

THE FUTURE OF ATHLETICS IN THE ACT – INDEPENDENT “WHOLE OF SPORT” REVIEW PROGRESS UPDATE



As you may be aware, Little Athletics ACT (LAACT), Athletics ACT (AACT) and ACT Masters Athletics (ACTMA) have joined forces to initiate an independent review of the sport of Athletics in the ACT and surrounding regions. The aim is to ensure the sport achieves its potential in the coming years. The review is well and truly underway and the joint project steering group provides this update to all members.

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What we've done so far

So far, the independent reviewer has done an **extensive document review** of how the sport of athletics is delivered in the ACT and surrounding areas, in particular, the peak delivery organisations of Little Athletics ACT, Athletics ACT and ACT Masters Athletics. The goal was to gain an understanding of the current purpose, governance, organisational structure and operations of the sport of athletics in the ACT.

Next step was a wide reaching **stakeholder survey** of members of the three organisations, as well as coaches, officials, volunteers, athletes and parents. Almost 600 people took up the opportunity to provide feedback via the e-survey. This equates to approximately 16% of the total combined LAACT, AACT and ACTMA membership.

The **survey feedback** was insightful and invaluable. The clear message to come from ALL three organisations' members in relation to what needs to be done differently for athletics in the ACT to achieve its potential, is that ALL elements of the sport need to operate more effectively as One-Sport. A core theme in respondents was the need to develop, promote and deliver a broader suite of activities, designed to connect with more people (for example, social, recreational and team-based athletics offerings). Key opportunities identified included the need to provide participation opportunities for ALL (that is, competitive and social/recreational); implementing a more aligned/coordinated governance and delivery model for athletics in the ACT; closer engagement with schools; the need to increase retention of participants in the transition years and the need to more effectively promote the sport.

A broad cross-section of stakeholders involved in athletics in the ACT was then interviewed one-on-one. The 38 interviews added another valuable layer of insight into how things work, or don't work. In many ways, the need for rethinking how athletics is delivered in the ACT was extremely evident and supported by those interviewed.

What's next?

The joint working group, made up of two members from each of the peak organisations (Little As, Athletics ACT and Masters) will now have a **workshop** to develop options for moving forward. The information provided in both the surveys and the interviews will be used extensively in the workshop. From the workshop we will have **Recommendations Report**.