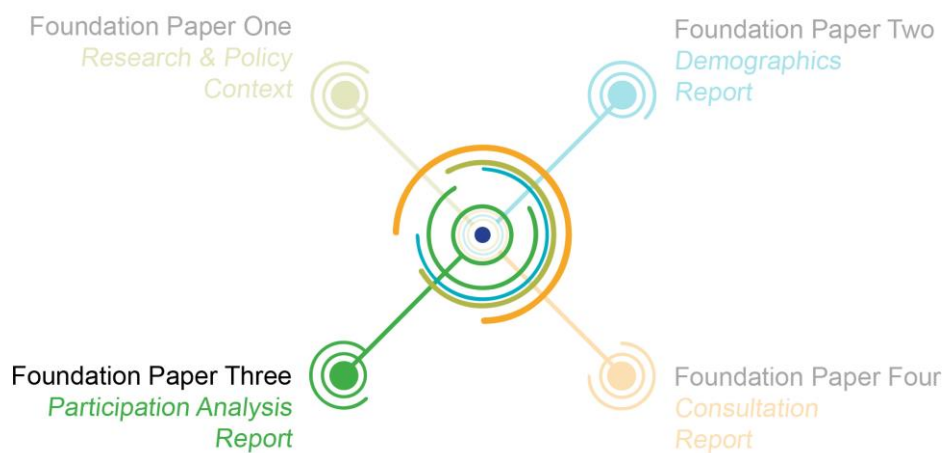
- » Population trends and comparative data

### Foundation Paper 3: Participation Analysis

- » Statistically valid participation trends
- » Provision of sport and recreation in Boroondara
- » Analysis of trends and demands

### Foundation Paper 4: Consultation Report

- » Community surveys
- » Stakeholder engagement surveys and workshops



### 3. INTRODUCTION

This document provides a review of the sport and recreation participation preferences for the Boroondara community. The document is structured in three sections. The first section details participation in sport and recreation by Boroondara residents across age groups with reference to ABS data where available. Sport and recreation participation by each age group is provided. The second section includes an assessment of the future demand for sport and recreation activities for each age group. The third section reviews the capacity of sport and recreation facilities to meet any changes in demand identified in section 2.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

The participation analysis has been developed from a number of data sources. The data sources are:

- Boroondara statistically valid surveys, and
- ABS National and State data

The following provides the background to the development and use of these two sources of data.

#### a. Boroondara statistically valid surveys

Three surveys were completed through a random sample of Boroondara residents, and produced results that are 'statistically valid'. This means that it is reasonable to expect that findings from the survey can be extrapolated to represent the wider population of Boroondara. For the purposes of this research, the data collected through the surveys has been weighted to reflect the age and gender of the general population of the area. The rationale behind weighting is explained further in the "weighting" section. The results of these surveys can therefore be generalised as representing all residents within the Boroondara municipality.

The three statistically valid surveys conducted were:

- » Early years survey of 0 to 4 year olds<sup>10</sup>  
This survey was completed by parents and carers of children aged 0 to 4 years who reside in Boroondara. The survey was via an online survey tool. There were 231 responses to the survey which represented data for 378 children.
- » Children and young people survey of 5 to 14 year olds<sup>11</sup>  
This survey was completed by parents and carers of young people aged 5 to 14 years who reside in Boroondara. The survey was conducted via telephone and there were 246 respondents which represented data for 419 young people.
- » Young people and adult survey of 15 years and above<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Boroondara City Council: *0 to 4 year old Sport and Recreation Survey*, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Boroondara City Council: *Youth Sport and Recreation Audit 2014* (unpublished), Market Solutions, Local Government Research Group, Anna Lethborg, 29/10/2014

<sup>12</sup> Boroondara City Council: *Sport and Recreation Audit 2013* (unpublished), Market Solutions, Local Government Research Group, Anna Lethborg, 18/05/2014



This survey was completed by residents aged 15 years and over who reside in Boroondara. The survey was conducted via telephone and there were 1004 responses from this survey.

The three surveys allows for comparison against ABS collated data, except for 0 to 4 year olds as no ABS data is available. Comparisons against ABS data should be viewed as indicative only as there are differences in survey methodology and time periods of data collection. The three surveys highlight the key differences in participation across age groups.

## b. Weighting

Some groups are over-represented in the sample and others under-represented. This issue is rectified by weighting the data. The theory behind weighting is:

1. Members of sub-groups that are thought to be over- or under-represented in the survey data are each given a weight
2. Over-represented groups are given a weight of less than one
3. Under-represented groups are given a weight of greater than one

To further explain the above, in a weighted data set, each individual is assigned a weighting factor.

In an unweighted table, each respondent is treated equally or as a value of one. Once you weight the data, by applying weighting factors, some respondents will be counted as a value slightly more than one and others slightly less than one. Those groups that were previously underrepresented will have their weighed base increased because their weighting factors will be more than one. Conversely, respondents belonging to groups that were over-represented will see their weighted base go down, because their weighting factors will be less than one.

For the purposes of this research, the data in all three surveys, has been weighted to reflect the age and gender of the general population of the area. Results can therefore be generalised as representing all residents within the Boroondara municipality.

The basis for the weights was the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics census data and these are displayed in the following tables.

*Table 2: Early years survey weighting*

<b>Base response =378 individuals</b>	<b>Unweighted %</b>	<b>Weighted %</b>	<b>Population %</b>
0 years	12.4	18.2	<b>17.9</b>
1 year	14.3	18.8	<b>19.3</b>
2 years	29.4	20.7	<b>19.2</b>
3 years	19.3	20.7	<b>20.9</b>
4 years	24.6	21.6	<b>22.7</b>

Table 3: Children and young people's survey weighing

Base response =419 individuals	Unweighted %	Weighted %	Population %
5 years	6.7%	9.3%	9.3%
6 years	4.5%	9.9%	9.9%
7 years	8.6%	9.7%	9.7%
8 years	10.5%	10.1%	10.1%
9 years	9.1%	9.8%	9.8%
10 years	11.7%	9.8%	9.8%
11 years	10.5%	10.2%	10.2%
12 years	15.5%	10.0%	10.0%
13 years	11.0%	10.6%	10.6%
14 years	11.9%	10.4%	10.4%

Table 4: Young people and adults survey weighing

Base response = 1004 individuals	Unweighted %	Weighted %	Population %
15-24 years	17.1%	18.7%	18.7%
25-39 years	15.3%	22.9%	22.9%
40-59 years	40.4%	33.9%	33.9%
60-79 years	22.2%	18.0%	18.1%
80+ years	5.0%	6.4%	6.4%

### c. Data accuracy

To understand how closely the results obtained from the sample are likely to represent the wider Boroondara population, a margin of error was calculated for each survey. The margin of error provides a range within which the result for each question would fall, had the entire Boroondara population been surveyed. Generally, the larger the sample size, the smaller the margin of error.

Table 5 outlines the margin of error for the data collected in each of the three Boroondara statistically valid surveys. There is a 95% confidence level that the margin of error calculated for each survey is accurate.

Table 5: Statistical validity of sport and recreation audit surveys

Type of survey	Population	Sample size	Margin of error
Early Years Survey 2013	8129	378	+ / - 5
Children and Young People Survey 2014	19,649	419	+ / - 5
Young People and Adult Survey (over 15 years) 2013	131,376	1004	+ / - 3

#### **d. Boroondara participation rate and projections**

A participation rate for Boroondara residents has been calculated for each age group which represents the percentage of people participating in at least one of their main sport and recreation activities in the last 12 months. The participation rate has also been developed for individual sport and recreation activities.

The Boroondara participation rate and individual sport and recreation activities have been calculated at a point in time. There is no statistically valid historical data available for the City of Boroondara and therefore a trend analysis to project future demand cannot be undertaken using Boroondara statistics alone.

However there is Victoria wide participation data which has been collated across a number of time points over the past 10 years. In the absence of Boroondara specific information these multiple time points have informed an analysis for facility provision in the future.

To undertake this analysis, a straight line regression model has been used. A straight line regression model develops a trend line for previous participation rates and applies this to projected population rates. This model has provided an analysis of 5-14 year olds and 15 years and over. Victorian participation data is not available for the 0-4 year age cohort and therefore projections for this age group have not been calculated. The model uses Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data from 2005-06, 2009-10, 2011-12 and 2013-14 and provides a trend line from these time periods for each sport and recreation activity with ABS data available. The trend line is then applied to the current Boroondara participation rate for each age group and across future time periods. To account for population growth, participation rates were applied to Boroondara's forecast population and age cohorts across various time periods to 2031.

This analysis assumes that the trends exhibited previously for Victoria will continue into the future and that Boroondara will display the same trends as Victoria. It is also only able to project those activities which have an ABS Victoria participation rate over previous years. This may not be the case across all sports but in the absence of localised trend data, it provides the most reliable measure of future participation based on population growth. Collection of Boroondara participation rates on a 5 year basis in the future will enable more accurate localised Boroondara participation trends to be calculated. However it should be acknowledged that projected trends based on population data can be limited as a range of other factors can influence sport and recreation participation such as lifestyle changes, technology advances, performance of our national teams and the creation of new or modified sport and recreation activities.

#### **e. Australian Bureau of Statistics data**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides statistics across a number of categories such as population, income and household expenditure to enable informed research and decision making. One such category of statistics is sport and recreation participation. Sport and recreation participation has been captured from a national and state/territory perspective across a number of surveys, for age groups from 5 years and over.

The *Children's Participation in Sport and Leisure Activities survey* provides the statistics for the age groups of 5-14 years and the *Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation survey* provides the statistics for the age groups of 15 years and over. Both these surveys have been undertaken at multiple points in time, which can allow for detailed analysis of trends by sport and recreation activity. The data is also captured from a state and territory perspective.

As discussed in the section above, the ABS data provides trend lines of participation in sport and recreation activities across age groups and genders. This data has informed the Boroondara projected participation rates.

## 5. SPORT AND RECREATION PARTICIPATION IN BOROONDARA

### a. Overall participation

For the ages of 0 to 4 years, the top 2 main sport and recreation activities were identified, for ages 5 to 14 years and 15 years and over the top 3 main sport and recreation activities have been identified. The overall participation rate is developed by combining those from all age groups who had participated in at least one of their main activities. This is then weighted to be representative of the Boroondara population.

The Boroondara community has an overall participation rate of 91.7%. This means that 91.7% of the Boroondara community have participated in at least one of their main sport and recreational activities over the past 12 months.

Table 6 below outlines the overall participation rate for popular sport and recreation activities.

*Table 6: Participation rates for all age groups combined*

Sport and Recreation Activity	Boroondara Percentage	Number of Boroondara residents
Walking for exercise*	43.4%	73,487
Swimming	20.4%	34,543
Cycling**	16.7%	28,277
Fitness/Gym***	12.4%	20,996
Running - Jogging	12%	20,319
Basketball	9.0%	15,239
Tennis	8.7%	14,731
Australian rules football	6.7%	11,345
Golf	5.8%	9,821
Netball	4.4%	7,450
Cricket	4.4%	7,450
Dancing	3.9%	6,603
Football - Soccer	3.7%	6,265
Yoga	3.0%	5,080
Pilates	3.0%	5,080

\*includes walking casual/power walking and dog walking

\*\*includes cycling on roads, bike paths and track/velodrome

\*\*\*includes gym-workout and personal training

## 6. EARLY YEARS 0 TO 4 YEARS OF AGE

### a. Overview

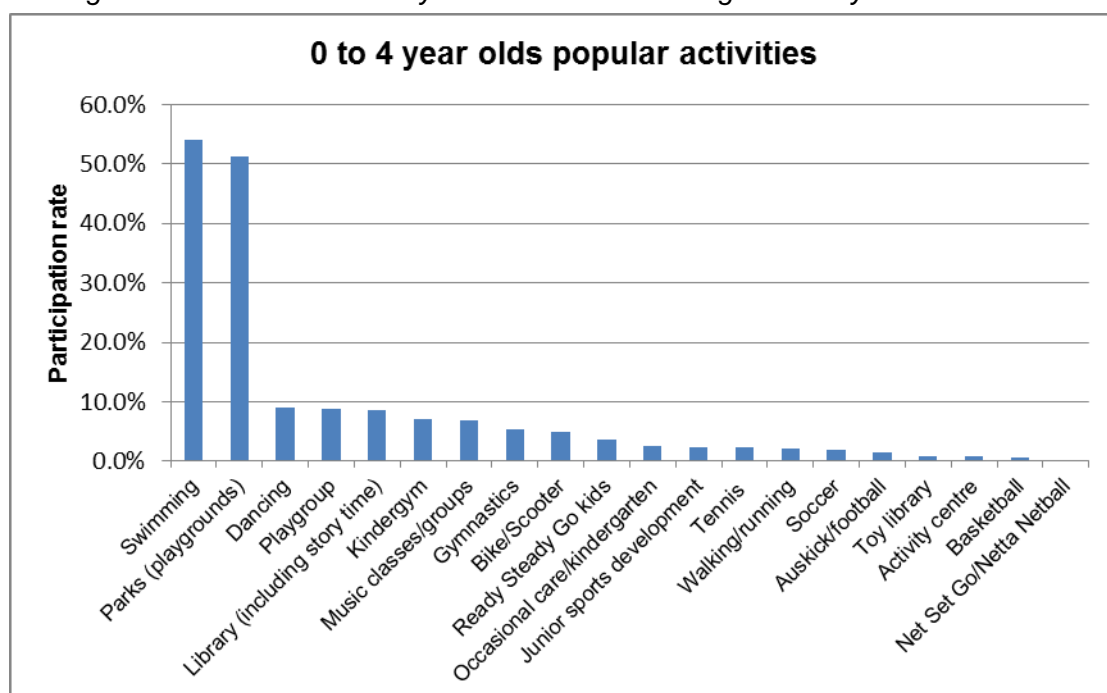
The Early Years Survey aimed to capture the sport and recreation activities of preschool children in Boroondara. There is no available ABS data for this age cohort. Key findings from this data include:

- » The overall participation rate for this age group is 84.4%. This means that 84.4% of 0 to 4 year olds have participated in their main or secondary sport and recreational activity at least once over the past 12 months from the time of the survey being conducted.
- » Swimming and parks (playgrounds) were the most popular activities participated in by this age group, followed by dancing
- » A high percentage (61%) travelled to their activity by car, 19% walked or ran to their activity. This may be reflective of the high parks/playground participation and parents walking to nearby parks/playgrounds
- » Soccer, swimming and dancing were identified as activities children would like to participate in but currently do not. Opportunities to develop targeted junior programs to respond to this finding could be explored.
- » Females were more likely to want to participate in ballet and gymnastics, while males were more likely to want to participate in AFL and soccer.
- » Not having enough time and a lack of programs were identified by parents and/or carers as the reasons for non-participation by their children in activities. Respondents who speak a language other than English identified a lack of programs and difficulty in reaching the location of the activity as main barriers.
- » Overall, parents and/or carers anticipated activities that their child(ren) would participate in over the next five years were swimming, AFL and tennis. Following swimming, anticipated activities for females was gymnastics and dance, and for males, it was AFL and Soccer. For children who speak a language other than English, tennis and gymnastics were the next most anticipated activities. There may be opportunities to facilitate initiatives with sports providers/clubs to develop their capacity to increase participation by the 0 to 4 age group.

### b. Participation in sport and recreation activities

Figure 1 outlines the most popular activities for 0 to 4 year olds ordered by participation rate.

Figure 1: Main and secondary activities for children aged 0 to 4 years



### c. Projected participation in sport and recreation activities

Table 7 outlines the popular activities for 0 to 4 year olds in Boroondara, their current participation rate and what this equates to in terms of resident numbers. For the ages of 0 to 4, there is no available data from ABS on participation and therefore no localised prediction of demand. There are only 12 sport and recreation activities listed here as these were the only activities identified as being participated in by this age cohort.

*Table 7: Sport and recreation activities participated in by 0 to 4 year olds*

Activity	Boroondara participation rate	Number of Boroondara residents
Swimming	54%	4,465
Parks (playgrounds)	51.20%	4,233
Dancing	8.9%	736
Gymnastics	5.3%	438
Bike/Scooter	4.9%	405
Tennis	2.3%	190
Junior Sports Development	2.2%	182
Walking/Running	2.0%	165
Soccer	1.9%	157
Auskick	1.5%	124
Basketball	0.5%	41
Net Set Go/Netta Netball	0.2%	17

## 7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 5 TO 14 YEARS

### a. Overview

This section presents information on the ABS participation trends for children aged 5 to 14 years. It also outlines results of a survey of 246 parents and carers of 419 young people aged 5 to 14 years who reside in Boroondara. Key findings for 5 to 14 year olds include that:

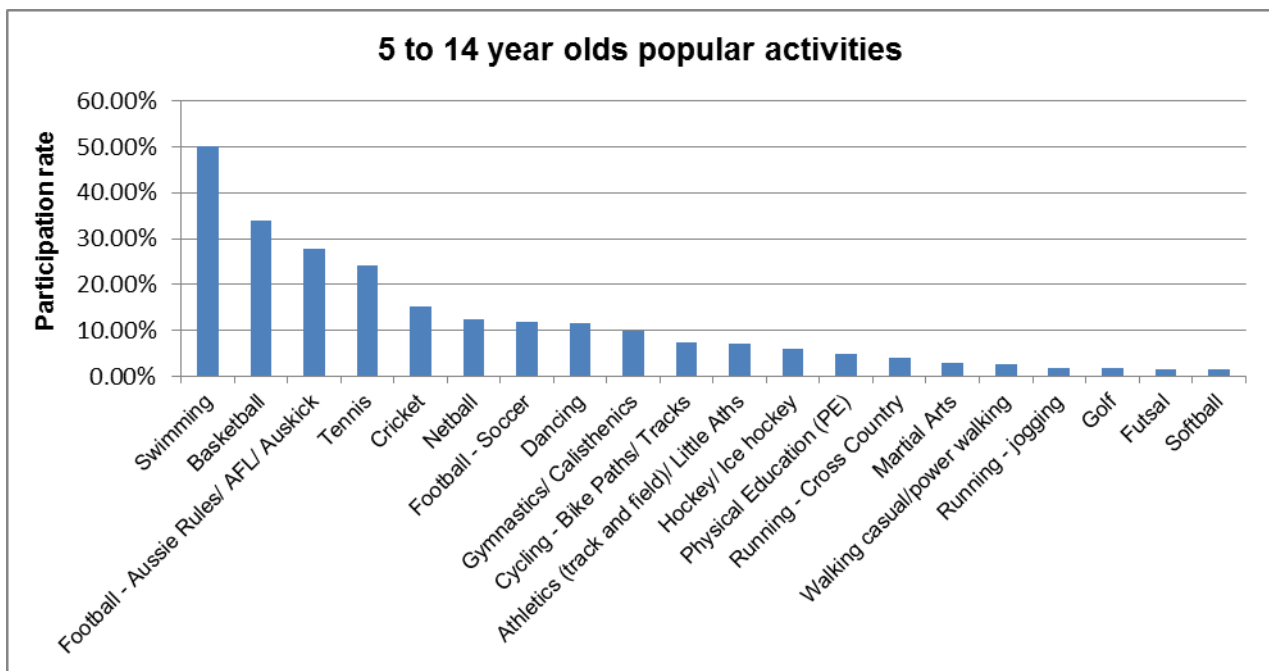
- » Based on ABS data, the top five popular activities overall were swimming, soccer, Australian rules football, netball and basketball.
- » The Boroondara participation rate for this age group is 99%. This is 39% greater than that reported through national and state data for the same age cohort.
- » Swimming, basketball and Australian rules football were the most popular activities for 5 to 14 year olds in Boroondara.
- » For females, swimming, basketball and netball were the most popular activities.
- » For males, Australian rules football, swimming and basketball were the most popular activities.
- » For young people who speak a language other than English, swimming, tennis and soccer were the most popular activities.
- » Overall, and for young males, soccer was the activity young people would most like to participate in but currently do not. For females the activity was gymnastic/calisthenics.

- » For respondents who speak English only and for those who speak a language other than English, soccer and basketball were identified as the top two activities that they would like to participate in but currently do not.
- » Parents identified that the most common reason for non-participation by their children was not enough time. Innovative programming by sporting organisations that offer opportunities for parents and their children to participate in activities at the same time may support increases in physical activity by this age group.

### b. Participation in sport and recreation activities

Figure 2 outlines the most popular activities for 5 to 14 year olds in Boroondara ordered by participation rate.

Figure 2: Popular activities for children aged 5 to 14 years.





### c. Participation in sport and recreation activities for 5 to 14 year olds

Table 8 outlines the percentage of 5 to 14 years that participate in sport and recreation activities. The number of residents this equates to (based on Census data) is also provided. It identifies the participation rate for males, females, people who speak a language other than English (LOTE) and those who speak English only. It also outlines where existing facilities for particular activities may not have adequate capacity in the future to meet demand.

ABS data that details National and State participation rates is also provided. This data gives insight into the participation of Boroondara residents as compared to Australian and Victorian averages. This data has also been used to inform projected future projection. As outlined on page 11 “Boroondara participation rate and projections”, a consistent methodology was employed to develop these future projections.

The Boroondara statistically valid data only includes Boroondara residents. The Victoria wide trends for each sport and recreation activity have also been calculated. Whilst Boroondara participation is higher in some sport and recreation activities, the recognised Victorian trend is applied to the actual Boroondara participation rate. This allows for forecasting of likely changes to Boroondara participation. In the following table there are symbols requiring explanation. These are:

\* Netball requires indoor stadium access for training while outdoor facilities are at capacity on Saturdays (see section 9)

\*\*Hockey has been identified as having capacity challenges for both training and competition. It is proposed to facilitate discussion between local schools and community clubs as per action 4.7 of the action plan.

\*\*\*Junior boys’ and girls’ cricket participation is increasing and there are opportunities to implement innovative fixturing and scheduling of games to meet expected demand. There are also opportunities to configure facilities to maximise participation.

N/A - Information not available due to the ABS not having data for these sport and recreation activities. This also prevents projected participation figures from being developed. Data may also not being available as it was not analysed as part of the research undertaken for the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

Table 8: Sport and recreation activities participated in by 5 to 14 year olds.

Activity	ABS Australian participation rate	ABS Victorian participation rate	Boroondara participation rate	Number of Boroondara residents	Male participation	Female participation	LOTE participation	English only participation	Will facility capacity meet projected demand?
Swimming	17.7%	19.4%	50.00%	9,974	47.1%	53.0%	76.1%	46.3%	✓
Basketball	7.9%	13.9%	34.00%	6,782	38.1%	29.7%	8.0%	37.7%	✗
Football - AFL	8.1%	15.5%	27.80%	5,545	52.4%	2.1%	11.1%	30.1%	✗
Tennis	7.4%	10.3%	24.20%	4,827	25.0%	23.3%	27.6%	23.7%	✓
Cricket***	4.7%	4.8%	15.30%	3,052	27.8%	2.2%	6.3%	16.5%	✓ ***
Netball*	8.0%	8.0%	12.50%	2,493	0.4%	25.1%	3.6%	13.8%	✗ *
Football - Soccer	14.3%	7.3%	11.80%	2,354	16.6%	6.7%	23.0%	10.2%	✗
Dancing	15%	15.5%	11.50%	2,294	0.4%	22.9%	4.4%	12.5%	✓
Gymnastics	4.8%	5.4%	9.90%	1,975	0.9%	19.2%	17.2%	8.8%	✓
Cycling - bike paths/tracks	63.5%	64.4%	7.30%	1,456	9.8%	4.7%	4.4%	7.7%	✓
Athletics	3.2%	3.4%	7.10%	1,416	6.7%	7.6%	6.4%	7.2%	✓
Hockey/Ice Hockey**	1.6%	1.4%	5.90%	1,177	7.7%	4.0%	6.9%	5.8%	✗ **
Physical Education (PE)	N/A	N/A	4.90%	977	4.5%	5.3%	6.8%	4.6%	✓
Running - Cross Country	N/A	N/A	4.00%	798	1.6%	6.4%	0.0%	4.5%	✓
Martial Arts	5.8%	6.3%	2.80%	559	2.2%	3.4%	4.1%	2.6%	✓
Walking casual/power walking	N/A	N/A	2.70%	539	0.9%	4.6%	1.3%	2.9%	✓
Running - jogging	N/A	N/A	1.80%	359	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%	✓
Golf	N/A	N/A	1.70%	339	1.7%	1.8%	0.0%	2.0%	✓
Futsal	N/A	N/A	1.60%	319	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	✓
Softball	N/A	N/A	1.4%	279	1.2%	1.6%	5.1%	0.8%	✓

Activity	ABS Australian participation rate	ABS Victorian participation rate	Boroondara participation rate	Number of Boroondara residents	Male participation	Female participation	LOTE participation	English only participation	Will facility capacity meet projected demand?
Diving	N/A	N/A	1.3%	259	0.4%	2.1%	0.0%	1.4%	✓
Volleyball	N/A	N/A	1.2%	239	1.1%	1.3%	2.1%	1.1%	✓
Playgrounds/ Outdoor activities	N/A	N/A	1.2%	239	0.9%	1.5%	5.6%	0.6%	✓
Cycling - Mountain Bike	N/A	N/A	1.0%	199	1.6%	0.3%	0.0%	1.1%	✓
Badminton	N/A	N/A	0.9%	180	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Cycling - Road/Footpath	N/A	N/A	0.9%	180	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Horse/Equestrian	N/A	N/A	0.9%	180	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Scouts	N/A	N/A	0.9%	180	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Water polo	N/A	N/A	0.9%	180	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Yoga	N/A	N/A	0.9%	180	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Children's/Kids games	N/A	N/A	0.7%	140	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Gym - workout	N/A	N/A	0.7%	140	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Scooter	N/A	N/A	0.7%	140	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Lifesaving	N/A	N/A	0.7%	140	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Surfing/Surf sports	N/A	N/A	0.6%	120	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Baseball	N/A	N/A	0.5%	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Canoeing/Kayaking	N/A	N/A	0.5%	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Cycling - track/velodrome	N/A	N/A	0.5%	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Rowing	N/A	N/A	0.5%	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Rugby Union	N/A	N/A	0.5%	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Lacrosse	N/A	N/A	0.4%	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Pilates	N/A	N/A	0.4%	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Fencing	N/A	N/A	0.3%	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Roller skating/roller blading	N/A	N/A	0.3%	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Skiing / snowboarding	N/A	N/A	0.3%	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Archery	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Boxing	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Cycling - BMX	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Guides	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓

Activity	ABS Australian participation rate	ABS Victorian participation rate	Boroondara participation rate	Number of Boroondara residents	Male participation	Female participation	LOTE participation	English only participation	Will facility capacity meet projected demand?
Ice skating	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Rock climbing	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Rugby league	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Skateboarding	53.8%	53.5%	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Triathlon	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Walking - bushwalking	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Walking - dog walking	N/A	N/A	0.2%	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Aerobics	N/A	N/A	0.1%	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓

## 8. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS 15 YEARS AND OVER

### a. Overview

This section summarises information on the ABS participation trends for adults aged 15 years and over. It also outlines the results of the Household survey conducted during 2013, involving 1,004 Boroondara residents aged over 15 years.

Key findings from this data include:

- » Of the Australian population aged 15 years and over, an estimated 60% (11.1 million people) reported that they had participated in sport and recreation at least once during the 12 months prior to the interview in 2013–14, compared with 65% in 2011-12.
- » There has been consistent growth in participation rate for people aged 15 years and over for fitness/gym from 2005-06 to 2013-14. In this time period, walking for exercise has seen a decrease in participation, however walking remains the most popular activity.
- » People between the ages of 15 to 17 years had the highest levels of participation at 78 per cent, while people aged 65 and over had the lowest participation rate, 50 per cent.
- » For Victorians, jogging/running has seen a continual increase in participation over time since 2005. Basketball also continues to show increases in participation.
- » For Australian, Victorian and Boroondara residents walking is the most popular activity.
- » The Boroondara participation rate for people aged 15 years and over is 91% which is a higher participation rate than Victoria and Australian based on ABS data.
- » Walking is the most popular activity for Boroondara residents aged over 15 years of age. It is also the most popular activity across all age groups except for 15-24 year olds who nominated running/jogging as the most popular.
- » Structured sport participation begins to plateau from 15 years and on, however strong participation still exists in the 15-24 year olds age group.
- » A common reason for participation among respondents was for fun and enjoyment and also to keep fit.
- » Swimming and tennis were the top activities people would like to participate in but currently do not. When analysed by gender, swimming and tennis was also preferred by males however females wanted to participate in yoga and tennis. Females were also more likely to want to participate in pilates and dancing.
- » The main reason for non-participation was a lack of time which was true for females, males, people who speak a language other than English and English only speaking residents. For residents aged over 80, a disability or limiting condition was the main barrier to participation.
- » The activity being located close to home is the most important factor for participation across all age groups.
- » The preferred method to access information on sport and recreation activities was via the Council website or an internet search except for residents aged 80 years and over who phoned Council. A high proportion of 15-24 year olds used social media to access information compared to other age groups.
- » Just over a quarter of those who participate in sport and recreational activities nominate that they also volunteer at a local activity. A further quarter suggested

they would like to volunteer at a local activity but currently do not. When analysed by age group, a higher proportion of people aged 15-39 were willing to volunteer compared to 40 years and over.

- » Additional comments indicated that improving road and bike paths and increasing the awareness of sport and recreational activities that are available are priorities identified by the community.

## **b. Participation by specific demographic groups, 15 years and over**

A number of research reports suggest that:

- In 2011-12 the number of females participating in non-organised activities (i.e those activities not organised by a club or recreation association) was 51%. This was almost double that for participation in organised activities at 27%<sup>13</sup>
- Compared to the whole population, people with a disability participate less than those without a disability<sup>14</sup>
- People experiencing profound or severe restrictions display the lowest participation rates when compared to no, mild or moderate restrictions.<sup>15</sup>
- People born overseas in a non-English speaking country displayed lower participation rates than people born overseas in an English speaking country. Participation was highest by people who have more than half of their friends from the same ethnic background.<sup>16</sup>
- Overall participation rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is less than half that of the non-Aboriginal population.<sup>17</sup>
- Regardless of how socioeconomic status is measured (for example, based on education, household income, workforce participation, private health insurance or area of residence) men and women from low socioeconomic groups have a higher incidence of sedentary behaviour or insufficient physical activity to benefit health, and within this cohort, women report lower levels of physical activity.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [ABS Women in Sport The State of Play 2013](#) ABS 2013

<sup>14</sup> [ABS Stats and Facts Sport and Physical Recreation by People with a Disability by Age 2012](#) ABS 2014 - 4156.0

<sup>15</sup> [Participation by People with a Disability 2011](#) ABS 2011

<sup>16</sup> [ABS Socio Economic Variation in Sport and Recreation Participation Rates 2014](#) ABS 2014 4156.0.55.001

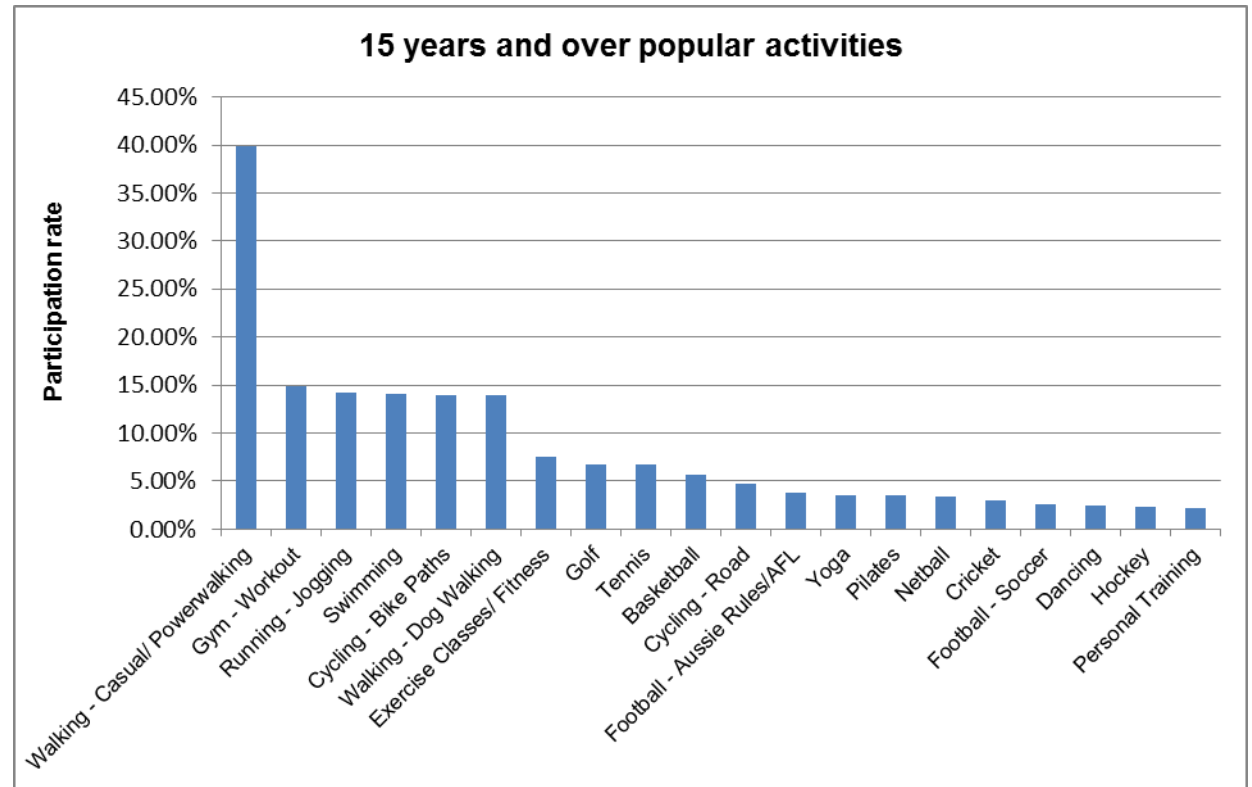
<sup>17</sup> [ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008](#) ABS 2009 - 4714.0

<sup>18</sup> VicHealth, Participation in Physical Activity Summary, 2010

### c. Participation in sport and recreation activities

Figure 3 outlines the most popular activities for residents aged 15 years and over in Boroondara ordered by participation rate. As shown walking, gym workout and jogging were the most popular activities.

Figure 3: Popular activities for Boroondara residents aged 15 years and over.



#### d. Participation in sport and recreation activities for people 15 years and over

The following Table 9 outlines the percentage of young people and adults aged 15 years and over that participate in sport and recreational activities. The number of residents this equates to (based on Census data) is also provided. It identifies the participation rate for males, females, people who speak a language other than English (LOTE) and those who speak English only. It also outlines where existing facilities for particular activities may not have adequate capacity in the future to meet demand.

ABS data that details National and State participation rates is also provided. This data gives insight into the participation of Boroondara residents as compared to Australian and Victorian averages. This data has also been used to inform projected future projection. As outlined on page 11 “Boroondara participation rate and projections”, a consistent methodology was employed to develop these future projections.

The Boroondara statistically valid data only includes Boroondara residents. The Victoria wide trends for each sport and recreation activity have also been calculated. Whilst Boroondara participation is higher in some sport and recreation activities, the recognised Victorian trend is applied to the actual Boroondara participation rate. This allows for forecasting of likely changes to Boroondara participation. In the following table there are symbols requiring explanation. These are:

\* Netball requires indoor stadium access for training while outdoor facilities are at capacity on Saturdays. (see section 9, page 25)

\*\*Hockey has been identified as having capacity challenges for both training and competition. It is proposed to facilitate discussions between local schools and community clubs as per action 4.7 of the action plan.

N/A - Information not available due to the ABS not having data for these sport and recreation activities. This also prevents projected participation figures from being developed. Data may also not being available as it was not analysed as part of the research undertaken for the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

Table 9: Sport and recreation activities participated in by people aged 15 years and over

Activity	ABS Australian participation rate (2013/14)	ABS Victorian participation rate (2013/14)	Boroondara participation rate	Number of Boroondara residents	Male Participation	Female participation	LOTE participation	English only	Will facility capacity meet projected demand?
Walking - casual/power walking	19.2%	20.6%	39.9%	56,261	31.2%	47.5%	45.7%	38.5%	✓
Gym - workout	17.4%	17.7%	14.9%	21,009	15.5%	14.4%	15.6%	13.8%	✓
Running - Jogging	7.4%	8.6%	14.2%	20,023	14.5%	14.0%	16.6%	13.8%	✓
Swimming	6.4%	6.0%	14.1%	19,882	13.7%	14.4%	20.7%	12.8%	✓
Cycling - bike paths	6.2%	6.5%	14%	19,741	18.1%	10.3%	11.2%	14.6%	✓
Walking - dog walking	N/A	N/A	13.9%	19,600	12.1%	15.5%	5.4%	15.6%	✓
Exercise classes/fitness	N/A	N/A	7.5%	10,575	4.5%	10.2%	7.7%	7.5%	✓
Golf	4.0%	4.4%	6.8%	9,588	10.8%	3.3%	5.5%	6.9%	✓
Tennis	3.0%	3.6%	6.7%	9,447	8.7%	5.1%	3.4%	7.4%	✓
Basketball	2.2%	3.8%	5.7%	8,037	8.7%	3.1%	5.4%	5.8%	✗
Cycling - Road	N/A	N/A	4.7%	6,627	8.8%	1.1%	5.0%	4.6%	✓
Football - AFL	1.2%	2.6%	3.8%	5,358	7.5%	0.5%	1.8%	4.2%	✗
Yoga	1.7%	2.1%	3.5%	4,935	1.4%	5.4%	5.1%	3.2%	✓
Pilates	1.1%	1.5%	3.5%	4,935	1.1%	5.7%	3.1%	3.6%	✓
Netball*	2.2%	3.1%	3.4%	4,794	0.4%	6.1%	0.7%	4.0%	✗*
Cricket	1.2%	1.8%	3.0%	4,230	6.2%	0.3%	4.7%	2.7%	✓
Football - Soccer	2.4%	1.4%	2.6%	3,666	4.3%	1.1%	4.6%	2.2%	✗

Activity	ABS Australian participation rate (2013/14)	ABS Victorian participation rate (2013/14)	Boroondara participation rate	Number of Boroondara residents	Male Participation	Female participation	LOTE participation	English only	Will facility capacity meet projected demand?
Dancing	1.3%	1.1%	2.4%	3,384	1.9%	2.9%	3.5%	2.2%	✓
Hockey**	0.7%	N/A	2.3%	3,243	3.0%	1.6%	0.0%	2.7%	✗**
Personal Training	N/A	N/A	2.2%	3,102	1.3%	3.0%	1.8%	2.3%	✓
Camping	N/A	N/A	1.5%	2,115	2.7%	0.6%	2.1%	1.4%	✓
Aquarobics	0.5%	N/A	1.3%	1,833	0.4%	2.1%	0.6%	1.5%	✓
Squash	0.6%	0.5%	1.2%	1,692	2.1%	0.4%	2.0%	1.1%	✓
Weightlifting	0.3%	0.1%	1.1%	1,551	1.8%	0.6%	1.5%	1.0%	✓
Running - Cross Country	0.4%	N/A	1.0%	1,410	1.5%	0.5%	0.9%	1.0%	✓
Aerobics	0.5%	N/A	0.9%	1,269	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Athletics	0.6%	N/A	0.8%	1,128	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Skiing/Snow boarding	N/A	N/A	0.8%	1,128	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Martial Arts	1.2%	N/A	0.8%	1,128	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Bowls/Carpet Bowls	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1,128	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Badminton	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	846	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Cycling - Track/Velodrome	N/A	N/A	0.6%	864	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Skate and BMX	0.3%	N/A	0.6%	864	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗
Canoeing	0.7%	N/A	0.5%	705	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Rowing	0.2%	N/A	0.5%	705	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Gymnastics/Calisthenics	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	705	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Surfing/Surf Sports	1.1%	N/A	0.4%	564	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Table tennis	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	423	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗



## 9. CURRENT AND FUTURE CAPACITY OF SPORT AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### a. Overview

The previous section details sport and recreational participation rates by children 0 to 4 year olds, children and young people 5 to 14 year olds and young people and adults 15 years and over. The demand for a number of activities has been projected to grow. Further assessment of these activities within the context of facilities available was undertaken. Activities where additional facilities may be required to meet projected demand are:

- » Basketball
- » Netball
- » Australian rules football
- » Soccer
- » Skate and BMX
- » Hockey
- »

An increased demand for the activities identified above and the provision of facilities required for them in the future has been considered within the context of the facility type in which these sports are undertaken. With the exception of Skate and BMX, the sporting activities identified above will be reliant upon increased access to sporting facilities that also cater to a number of other activities.

For example, basketball and netball use highball facilities and these facilities are also used by sports such as futsal and volleyball. While futsal and volleyball may not have an identified growth, it is expected that the demand of these sports for access to facilities will remain relatively consistent. A growing population and ongoing demand may also result in these sports also requiring additional usage of facilities.

Similarly for sports grounds, the high demand for soccer and AFL can also impact on the availability of sports grounds for other sport and recreation activities. Such uses include rugby, lacrosse, personal training and unstructured activities like walking. It is likely that there will be continued demand for these activities in the future. This creates difficulties when allocating grounds with many sports competing for access.

A shortfall in provision to meet projected future demand does not necessarily mean new facilities need to be developed and in some cases it will not be possible to do so regardless of the demand. For example the creation of a new sportsgrounds or hockey pitches will not be possible due to the extremely limited ability to create additional open space. In all cases maximising use of existing facilities should be considered as the first option. In the case of hockey, Council will seek to facilitate discussions between clubs and schools, where schools may have capacity to support hockey.

Based on those activities with increased demand which may not be met by facility provision, four facility types have been analysed. These include:

- » highball facilities
- » sportsgrounds
- » skate and BMX facilities
- » hockey pitches

The following provides an overview of these sport and recreation facilities.

#### *Highball*

Highball is term used to describe indoor court facilities that are used for 'highball' sports such as basketball, netball, badminton, futsal (indoor soccer), table tennis and volleyball. These highball

facilities can also be used for other community events such as children's parties and school holiday programs.

#### Sports grounds

Sports grounds can be used for a number of activities including structured sport but also unstructured recreation activities. The predominant structured activities undertaken on sports grounds are AFL, soccer and cricket with sports grounds being utilised throughout the winter and summer months. There are specific challenges for sportsgrounds in terms of their capacity for usage depending on the quality of turf, drainage and irrigation. The presence of sports ground lighting or a synthetic surface also impacts on capacity of use.

#### Skate and BMX facilities

Skate and BMX facilities provide opportunities for not only skateboarding and BMX riding but also spaces for children to learn to ride, scoot and rollerblade. There are an array of components which can be included within a skate and BMX facility to suit various needs of user groups. Localised facilities are important for skate and BMX as the user group is generally younger and may not necessarily have access to a vehicle for transport.

As part of the analysis the most appropriate location for additional facilities and/or upgrades has been undertaken and is highlighted below. The locations have been proposed within the context of Boroondara's five service planning precincts. These planning precincts and the suburbs within each are illustrated below in figure 4.

#### Hockey pitches

Given the lack of identifiable open space for new playing grounds, Council will seek to facilitate discussions between clubs and schools, where schools may have ground capacity.

*Figure 4: Boroondara planning precincts*



#### **North East Precinct:**

Balwyn, Balwyn North, Deepdene

#### **North West Precinct:**

Kew, Kew East

#### **Central Precinct:**

Camberwell, Canterbury, Surrey Hills

#### **South West Precinct:**

Hawthorn, Hawthorn East

#### **South East Precinct:**

Ashburton, Glen Iris

## **b. Highball**

### **Demand**

The statistical analysis identified highball activities that will show an expected increase in participation and demand. These activities include:

- *Basketball*
- *Netball (for training)*

The high demand for basketball and netball may create difficulties in allocations of court space. This may cause little to no court availability for other sports which would use the space such as volleyball, futsal, badminton and table tennis. Whilst these sports are not all projected to increase in participation and demand, they need to be considered in the overall usage of and demand for highball courts. Further qualitative analysis has found there is anecdotal demand for:

- *Badminton*
- *Table tennis*

### **Usage**

A 2014/15 court usage analysis of Boroondara Leisure and Aquatic Facilities found that during peak times (after 4pm weekdays and all opening hours on weekends) there has been an average of over 80% court usage. The spare capacity is likely early morning (6am - 8am) and late evening (8:30pm until 10:30pm) on weekends. However people are unlikely to want to participate during these times. Taking this into account, there is limited capacity to meet any further demand with Council owned stadium facilities nearing capacity.

There are other non-Council highball facilities located across the municipality. Many of these facilities are school based facilities with 19 school courts being used by basketball associations, 4 courts being used by netball associations for competitions and 3 school volleyball courts being utilised for volleyball. Allowing community use of school facilities is up to the discretion of each individual school. Research has indicated that those schools who have offered their facilities to sporting club or association use are currently at capacity. This further adds to the demand for highball facilities across Boroondara.

Analysis further suggests that for netball the demand for use of indoor highball facilities is for training while outdoor facilities are at capacity on Saturdays.

### **Response**

As identified, there is limited capacity at existing Council highball facilities to cater for increases in demand. The demand is likely to come from basketball, netball, badminton and table tennis. Partnerships with schools should be explored to facilitate community access to school facilities and consideration may be given to supporting school development of highball facilities in return for community access. Such partnerships where Council considers a financial contribution would need to be linked to a legally binding agreement to ensure appropriate access that meets community needs.

Apart from partnering with schools, any development of a new facility or an upgrade to an existing facility needs to be at least three courts. Stadiums with less than three to four courts have a lower income generating capacity and lower likelihood of being financially viable. To identify appropriate locations for a new or upgraded facility, an assessment of need has been undertaken to ascertain where demand may not be met by current facility provision.

As part of the research undertaken facilities were identified in which sport and recreation activities were participated at. The following table provides an outline of these facilities for sports which can be played at highball facilities. The facilities identified are those in which sporting associations run competitions and/or where teams participate in training. The courts identified

are both indoor and outdoor courts. The table also provides a ratio of number of courts per participants in each planning precinct and an overall figure.

*Table 10: Percentage proportion and number of participants by precinct by highball activity*

<i>Percentage proportion and number of participants</i>						
	<b>North West</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Basketball</b>	18.3% (2,572) 6 courts 1:428	20.3% (2,853) 8 courts 1:356	31.4% (4,413) 4 courts 1:1,103	20.1% (2,825) 2 courts 1:1,412	9.9% (1,391) 7 courts 1:198	100% (14,055) 27 courts 1:521
<b>Netball</b>	20.6% (1,420) 2 courts 1:710	19.6% (1,351) 12 courts 1:112	23.9% (1,648) 0 courts 0:1,648	21.5% (1,482) 2 courts 1:741	14.4% (993) 2 courts 1:497	100% (6,895) 18 courts 1:383
<b>Table Tennis</b>	49.4% (220) 0 0:220	20.0% (89) 2 location 1:45	0.0%	0.0%	30.6% (136) 0 0:136	100% (446) 2 locations 1:223
<b>Volleyball</b>	29.5% (254) 4 courts 1:64	7.8% (67) 4 courts 1:17	23.9% (206) 1 court 1:203	22.0% (189) 2 courts 1:95	16.8% (145) 1 courts 1:145	100% (861) 12 courts 1:72
<b>Badminton</b>	14.1% (131) 2 courts 1:67	30.6% (289) 1 courts 1:289	40.8% (380) 0 courts 0:380	14.5% (135) 1 court 1:135	0.0% 1 court	100% (931) 5 courts 1:186

Given that multiple sports can be played on highball courts, an analysis of the total number of highball courts per precinct has been undertaken. This prevents double counting of courts that are used for multiple sports and excludes outdoor courts. The highball courts analysis by precinct is presented in Table 11.

Table 11: Highball facilities and highball sport participant ratio

Percentage proportion and number of participants						
	North West	North East	Central	South East	South West	Total
<b>Number of highball facilities / Total highball sport participants</b>	8:4,597	8:4,649	4:6,647	2:4,631	2:2,665	24:23,189
	1:574	1:581	1:1,661	1:2,315	1:1,332	1:966

An analysis of this information suggests that the location of need for a facility in Boroondara is likely in the South East, South West or Central precinct. The following provides an analysis of these precincts from the above tables, coupled with available research suggests:

#### Central

- » Facility provision for netball, table tennis, volleyball and badminton in this precinct is comparably low to other precincts
- » This precinct is home to the highest proportion of basketball, netball and badminton players. A high proportion of participants suggests a need which a localised facility could meet.
- » Central currently has the highest population by precinct area of 5-12 year olds<sup>19</sup> (3,991 children representing 10.3% of the precinct's total population). Basketball is the second highest participated in activity for 5 to 14 year olds. Basketball and netball are the second and third highest participated in activity for females aged 5 to 14 years. Further to this, basketball was the third highest participated in activity for males aged 5 to 14 years.
- » Research<sup>20</sup> suggests that basketball was the second highest activity 5 to 14 year olds would like to participate in but currently do not. This research also suggests that netball is the second highest activity females aged 5 to 14 years would like to participate in but currently do not.

#### South East

- » Facility provision for basketball, netball, table tennis, volleyball and badminton comparably low to other precincts
- » This precinct is home to the third highest proportion of basketball players and second highest proportion of netball players.
- » Residents from the South East were more likely to want to participate in basketball compared to other precincts.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> City of Boroondara, Children and Young People Strategy, 2015

<sup>20</sup> City of Boroondara, Sport and Recreation Audit, 2013

<sup>21</sup> City of Boroondara, Sport and Recreation Audit, 2013

### *South West*

- » Facility provision for netball, table tennis, volleyball and badminton is comparably low to other precincts.
- » This precinct is home to the highest proportion of table tennis players.
- » South West precinct is home to a higher percentage of residents aged 18 to 34 when compared to other precincts<sup>22</sup>. This age group may rely on public transport and be less likely to travel long distances to participate in sport and recreation. This suggests a localised facility would benefit younger residents.
- » South West precinct is home to a higher percentage of international students attending university. This group may wish to participate in badminton and table tennis in the local area. This is also reflected in residents who speak a language other than English placing a higher importance on the availability of public transport (60.7%) to participate in sport and recreation activities when compared to English speaking only residents. (41.8%).
- » South West precinct is set to experience a growth of 18-25 year olds into the future.

## **c. Sports grounds**

### **Demand**

The statistical analysis identified sports ground activities that will show an expected increase in participation. These activities include:

- » *Soccer*
- » Australian rules football

The high demand for soccer and Australian rules football can also impact on the availability of sports grounds for other activities such as rugby, lacrosse, personal training, unstructured activities like walking and informal use by the community. It is likely that there will be continued demand for these activities in the future. This creates difficulties when allocating grounds with many activities competing for access.

### **Usage**

Sports grounds are utilised throughout the winter and summer months. The capacity for sports grounds to cater for demand will vary ground by ground. This variance is due to the size of the ground, different grades of drainage, irrigation, turf and sportsground lighting located at each ground. Usage also varies depending on the sport seasons.

#### *Winter*

Soccer and Australian rules football are the predominant sports undertaken on Boroondara sports grounds during winter months. There are challenges associated with sports grounds usage in winter months that impact turf condition and maintenance. Grounds ideally need to be 'rested' to ensure turf condition is to a reasonable standard.

#### *Summer*

Cricket is the predominant sport undertaken on Boroondara sports grounds during summer months. Cricket clubs may require multiple grounds for multiple sides on Saturdays during competition however during training they will likely all train at the one sports ground. Any capacity issues at sports grounds during summer months is likely to peak on Saturdays.

Sports grounds are also used for baseball, lacrosse, rugby, athletics and gridiron. These sports contribute to the overall usage of sports grounds, however the predominant sports and those showing the largest increase in demand are Australian rules football and soccer. The analysis therefore focusses on these two sports.

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<sup>22</sup> City of Boroondara, Sport and Recreation Strategy Foundation Paper -Demographics, 2015.

## Response

As identified, the demand for usage of sports ground is increasing. Improvements to turf, irrigation, drainage and sports ground lighting can allow for greater hours of use on sportsground. This can assist in meeting the expected demand. A proposed Sports Asset Management Plan is an action within the Sport and Recreation Strategy which will identify where these improvements can be made in order to optimise ground capacity and will consider possible impacts on residential amenity.

To assist in the prioritisation of improvements within this plan, table 12 outlines the proportion of Australian rules football and soccer participants by planning precinct. It also provides a ratio of current sports ground provision per participants for these sports.

*Table 12: Proportion of participants by precinct*

<i>Percentage proportion and number of participants</i>						
	<b>North West</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Soccer</b>	17.8%	27.7%	15.4%	17.1%	22.0%	100%
	(1,011)	(1,573)	(875)	(971)	(1,249)	5,679
	4 pitches	8 pitches	4 pitches	7 pitches	2 pitches	25 pitches
	1:252	1:197	1:218	1:139	1:624	1:227
<b>AFL</b>	19.4%	19.4%	29.9%	17.8%	13.5%	100%
	(2,011)	(2,011)	(3,099)	(1,845)	(1,399)	10,365
	4 ovals	7 ovals	5 ovals	5 ovals	5 ovals	26 ovals
	1:503	1:287	1:619	1:369	1:280	1:399

The analysis of the above tables suggests that the prioritisation of improvement works to increase capacity should be as follows:

Soccer - soccer fields located in the South West precinct.

Australian rules football - Australian rules football grounds located in the Central and North West precincts.

It is acknowledged that the demand for sports grounds is high across Boroondara from a diverse range of users. Priority precincts have been identified for increasing usage capacity at sports grounds where soccer and Australian rules football are played. In addition, a sport assets management plan will be developed in order to gradually increase capacity at other sports grounds across Boroondara as appropriate.

Further to the recommendations within the Sport and Recreation strategy, the Boroondara Open Space Strategy<sup>23</sup> suggests "in the longer term, opportunities will be investigated for the provision of two additional areas that can accommodate intensive outdoor sports field training purposes (estimated to be approximately 1 hectare in size) and allow the sporting clubs to expand their training programs where required. The location of these two open spaces is subject to further investigation with one likely to be required in the north and one relatively central in the municipality."

<sup>23</sup> [Boroondara Open Space Strategy](#), 2013

The above recommendation is one that is supported by the Sport and Recreation Strategy with an action to investigate an appropriate location.

#### **d. Skate and BMX facilities**

##### **Demand**

The statistical analysis identified that skate and BMX participation was expected to show an increase in demand. Skate and BMX shows a consistent increasing trend in 5-14 ABS Victorian and Australian participation data since 2005 and it is expected that the Boroondara participation rate is set to increase, particularly by 5 to 14 year olds.

Further to the statistical analysis, anecdotal evidence collected shows that several letters, emails and phone requests from young people to Council have been received regarding skate and BMX. These letters identify the difficult task for young people in the north of the municipality to travel to skate and BMX facilities in other areas of the municipality and they seek skate and BMX facilities to be built. Traditionally, young people are hard to engage which places more emphasis on letters, emails and phone requests received from young people of their own accord.

##### **Usage**

Existing skate and BMX facilities require ongoing maintenance to continue to meet demand however currently no Skate and BMX facilities are located in the north of the municipality meaning localised participation is difficult for residents in these areas. The usage recorded at Junction Skate and BMX facility has shown an increase between 2012-13 and 2014-15.

##### **Response**

There is a need to seek out appropriate locations in the north for the installation of a skate and BMX facility. Six locations have been previously identified through the Municipal Skate and BMX Strategy. These locations have been reviewed and are still considered to be suitable for a skate and BMX facility. The Sport and Recreation Action Plan includes an action to determine an appropriate location for a skate and BMX facility in the northern part of the municipality.

#### **e. Hockey facilities**

##### **Demand**

Boroondara hosts three clubs which all play in the top tier league and one club is the largest in Victoria by player numbers. The statistical analysis identified that there will be an increase in demand to participate in hockey. This increase will be among 5 to 14 year olds. Further to the statistical analysis, Hockey Victoria suggests that the implementation of new league criteria which focusses on junior participation, particularly U10's, will see further increases in junior player numbers. It is expected this will further contribute to demand for hockey in Boroondara. Hockey Victoria anticipates that the implementation of a new social format of the game and ongoing success of the master competitions (over 35's, 40's, 45's, 50's, 55's, 60's, 65's, 70's) will create demand for hockey facilities. These participation numbers are expected to place more pressure on the current hockey facilities in the municipality.

##### **Usage**

Existing hockey facilities are at or reaching capacity during specified times of use. Boroondara clubs are resorting to using facilities outside of Boroondara to meet demand.

##### **Response**

Boroondara has no availability of open space for the creation of new hockey facilities. In order to address the existing capacity issues, it is proposed to facilitate discussions between community clubs and local schools for community access to school facilities. The North West and North East precincts have been identified as priority locations for a hockey pitch. Discussions with schools located in these precincts will be prioritised however other school sites close to existing clubs may be considered.



Table 13: Proportion of participants by precinct

<i>Percentage proportion and number of participants</i>						
	<b>North West</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	15.1%	21.9%	27.0%	8.0%	28.0%	100%
	(614)	(890)	(1,098)	(325)	(1,138)	4,065
	0 pitches	0 pitches	1 pitches	0 pitch	2 pitches	3 pitches
	0:614	0:890	1:1,098	0:325	1:569	1:1,355