**RecLink**

RecLink Australia began in Melbourne in 1990. RecLink was established to assist people experiencing social and economic disadvantage access sporting and recreational opportunities as a form of social therapy.

Through funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, RecLink is building upon its substantial relationships with member agencies, and is continuing to provide a broad range of participation opportunities to Victorians experiencing disadvantage.

With a new network of agencies recently established in Ballarat, RecLink is starting work on further expansion into regional Victoria.

RecLink is a not-for-profit charitable organisation dedicated to advocating for and improving access to sporting and recreational opportunities for disadvantaged people and the benefits which flow from this, such as community connectedness and improved health and well-being.

RecLink involves a network of agencies who work with a range of disadvantaged people including services for people experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol issues, disability, mental health issues, juvenile justice and social and economic isolation.

The aim of RecLink is to help people find their way back into the mainstream community through access to sporting and recreational opportunities. RecLink activities include: a football competition, swimming, squash, badminton, cultural activities, annual camp, horse-riding and come-and-try events.

In Victoria there are currently about 100 member agencies (initially, in 1990, there were four).

**Objectives**

* To build partnerships to enable the expansion of and continued delivery of RecLink sporting and recreational programs in metropolitan Melbourne and new regional locations.
* To improve physical activity services and remove barriers to participation to include participants from a range of backgrounds and with a variety of interests.

**Method**
These objectives will be achieved through the establishment or expansion or further development of a variety of programs:

* The expansion of the current RecLink programs: women’s program, “Come ‘n’ Try” program and RecLink social/cultural program.
* The establishment of a RecLink Health and Well-being program.
* The establishment of an integration program to support participants’ progression to mainstream sport and recreation activities.
* Further development of RecLink’s sporting competition structures including the football league, Footy Grand Final day and the establishment of a competitive netball program.
* Opportunities for further regional RecLink networks and the development of the new RecLink Ballarat network are priorities.
* Provide opportunities for and increased participation in the following:
	+ Football
	+ Basketball
	+ Tennis
	+ Bowling
	+ Indoor Cricket
	+ Come & Try
	+ Concerts/Special Events
	+ Football Finals
	+ Go Carting
	+ Golf
	+ Holiday & Camp subsidy
	+ Integration
	+ Pool competition
	+ Skills
	+ Social & Cultural
	+ Swimming/Squash/Table Tennis
	+ Ten Pin Bowling
	+ Walk/Run
	+ Women’s Activities
	+ Camp (RecLink Doxa).

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