

## Mergers of like State Sporting Associations

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) considers there should be no financial benefit to a sport from any form of structural separation, i.e. by age, by gender, by geography or by activity.

The State Government considers funding support to sports taking a “whole of sport” approach as a sound investment. Most such organisations have a strong volunteer base and are a crucial part of our State’s social capital.

### Background

The State Government, through DSR, has encouraged organisations, whether funded or not, to develop a “whole of sport” approach. The benefits of this approach include:

- Improved service coordination and delivery;
- Securing economies of scale, e.g. pooling insurance, bulk purchasing, administration efficiencies, etc.; and
- Improved integration of sectional interests.

The Australian Sports Commission has in recent times required several sports to merge, e.g. Men’s and Women’s Hockey, Men’s and Ladies’ Bowls.

Similarly DSR will work with sports that currently have structural separation to encourage mergers, on the following rationale:

- Achieving a more equitable funding approach (to sports already adopting a whole of sport approach);
- Achieving a better “whole of sport” servicing outcome; and
- Achieving a more efficient and effective business regime.

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### Resources

Office for Recreation and Sport. (2003). *Amalgamation – A guide for recreation and sporting organisations*, Adelaide, South Australia: Government of South Australia.

Phillips, Sharon. (2003). *How hockey avoided merger meltdown*. *Sports Connect*. 1 (1), p.16. (check reference)