

# Why You Should Have a Good Look at SD4



We know you're busy and that plenty of things like this come across your desk.

This one's a bit different and we think it is of particular interest and relevance to you and your council.

It's often difficult to meet all of the community's demands, especially when it comes to sport and recreation and particularly in relation to facilities, supporting clubs and advocating physical activity.

We believe Strategic Directions for Western Australian Sport and Recreation SD4 can help you on a range of fronts. That's why we hope you'll take some time and have a good look.

SD4 sets out the goals and directions for the development of the sport and recreation sector that have been identified by the industry for the next five years (to 2010). It may help in your deliberations when planning for the future of your community.

For further information contact your local Department of Sport and Recreation office or telephone 9492 9705.

## The Hot Sport and Recreation Issues for Local Government and Where You'll Find Them in SD4

- **COMMUNITY FACILITY SUSTAINABILITY** – the long-term or whole-of-life cost of facilities (recreation centres, aquatic centres, community centres) has to be addressed urgently. Many local authorities are being forced to resort to 'stop gap' refurbishment as an immediate answer to their ageing facilities but this is merely deferring the real resolution because resources are not available to deal with it now.  
*Refer to pages 17–18*
- **VOLUNTEERISM** – voluntary participation rates continue to erode the capacity of communities and local government to access the activities and services they have become used to, and generate pressure for those activities and services to be delivered by paid staff. This increases the cost burden on the community (ratepayers) and puts undue pressure on remaining volunteers, adding to the reluctance of others to take up the baton. Innovative ways of attracting and retaining volunteers must be found.  
*Refer to page 13*
- **LAND USE** – whole-of-life maintenance costs for playing fields and public open space, particularly associated with (but not limited to) modern development and sub-division practices, requires a realistic and "front end" assessment by all stakeholders.  
*Refer to page 17*
- **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** – healthy communities are good communities. There is a two-way relationship between the physical and the psychological/spiritual health of communities. Directly or indirectly, many decisions of local authorities impact on the physical health of the community. Whether this is a decision to build, upgrade or extend footpaths; or whether it is to make the shopping precinct more 'pedestrian friendly'; there is clear benefit to the overall well-being of the community if there are opportunities for physical activity to be integrated into everyday life.  
*Refer to pages 19–20*