



# KIWISPORT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND REVIEW

**FINAL REPORT**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sport New Zealand commissioned this review (the Review) of the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund (Kiwisport RPF). This is the first formal review of the Kiwisport RPF since its inception in 2009 and its purpose is to determine whether the objectives, as well as original Ministerial expectations, of the Kiwisport RPF remain fit for purpose in light of current and future Sport NZ community sport strategies.

## Consultation

The community was consulted extensively during this Review which included regional sports trusts (RSTs) being interviewed separately, regional community consultations throughout the country, and interviews with other relevant individuals and organisations.

Through the consultation process, the Review engaged:

- Over 600 people
- Close to 400 organisations
- 44 different sports
- Over 20 different types of organisation including NSO, RSOs, clubs, primary, secondary, tertiary, venues, TAs, health, recreation, private providers, RSTs and trusts

Additionally, an external reference group contributed to strategic thinking, understanding of potential impact on their respective sectors, recommendations and the risks associated with any change in the Kiwisport RPF.

## Objectives and expectations

Community feedback, RST expertise and participation reporting figures all indicate that Kiwisport funding has had a positive impact on increasing young people's opportunities and participation in organised sport.

The community strongly agree that kids still need to participate in physical activity, have improved access and availability of opportunities and need to develop skills. But, additionally, the community spoke of many other elements of participation in physical activity that they thought were important such as leadership, team work and communication.

Whilst the general community did not use the language of 'physical literacy', they regularly mentioned the elements of physical literacy as being important.

The consultation raised common themes of:

- Quality more important than numbers
- Wider than 'organised sport', in regards to type of activity and type of organisation
- Consider the needs of the young person and all the factors influencing their participation
- Greater support for organisations to achieve quality delivery outcomes

RSTs considered that expectations such as 'seed funding', 'sustainability', and 'partner funding' were unrealistic especially when considering alignment to Sport NZ strategy and targeted groups.

The current Kiwisport objectives and Ministerial expectations are considered limiting to what could or should be available to young people. The Kiwisport name was also seen as limiting by some. It was considered that a name change would align with a change in kaupapa of the fund and re-set the expectations and understanding of the fund's purpose and implementation.

## Funding - who and how

Organisations and individuals working in the sport and recreation sector were supportive of greater targeting of funds to low or declining participant groups or those with high deprivation.

The general community were divided in regard to targeting with concerns of a negative impact on those already participating with the support of Kiwisport funds.

Generally, across the country, there was support for widening the scope of activities available for funding and the organisations that deliver those opportunities.

There was no clear support for changes to the current regional allocation, nor for changes to targeting based on age. There was agreement that the needs of the young person should be considered and that these may be different in each region.

## Connection with the education sector

Kiwisport has had a positive impact on kids within the school environment although specialist workforce in pilot projects do consider that outside providers, often funded by Kiwisport, have had a detrimental impact on the teaching of physical education in primary schools.

Collaborative partnerships between schools and the community because of Kiwisport funding do exist and more can be put in place to ensure that there are improvements across the country.

## Role of RSTs

RSTs have been successful in contributing to the positive impact of Kiwisport and want a nimble, flexible and responsive fund to be able to align further with their own and Sport NZ strategy, and to respond to community need.

RSTs should be considered the 'policy target' and receive greater support and resource to effectively implement the fund and achieve its purpose. Improved communication with Sport NZ and between RSTs in regard to the fund is wanted.

RSTs have the support of the community and are considered knowledgeable about their community.

## Role of Sport NZ and alignment with strategy

Kiwisport contributes positively to Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy and Young People Plan but is not as aligned as it could potentially be. Some definitions (such as 'organised sport' or the lack of the word 'quality'), lack of support and influence from Sport NZ, and limited resources have contributed to that.

Some RSTs utilise Kiwisport more strategically and are able to achieve this due to the resources they have allocated to support this area of their work.

There is a role for Sport NZ to provide greater strategic leadership in regard to the utilisation, distribution and support for this fund and RSTs.

## Key considerations

- a) That Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund is renamed the “Korikori Community Activation Fund” or something else to be determined.
- b) That the value of the Korikori Community Activation Fund (currently \$8.49m per annum) be increased to account for loss of real financial value since the inception of the fund in 2009; and that the fund continues to be increased annually based on CPI.

## Key recommendations

1. That the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund objectives and Ministerial expectations established in 2009 be revoked.
2. That the purpose of the Korikori Community Activation Fund is:
 

The Korikori Community Activation Fund is available to the community to deliver high quality sport and active recreation experiences that meet the needs of young people (aged 5-18yrs), prioritising those with low or declining participation rates and/or where barriers to participation exist.
3. That Sport NZ increase their capacity and support to enable effective influencing, embedding, strategic alignment, education and communication of, or with, RSTs (and other relevant organisations).
4. That RSTs remain as the regional managers of the Fund for their respective regions and receive funding (value or amount to be determined) to manage and administrate the fund effectively. This funding should be ‘new’ money and not be retained from the fund total (\$8.49m/annum).
5. That Sport NZ builds and implements a Korikori Community Activation Fund Framework to provide clear guidance for fund managers (regional sports trusts). This Framework should be reviewed regularly and would also outline Sport NZ’s responsibilities and accountabilities.
  - 5.1. That the Korikori Community Activation Fund Framework includes a monitoring, evaluation and reporting schedule which includes:
    - Results Based Accountability expectations of RSTs regarding projects funded.
    - That the timing of this reporting is aligned with other reporting for RSTs which is primarily 30 April of each year.
    - Sport NZ outcomes (specific to the Korikori Community Activation Fund) which are reviewed triennially.
    - Expectations of result feedback loops (both Sport NZ to RSTs and the sector, and RSTs to their respective communities)
  - 5.2. That Korikori Community Activation Fund Framework includes “Funding Decision Principles” as follows:
    - Decisions regarding, and delivery of, Korikori Community Activation Fund projects will align with Sport NZ strategy and approaches of locally-led, physical literacy, and insights driven.
    - Priority should be given to projects that show evidence of, or will result in, truly collaborative partnerships.
    - Delivery will be of high-quality and will have a positive impact on young people; and that evidence of outcomes will be able to be demonstrated.
    - Decisions regarding, and delivery of, Korikori Community Activation Fund projects will not be detrimental to the sport and/or education sectors, and will consider the funding sector.
    - Consideration that the empowerment of young people and the reduction of barriers may require enablers (coaches, teachers, parents/whanau) to be influenced, engaged, included in activities, or educated as part of the delivery of a project.

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6. That Sport NZ engage with the Ministry of Education regarding:
    - support for cabinet paper to revoke current Kiwisport RPF objectives;
    - the proposed name change from Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund to Korikori Community Activation Fund;
    - their contribution to the development of a Fund Framework;
    - the establishment of an implementation and communication plan where any changes impact on the education sector; and
    - for ongoing relationship building.
  7. That a single national technological solution/portal for applications, responses, decisions, and reporting is established and implemented across the country with allowances for regional variances. Funding for the development, implementation, training and ongoing utilisation of this technological solution/portal will be the responsibility of Sport NZ.

# INTRODUCTION

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## BACKGROUND

Kiwisport is a government funded initiative, established by Cabinet decision on 6 July 2009, to increase opportunities for school-aged children to take part in organised sport. The Kiwisport initiative has two components:

- i. The Direct Fund - is provided to all schools (public and private). The amount allocated to each school is based on a per capita formula and is funded directly by the Ministry of Education (MoE) through operational grant funding. The Direct Fund is for schools to use on initiatives that lead to the outcomes sought from Kiwisport, i.e. more children and young people participating regularly in organised sport. Schools have discretion about how the fund is used.
- ii. The Regional Partnership Fund (RPF) – is designed to complement the Direct Fund by encouraging schools, clubs and community organisations to collaborate to increase opportunities for school-aged children to participate in organised sport. The RPF is funded through Sport NZ to regional sports trusts (RSTs). The RSTs receive funding based on the number of enrolled students in their region calculated according to roll-return information from MoE. This is calculated once every three years, to align with the investment period.

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## REVIEW PURPOSE

Sport New Zealand commissioned this review (the Review) of the Kiwisport RPF. This is the first formal review of the Kiwisport RPF since its inception in 2009 and is intended to inform the future direction and allocation of the Kiwisport RPF by considering its efficacy and impact over the preceding nine years.

The purpose of the Review is:

- a) To determine whether the objectives, as well as original Ministerial expectations, of the Kiwisport RPF remain fit for purpose in light of current and future Sport NZ community sport strategies;
- b) To test the alignment of the Kiwisport RPF with the aims of Sport NZ's Young People Plan 2016-20, in particular the delivery of improved quality experiences to young people aged 5-18;
- c) To inform Sport NZ investment decisions (including Kiwisport RPF) from July 2020 onwards.



## DEVELOPMENT AND EVOLUTION OF SPORT NZ'S COMMUNITY SPORT STRATEGY

Since 2009, Sport NZ has developed its strategy and broader philosophical approach towards the participation of young people in sport, active recreation and play, as well as the quality of physical education (PE).

The most recent expression of this is their Community Sport Strategy 2015-20 and its associated Young People Plan 2016-201. The strategy and plan, which were informed by the School Sport Futures Report (September 2015), aim to:

- i. drive a focus on the quality of experiences for young people that improves their physical literacy and, through this, creates a lifelong love of participating;
- ii. address the development of the system that ensures that schools and teachers are equipped to deliver quality.

During 2018-19, Sport NZ will be considering its strategic plan, and associated strategies, for the next strategic period 2020-25. Alignment of the Kiwisport RPF to future as well as current strategy is an important part of the purpose of the Review..

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## REPORT CONTENT

This report will provide commentary on the current Kiwisport RPF objectives and Ministerial expectations, and any recommendations for changes to these.

The impact to date will be considered based on the three objectives of the Kiwisport RPF. This consideration is mostly based on existing Kiwisport RPF participation reporting but does include other sources of data and research as relevant.

The Kiwisport RPF's current impact on, and alignment with, Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy and Young People Plan is examined and includes RSTs' ratings on current and future alignment with the Young People Plan. How the Kiwisport RPF can be better aligned and utilised to contribute, and bring maximum impact, to Sport NZ's current and future community sport strategies is explored and commented on in detail via various aspects of the delivery of the Kiwisport RPF.

The current monitoring and evaluation of the Kiwisport RPF is commented on and both strategic and operational improvements are discussed. Additionally, the efficacy of the current distribution channel via RSTs is explored.

In regard to the Kiwisport RPF and the education sector, both its collaboration with the Direct Fund and its impact on Play.sport pilot sites, this is commented on along with Sport NZ's current and future alignment with the MoE.

The conclusion of this report examines the key recommendations in more detail offering consideration of risks and mitigations.

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## METHODOLOGY

This review was supported and advised by an internal Sport NZ project team and an external reference group (names and organisations can be found on the page 6 of this report).

The internal project team attended each of the community consultations, and were engaged throughout the project for guidance, advice and support.

The external reference group held three meetings during the course of the review. They contributed to strategic thinking, understanding of potential impact on their respective sectors, advice on draft recommendations and the risks associated with any change in the Kiwisport RPF.

Significant community consultation was undertaken in three ways:

- i. RST specific consultations were held with 17 RSTs and over 120 people.
- ii. Regional community consultations were held in 18 different parts of the country and were attended by over 400 people.
- iii. Other relevant individuals and organisations were consulted (via phone, meeting, email, survey) involving more than 30 organisations and over 50 people.

Through the consultation process, the Review engaged:

- Over 600 people
- Close to 400 organisations
- 44 different sports
- Over 20 different types of organisation including NSO, RSOs, clubs, primary, secondary, tertiary, venues, TAs, health, recreation, private providers, RSTs and trusts

A full summary of the review methodology is given in Appendix One – Consultation Methodology.

# FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

## 2.1 OBJECTIVES

The current Kiwisport RPF objectives are as follows:

- Increase the number of school-aged children participating in organised sport – during school, after school and by strengthening links with sports clubs.
- Increase the availability and accessibility of sport opportunities for all school-aged children.
- Support children in developing skills that will enable them to participate effectively in sport at both primary and secondary level.

The wider community (i.e. RSTs, community organisations, schools, NSOs) thought that kids still needed to develop skills, have access and availability of opportunities and participate in quality activity of some kind.

The particular issues with these objectives are the limitations or the behaviour that has been driven because of certain words or definitions, or what is lacking now considering the development of Sport NZ strategies and plans since 2009.

One of the more significant recommendations of this review is to revoke these objectives and replace with a new purpose for the fund. The reasons for this recommendation are as follows:

- i. The most significant feedback from the community and RSTs regarding these objectives was the focus on quantity and not quality. **Valuing quality provision** was the most common suggested change/improvement.

**“Word “increase” is numbers driven. Quality to retain and enjoy and to motivate”**

Almost all RSTs thought quality is imperative and would discuss physical literacy and quality together. There is currently little evaluation or review of delivery by RSTs or fund recipients regarding the quality of their delivery.

**“Unskilled organisations delivering sports can cause a bad experience”**

NSOs also mentioned the importance of quality and in particular the quality of deliverers.

The current Sport NZ Young People Plan 2015-2020 also identifies quality as important. Two of the critical success factors to ensure young people create a lifelong love of community sport and being physically active are:

- Their experiences are high quality, stage-appropriate and fun
- They can access quality opportunities

What quality means and how to measure it was a common concern amongst the community. There was an appreciation that high quality can mean different things to different aged kids, and depended on what the activity was and why a kid was doing that activity. Overwhelmingly though, the community thought that quality should be monitored with participant feedback being the most common suggested methodology for this (this is explored further in Section 2.6 - Monitoring and Evaluation).

**“Participants voice is most important to capture.”**



- ii. The word “increase” used in two of the objectives which, along with reporting requirements, has guided RSTs to consider the volume of kids impacted when determining Kiwisport spend i.e. the more kids involved the higher chance that an initiative will be funded.

The impact of this is:

- Schools getting inundated with opportunities
- Lack of consideration of the needs of young people
- Innovative initiatives or those targeting a smaller market may not have received funding
- Lack of consideration of whether a kid in a high socio-economic area needs the support of Kiwisport

It is important to note that a Sport NZ’s guideline (introduced in 2015) i.e. identify and focus on approaches/programmes that supports low participating groups, has mitigated some of this impact.

The Active NZ survey indicates that New Zealand school-aged kids, overall, are high participants (95% weekly participation average) in both sport and physical activity. Some ethnicities and those living in high deprivation areas have below average weekly participation and spend less than average time participating.

The community indicated that in some regions there are plenty of opportunities but that there are still barriers to accessing those opportunities. The most common barriers to access were transport and cost.

**“Lots of opportunities already, access to is the issue”**

**“Opportunities aplenty but accessibility barriers. Knowing about opportunities, travelling to the venue”**

**“Increased participation will happen as a result of accessibility to opportunities and skill development; it is an outcome rather than an objective.” NSO**

<sup>1</sup> Organised sport<sup>1</sup> means sporting activities delivered primarily through organised structures – that is, organised competitions and activities delivered by clubs, schools and other organisations. It includes sporting activities with elements of competition, coaching and skill development.

- iii. The definition of “organised sport”<sup>1</sup> was discussed specifically during the consultation process. Overall, RSTs were supportive of a wider definition of what can be funded i.e. active recreation or physical activity.

Within the community, using particular words such as ‘organised’ or ‘sport’ automatically defined or limited people’s thinking even if the definition following could be perceived to be quite wide.

**“Social participants perceived as less important and this is probable most people. Need to broaden traditional models of participating.”**

**“Should include various physical activity (not just sport)”**

Some struggled to see that ‘organised’ could be a spectrum, they thought quite black and white. The majority of the support was for greater flexibility in its application but still with a lead agency, *“otherwise how do hold accountable or measure impact”*.

In regard to ‘sport’, some supported maintaining the fund for ‘sport’ only participation. Overall though, whilst some concern for dilution of the fund, there was greater support for widening to include physical activity and/or active recreation.

Lastly, the use of “organised sport” is unique to Kiwisport amongst all Sport NZ Strategies and Plans. This shows a current misalignment and does not contribute to maximising the impact that Kiwisport could have on current and future community sport strategies.

- iv. The focus on “during school, after school and by strengthening links with sports clubs” again limited the communities’ innovation and potentially the types of community organisations engaged in Kiwisport opportunities.

One of the original intents for Kiwisport was for improved connection with and between local sport providers and schools. A key message shared with RSTs in September 2009 was: *“RSTs will invest in organisations and schools that demonstrate they are co-operating and forging partnerships with a focus on sport for school-aged children. Schools are the obvious catchment zone for kids to get involved and play sport.”*

As is discussed in many sections of this review, overall, the community would like to see a broader view of what partnerships are and what settings delivery could occur in.

**“Schools’ focus can mean overcrowding”**

**“Can’t be narrow, must be broader – clubs, RSOs, schools, preferred deliverers/providers.”**

Regional and local differences, such as rural schools or lack of clubs, meant that different considerations needed to be applied making this part of the objective less relevant.

- v. The objective of increasing availability and accessibility of sport opportunities for “all school-aged children” does not take into consideration the equity of availability and accessibility.

**“Equity of accessibility is an issue.”**

Whilst RSTs, national organisations and education staff agreed that not all school-aged children needed assistance from a fund to participate in sport and active recreation, the community was split. Many consulted thought that all children needed more opportunities to try things but just as many thought that the funding should be targeted to those in greater need.

**“Favour all children regardless of gender, ethnicity or socio-economic.”**

**“Target support to areas of greater deprivation.”**

This is explored further in Section 2.5.1 – Weighting of funding allocation (targeting).

- vi. There is no consideration of young people’s needs within these objectives. This is now considered a critical success factor<sup>2</sup> to ensure a lifelong love of community sport and being physically active.

RSTs stated that identifying young people’s needs/wants was imperative and the community identified kids input at the beginning and end of an initiative as important.

**“Developing sports and opportunities for kids and whanau ‘EMPOWERMENT’.”**

**“Application/proposal should reflect the needs of the participant, not the needs of the sport or the school. Need evidence of participants’ views and requirements.”**

The ‘insights’ approach is now one of three key approaches strategically important to Sport NZ. The insights approach is using a combination of data, voice-of-the-participant, local knowledge and analysis to help better understand participants. These objectives may actually contradict an insights approach as there is reference to ‘all’ and ‘increase’ with no consideration of other factors mentioned.

- vii. A common theme that arose during the consultation was the value of ‘enablers’ to the provision of high-quality sport and active recreation experiences for young people. The language used, in most cases, wasn’t ‘enablers’, but coaches, teachers, family/whanau, deliverers, and volunteers.

There is no mention in these objectives of any consideration of ‘enablers’ but again this is considered a critical success factor<sup>2</sup> - “to ensure young people are positively influenced, encouraged and supported” including parents, teachers, coaches and volunteers.

Water Safety NZ stated that one of the barriers they found when piloted their Water Skills for Life programme was parents understanding the value of the activity.

<sup>2</sup> Sport NZ’s Young People Plan 2015-2020

Some RSTs were supportive of the inclusion of whanau, not as the target, but as enablers to encourage kids. The community suggested that family activities were important, especially for some ethnicities, and this was further supported by NSOs of which some had had previous success with initiatives involving families.

There were many comments regarding the importance of deliverers (coaches, teachers) and the upskilling of these enablers to ensure high quality.

Education staff, in particular those working within the Play.sport pilot, considered that teacher training and development was potentially more important than actually engaging the children. They considered that this would have a more sustainable impact i.e. train-the-trainer model.

The advisory groups for this review agreed that the participant cannot be viewed in isolation of their environment nor those immediately surrounding the young person's life or involvement in sport and active recreation (i.e. enablers). These factors also need to also be considered when decisions regarding Kiwisport funding are being made.

## Summary

The Kiwisport objectives developed in 2009 are no longer relevant or aligned to Sport NZ's Strategies and Plans. Whilst the community still values kids' participation in sport, and considers there is a continued need to develop skills, there are many reasons for the objectives themselves to be revoked:

- i. High quality provision will ensure attraction and retention and is important to the community.
- ii. Requiring increases in numbers and opportunities is detrimental to good decision making regarding the fund.
- iii. The definition of "organised sport" is too narrow to fulfil the needs to young people in regards to sport and active recreation.
- iv. The focus on schools and clubs is restrictive and an outdated view of what the whole community has to offer young people.
- v. Lack of targeting or prioritising does not align with Sport NZ Strategies and Plans and does not address societal inequities.
- vi. Young people's needs and the consideration and evaluation of these are not highlighted.
- vii. Enablers are an important part of the high-quality experience for young people and need to be considered within initiatives.

Although not considered to the part of the terms of reference of this review. The name of the fund, Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund, did get raised in many of the consultations. Those that raised this issue were supportive of a change.

Considering the change in objectives and purpose that are recommended below, a name change would also be a strong signal of the change in kaupapa of the fund. This would also be a strong signal to the active recreation sector.

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## Recommendations

- a) That the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund objectives established in 2009 be revoked.
- b) That the purpose of the Fund is:

The Fund is available to the community to deliver high quality sport and active recreation experiences that meet the needs of young people (aged 5-18yrs), prioritising those with low or declining participation rates and/or where barriers to participation exist.

Additionally, Sport NZ should consider:

- Renaming Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund to the “Korikori Community Activation Fund” or something else to be determined.
- Establishing a Fund Framework which should include details such as:
  - Clarity regarding initiatives being funded for outcomes and the inclusion of administration costs, equipment costs, transport costs;
  - Encouragement of longer-term investment with appropriate monitoring and evaluation and opportunity for fast failure.
- Improving communication with and between RSTs to share what and how they are each applying the purpose and principles to achieve positive outcomes in their communities (including sharing good practice and having information easily accessible).
- Including whanau participation (not just the young person) in experiences and consider the development of coaches, officials and volunteers; and increasing emphasis on improved understanding amongst parents, coaches, teachers etc. of the needs of young people in regard to their participation in sport and active recreation.
- Allowing for consideration of teacher training and professional development as part of funded initiatives.
- RSTs promoting and advocating to a wider group within their region regarding the availability and purpose of the fund (including engagement with young people and organisations already working with, or representative of, targeted communities). To achieve this, RSTs, in some cases, need greater support and guidance from Sport NZ and increased funding to provide the necessary resource.

## 2.2 MINISTERIAL EXPECTATIONS

There are three 'Ministerial expectations' which are referred to in reference to the Kiwisport RPF. This section of the review will consider these three and the communities' views of their impact, purpose or limitations.

### I. All of the RPF will be directed at supporting schools and partnerships with clubs

Whilst this was the Ministerial expectation in 2009, there has been other advice and definitions from Sport NZ since then that have indicated a wider range of partners than just schools and clubs. For example, the definition of 'organised sport' includes "clubs, schools and other organisations"; in regard to funding criteria, Sport NZ have advised "build and strengthen linkages between schools and other community groups". Additionally, within the Ministerial expectation there are different terms used with the third expectation stating "schools and community providers receiving the funds...".

All RSTs thought that Kiwisport should not be limited to schools and clubs (the most common suggestion was that the word 'community' should be used), many stating that this was not realistic within their regions. Many also stated that the objective of Kiwisport should be about the young people and who can deliver to these young people. Partnerships were still considered important by some RSTs while others thought that partnerships were not necessary to achieve delivery outcomes for young people.

The community were also supportive of 'community' being important rather than just schools and clubs. This then included churches, Maraes, sports clubs, schools, RSOs etc. Issues were raised about clubs' capability and capacity (volunteer's availability does not match school times), and many suggested that there should be more support for clubs.

**"Clubs don't have the resources to build school club links."**

**"Clubs aren't the only quality providers - location, sporting code; - other organisations broaden options - shouldn't limit options; clubs are run by volunteers - time is limited. What about including: Councils, RSOs, private providers"**

Some in the wider community also thought that the school/club partnership was not relevant anymore and that the sector is constrained by tradition and convention.

### 2. Other partners will contribute financially to RPF projects

This is currently applied very differently across the country and in most cases, RSTs still wanted to retain this flexibility. RSTs seemed to show a good understanding about why, locally, different criteria were in place, and how those criteria were applied to decision making.

Currently, expectations range from "no partner funding required" (Sport Taranaki) to "up to 50% funded only" (Sport Tasman and Sport Otago). Half of the RSTs have an upper limit i.e. Kiwisport will contribute up to 65% of the total project cost, whilst the other half provide more flexibility and do not have an upper limit.

Most RSTs consider in-kind contribution as partner funding with one RST stating that applicants tended to try to get away with in-kind contributions being partner funding so the RST just removed any expectation of partner funding. Some RSTs considered that partnerships with schools should only happen when the school has 'skin-in-the-game' i.e. has invested their Kiwisport Direct Fund in the initiative/project.

Some RSTs currently prioritise initiatives/applications that show a **high level of partner contribution**. This would seem to favour those communities with more money readily available or more accessible to them because of their capability and capacity and therefore may be detrimental to targeted populations.

There is a greater acknowledgement that different partners bring different resources to an initiative and that the contribution of financial resources are not always possible by some community groups, in particular those in high deprivation areas. It is often the case that there is less funding available or less capability and capacity for organisations within these low-participating communities to access the funding (including Kiwisport funding in the first instance). An appropriate level of consideration and support is needed for particular communities.

### 3. Schools and community providers receiving the funds are not weighed down by too much bureaucracy

The community indicated little to no concern about current levels of requirements/bureaucracy. Of the few comments regarding bureaucracy, concerns raised included:

- “Easier to access – less bureaucratic process”
- “Accountability is “over the top” for limited investment”
- “Less paperwork and hoops to jump through”
- “My main comment (which I am sure would have been shared a number of times already in the review) is the cost (time and resource) of preparing Kiwisport applications and then completing the accountability reports. In short, and sometimes depending on the RST, it felt like we needed to jump through a number of hoops in the hope of getting \$3k of funding.”

Currently, RSTs are responsible for their own systems, processes, applications, reporting forms etc. and many suggested that national consistency, provision of templates, better use of technology and updated reporting requirements would all have a positive impact on reducing current bureaucracy for them, and for applicants/recipients.

Across the community and RSTs, there was general agreement in regard to monitoring and evaluation that numbers (a simple way to monitor) should not be the only thing measured and that improvements were needed. There was an acceptance of the impact of this burden but most saw the benefit that these improvements would have.

The most common feedback for improvement in Kiwisport funding distribution was multi-year funding. Some of the community spoke of the reduction in workload and many spoke about the benefit of long-term funding for sustainability and assurance too.

#### “Multi-year funding, cuts down on admin. time”

Many RSTs have a ‘Fast Fund’ or ‘Kickstart Fund’ for the purpose of quicker decision making and fund distribution. In some cases, the application requirements are lesser too.

In the Auckland region, funds of up to \$5,000 are reviewed by an internal working group (RST staff) and approved by the local RST Board. This ‘Fast Fund’ is managed differently to other ring-fenced funds which distribute higher amounts.

This highlights the differences in the RSTs and the difficulty of one set of rules across the country. In the Auckland region, the ‘Fast Fund’ is valued at approximately \$157,000 per annum which is higher than Sport Gisborne’s entire fund of \$105,000 per annum of which (in 2017) all but two applications were at or under \$5,000.

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## Summary

If Kiwisport is to remain focussed on young people, then the setting of their participation should not be restricted by an expectation of a school/club partnership. The wider community is (or could be) contributing to young people's sport and active recreation experience and therefore a wider consideration of partners is necessary.

For Kiwisport to achieve an impact in targeted communities, it needs to consider the barriers that may exist. Requiring a financial contribution from some partners may inhibit their application to Kiwisport thereby reducing opportunities for some young people. A wider consideration of all the resources that partners bring to an initiative may see a broader type of organisation applying and, potentially, sustainability built not because of money but because of the community's input and buy-in.

During this review, there was little concern raised by the community regarding bureaucracy of the Kiwisport RPF. There are possible efficiencies that could be achieved with a single national technological solution which would also have other advantages to both the community and the administrators of Kiwisport. Other changes in Kiwisport, such as a national forum or improvements to reporting requirements or greater RST autonomy, may be beneficial to the community and reduce bureaucracy.

As many RSTs are utilising and aligning Kiwisport with their strategy and with Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy, some are leveraging the funding to achieve other objectives. This could be seen as a good use of the fund and help to achieve a greater impact on the overall sector but some fund recipients may see these expectations and requirements as additional bureaucracy.

As the purpose of this review is to assess the alignment of the Kiwisport RPF with Sport NZ current and future strategies and plans, RSTs that are leveraging and aligning are actually showing how the Kiwisport RPF can further impact and maximise on Sport NZ strategies and plans.

There is no need for an explicit expectation regarding low bureaucracy. RSTs, as the "policy target" do not want any more bureaucracy than any of the recipients of the fund and therefore any such statement is redundant.

Although not considered to the part of the terms of reference of this review. The name of the fund, Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund, did get raised in many of the consultations. Those that raised this issue were supportive of a change. Considering the change in objectives and purpose that are recommended below, a name change would also be a strong signal of the change in kaupapa of the fund.

## Recommendation

- a) That the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund Ministerial expectations established in 2009 be revoked.

Additionally, Sport NZ should consider:

- RSTs promoting and advocating to a wider group within their region regarding the availability and purpose of the fund (including engagement with young people and organisations already working with, or representative of, targeted communities). To achieve this, RSTs, in some cases, need greater support and guidance from Sport NZ and increased funding to provide the necessary resource.
- Removing reference to 'partner funding' but that projects involving partnerships are prioritised.
- Educating and influencing senior management at RSTs of the benefits of improved alignment of Kiwisport to other Sport NZ investments and strategies.
- Implementing one single national technological solution/portal that allows for national consistency but regional variances as needed.
- Confirming the Fund for a period of no less than three years.
- Allowing greater flexibility of regional decision making, in line with overall purpose and principles, to ensure the RST can achieve many benefits with one investment.
- Improving communication with and between RSTs to share what and how they are each applying the purpose and principles to achieve positive outcomes in their communities (including sharing good practice and having information easily accessible).

## 2.3 IMPACT TO DATE

This review was asked to consider the impact to date of the Kiwisport RPF based on existing RPF participation reporting. The current RPF participation reporting has significant limitations to being able to provide any detail of impact in regard to each of the three objectives and as such other sources of information have also been considered.

This section will consider the impact to date by looking at each of the objectives and then other impacts of the RPF not related directly to the three Kiwisport objectives. A summary is provided at the end of this section.

Note: all figures or data quoted throughout this report in regard to Kiwisport funding or participation does not include the 2017/2018 year.

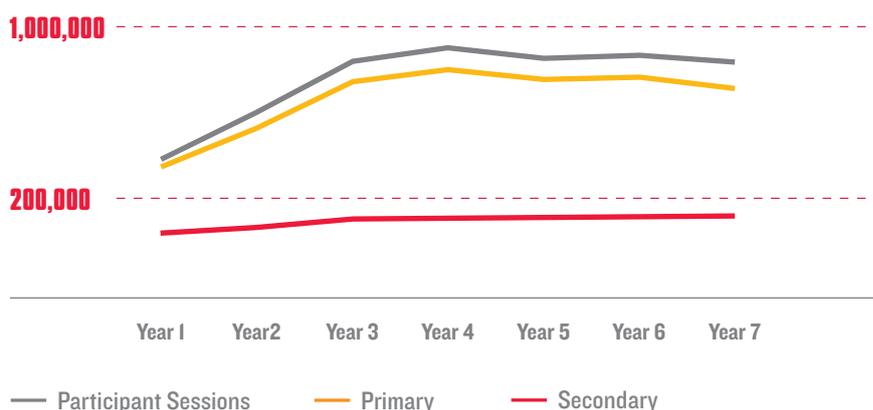
### Objective One

Increase the number of school-age children participating in organised sport – during school, after school and by strengthening links with sports clubs.

### FIGURE 1

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SPLIT  
OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS  
(2010/11 - 2016/17)  
– KIWISPORT REPORTING

#### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SPLIT OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS

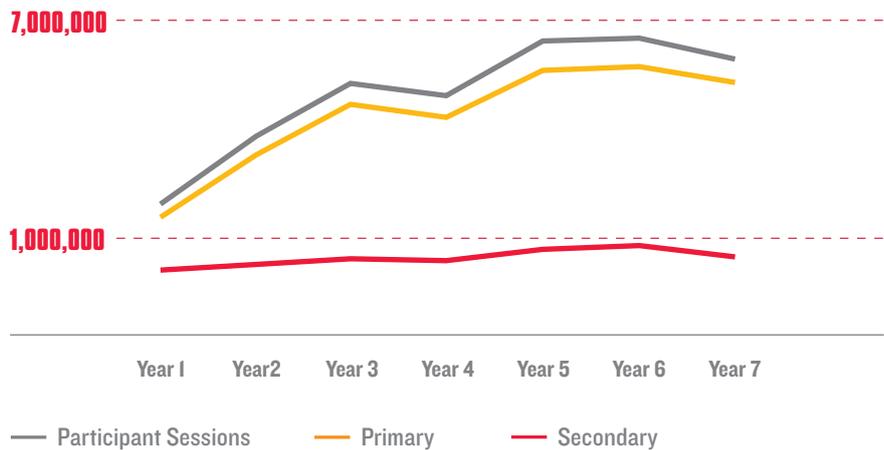


- 36% of the initiatives funded have had a primary strategic outcome of increased participation.
- There was an increase in individual participants (Kiwisport funded initiatives from 2009 to 2014/15 and then a maintenance of participation between 2014/15 to 2016/17 of over 800,000 school-aged children.

## FIGURE 2

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SPLIT  
OF PARTICIPANT SESSIONS  
(2010/11 - 2016/17)  
- KIWISPORT REPORTING

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SPLIT



Similarly, for participant sessions, increases have occurred for all but two years (within 2010/11 - 2016/17).

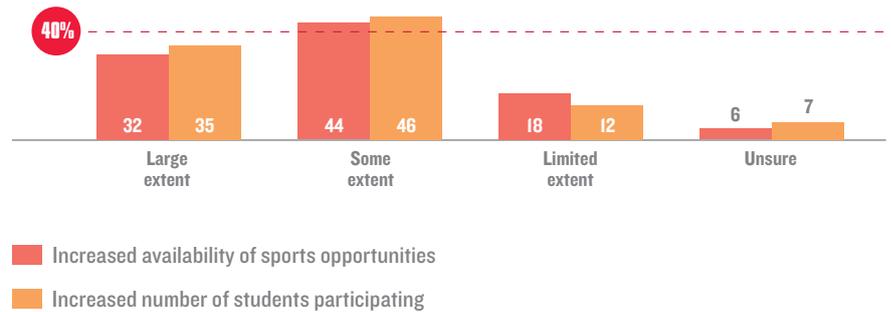
- c) There is some evidence of impact in regards to increases in school-age children participating in organised sport as reported on by RSTs within their annual Kiwisport reporting, such as:
- "In 2 years, the organisation has doubled their junior members playing in their competition from 250 to over 500, they are doing some fantastic work in Horowhenua."
  - "Improved connections with University of Otago with six BEd students chose Futsal coaching for their degree paper. There was an increase in girl's participation."
  - "The Shuttle Time in-schools programme has increased participation - from 7 schools, 17 teams, and 70 players in last year's Primary School Tournament, to 10 schools, 27 teams, and 110 players in this year's Primary School Tournament. They have seen slight growth in the Intermediate level -- 7 schools, 18 teams, and 80 players, up from 17 teams and 68 players last year. Additionally, they are seeing a slight boost in the clubs that they run at the Centre."
- d) Two significant surveys have been completed by Sport NZ involving young people since the inception of Kiwisport (Young People Survey 2011, Active NZ Survey 2017). Due to significantly different survey questions and structure, these two surveys are not comparable.
- e) The Education Review Office (ERO) published two reports in the early years of Kiwisport (2010 and 2012) in relation to the Direct Fund. Schools which ERO reviewed during Terms 1 and 2, 2012 were asked to complete a questionnaire about their use of Kiwisport funding, the impact on their physical education (PE) programme and students' skill development, and involvement with RSTs. The 2012 report presented the main findings from their responses (245 schools). Due to the report being based on self-reporting, limitations were identified as "It is not clear how schools have decided their ratings of extent and impact. Some schools may have been including impacts of the Regional Partnership Fund as well as impacts of the Direct Fund." As such, the results are worth acknowledging in consideration of any impact of the RPF.

Schools identified an increased number of students participating in organised sport across both primary and secondary schools.

### FIGURE 3

#### INCREASE IN SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED SPORT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

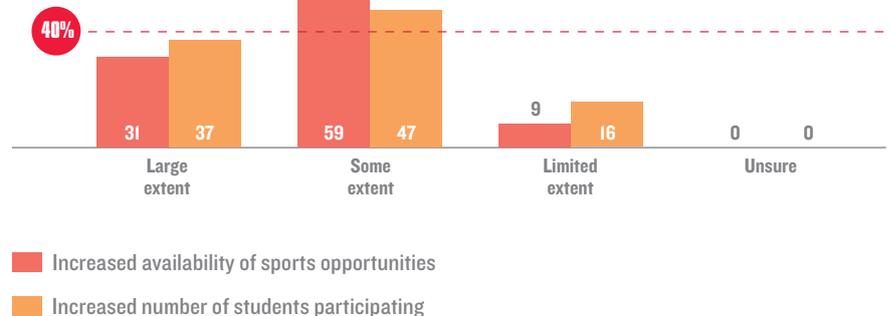
##### % OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS



### FIGURE 4

#### INCREASE IN SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED SPORT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

##### % OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Additionally, the report stated that 85% of schools had been in contact with their local RST, 25% had applied for funding (i.e. the Regional Partnership Fund) and 77% of those applications had been successful. Over 90% of schools had been involved with at least one of the nine RST programmes/activities listed in the questionnaire.

Primary schools were more likely to have been involved with RST programmes to upskill teachers, modify sports and games, and develop movement and basic skills. Many primary schools noted that involvement with specialists had benefited both teachers and students.

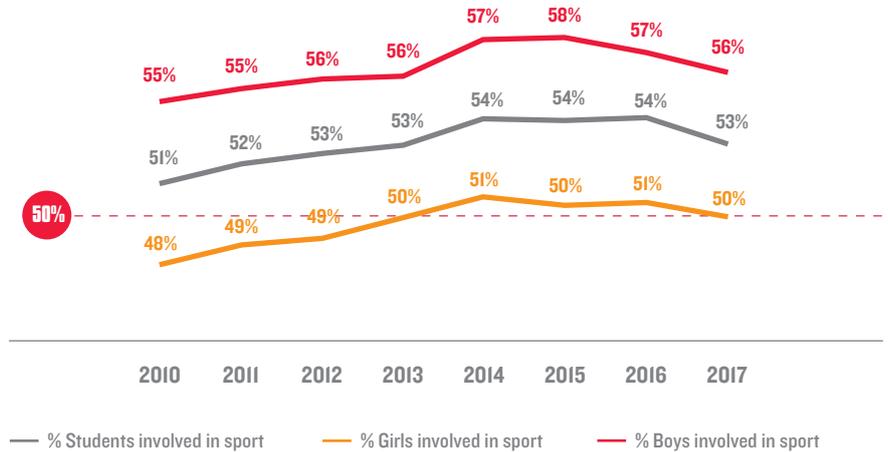
In conclusion, the report states "Their responses indicate that funding has had the intended impact in most schools to at least some extent. KiwiSport has led to increased sports opportunities and participation, and improved support for skills development."

It is important to note that this report was completed in 2012 (two years into Kiwisport) and is the last report regarding Kiwisport completed by ERO. No further collective information is available from schools.

**FIGURE 5**

**NZSSSC CENSUS DATA: SECONDARY STUDENT PARTICIPATION RATES IN SPORT (2010 - 2017)**

**NZSSSC CENSUS DATA: SECONDARY STUDENT PARTICIPATION RATES IN SPORT (2010-2017)**

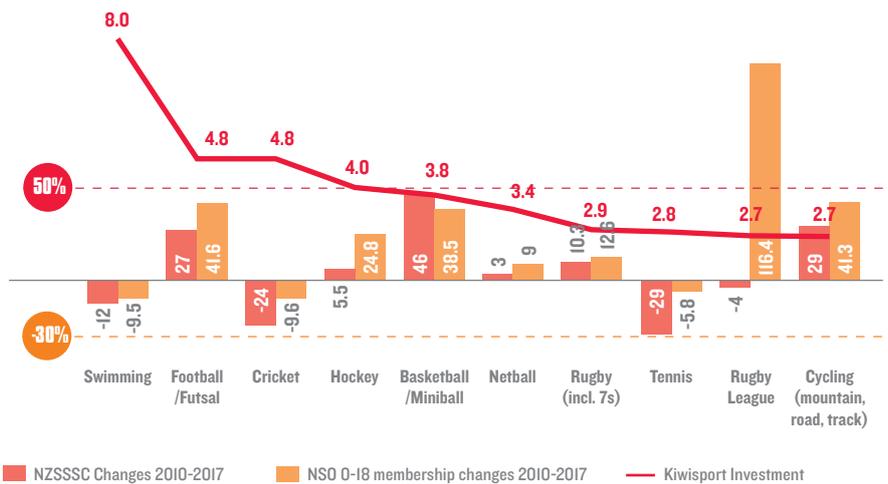


f) NZSSSC figures show, since the inception of the Kiwisport RPF, a slight increase from 2010 to 2017 in participation overall for secondary school students, and for both male and female students. Note: there is no evidence that Kiwisport impacted positively.

**FIGURE 6**

**KIWISPORT INVESTMENT AND PARTICIPATION/MEMBERSHIP CHANGES (NOTE: TENNIS AND SWIMMING RANGE IS 2011-2016 ONLY)**

**PARTICIPATION/MEMBERSHIP CHANGES 2010-2017 AND KIWISPORT INVESTMENT (TOTAL)**



- g) When comparing Kiwisport investment (% of total) in sport (highest 10 financial recipients based on reporting received) to changes in participation at secondary school age (based on NZSSC data only) and NSO membership data (0-18yrs) there are mixed results in regards to impact on participation.

It is difficult to draw a correlation between Kiwisport investment and an individual sport's success in either increasing their young people membership or the numbers participating in organised secondary school activity. It is acknowledged that there are many contributing factors that influence these changes over time. Given that 7 of the 10 highest sports invested in show positive results in one or both of these measures it would seem that Kiwisport could claim to be one of those contributing factors.

Additionally, swimming, in almost all cases, has been invested in to "increase skills", rather than either of the other two Kiwisport objectives (increase participation; increase accessibility to opportunities).

Notwithstanding some positive correlation above, there are some irregularities when comparing Kiwisport investment to NSO membership (0-18yrs) changes over the past 8 years.

- Sports receiving similar financial input and delivering to a similar number of participants (athletics and rugby league) have significant different membership changes (-4.7% and 116% respectively).
- Sports considered foundation or fundamental (swimming, athletics, gymnastics) had varying results with both swimming and athletics showing a decline in membership (-9.5% and -4.7% respectively). Gymnastics had a membership increase of 35% (not shown in the above graph as the sport was not in the highest 10 invested in). It could be argued that any investment in these activities were fundamental skills based and that participation leads to increased uptake of other sports and activities although there is no data to support this.
- Sports that had similar national programmes funded by Kiwisport to deliver in school settings had significantly different results in membership changes. Hockey increased by 24.8% while tennis decreased by 5.8%.

## Objective Two

### Increase the availability and accessibility of sport opportunities for all school-age children.

- a) 29% of the initiatives funded have had a primary strategic outcome of increased opportunities.
- b) Over 4,500 applications were approved over the period from 2009 to June 2017. Of these, there were over 1500 unique funding recipients. Approximately 59% were sport and recreation organisations (NSOs, RSOs, Clubs, YMCA etc.), 34.5% were education organisations, 1.2% were Councils, and 5.3% were other organisations such as youth groups and trusts.

Unfortunately, data on total number of providers across all initiatives including the lead agency and any other partners cannot be obtained from current reporting. Also, data about new opportunities versus existing is unreliable and was removed from reporting requirements from 2015/16 onwards.

- c) There is some evidence of impact in regard to increased availability and accessibility of opportunities as reported on by RSTs within their annual reporting, such as:
  - "It provided them with the first ever opportunity they have had to do a qualifying competition in their own region. Increased the profile of the sport."
  - "Visited 6 more schools outside of Dunedin to expand regional coverage. Increased the number of 'football festivals' to 9 to give more kids an opportunity for tournament play."
  - "The project is providing a stimulating introduction to Triathlon to children who have not had any opportunities previously that should help to increase participation in sport within the region."
  - "Gave opportunities to try extensions on the basics of these sports for children in rural and isolated areas who would not normally have the chance to progress in these sports."
- d) In the previously mentioned ERO reports regarding Kiwisport, the 2012 report also stated that schools identified increased availability and accessibility of sports opportunities (see Figures 4 and 5 above) across both primary and secondary schools.

Seven of the 11 secondary schools that reported a large increase in sports opportunities had developed links with community clubs who coached their students and provided access to their facilities.

The report states, in conclusion, *"Their responses indicate that funding has had the intended impact in most schools to at least some extent. KiwiSport has led to increased sports opportunities and participation, and improved support for skills development."*

As previously stated, it is important to note that this report was completed in 2012 (2yrs into Kiwisport) and is the last report regarding Kiwisport completed by the Education Review Office. No further collective information is available from schools.

### Objective Three

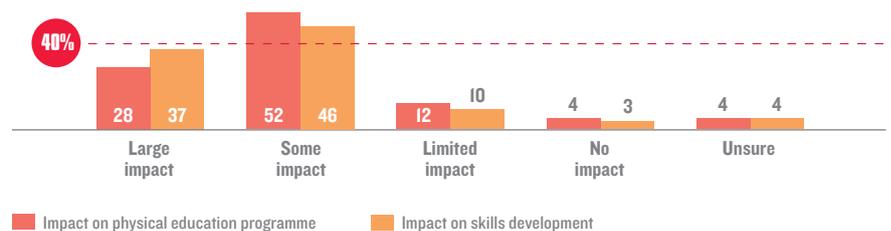
Support children in developing skills that will enable them to participate effectively in sport at both primary and secondary level.

- a) 35% of the initiatives funded have had a primary strategic outcome of increased skills.
- b) There is some evidence of impact in regard to developing skills as reported on by RSTs within their annual reporting, such as:
  - “There was a notable increase in skills over the sessions the students attended.”
  - “Basic skill levels of years 1, 2 and 3 showed noticeable increase.”
  - “Distinct improvements in water skills, confidence and stamina. Focus was also placed on survival skills around beaches, boating and rivers. Having a swimming tutor with partial funding from KiwiSport made a big difference to the level of skill development.”
  - “One notable difference this year was around our year 4’s and up. Most being involved in our program for over 3 years. It really showed in their skill and developmental areas.”
  - “In Dunedin 61.9% of Year 5-7 children achieved the 200m challenge. In Central Otago 37.5% of Year 1-8 children achieved the 200m challenge. Both of these results are well ahead of the national average.”
- c) The previously mentioned 2012 ERO reports regarding Kiwisport also stated that schools identified impact on supporting children to develop skills to participate effectively in sport across both primary and secondary schools.

### FIGURE 7

IMPACT ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND HELPING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

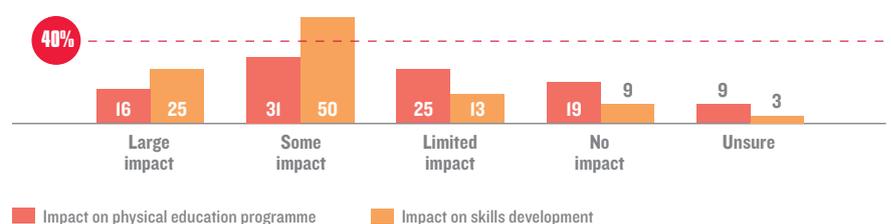
#### % OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS



### FIGURE 8

IMPACT ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND HELPING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

#### % OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Primary schools were more likely to have been involved with RST programmes to upskill teachers, modify sports and games, and develop movement and basic skills. Many primary schools noted that involvement with specialists had benefited both teachers and students.

The report, in conclusion, states “Their responses indicate that funding has had the intended impact in most schools to at least some extent. KiwiSport has led to increased sports opportunities and participation, and improved support for skills development. Many primary schools had been involved with programmes to upskill teachers, which have enhanced their PE programmes.”

As previously stated, it is important to note that this report was completed in 2012 (2yrs into Kiwisport) and is the last report regarding Kiwisport completed by the Education Review Office. No further collective information is available from schools.

d) There are some limited examples of initiatives that have captured quantitative data on skill improvement. One such example is the Wellington Region’s Fundamental Movement Skills Project which has been in operation for seven years. The main deliverable for the project is to develop fundamental movement skills to primary school children (Years 1 – 6), across the Wellington Region through a series of programmes. Delivery includes a minimum of two different FMS programmes per school. Programmes to choose from include:

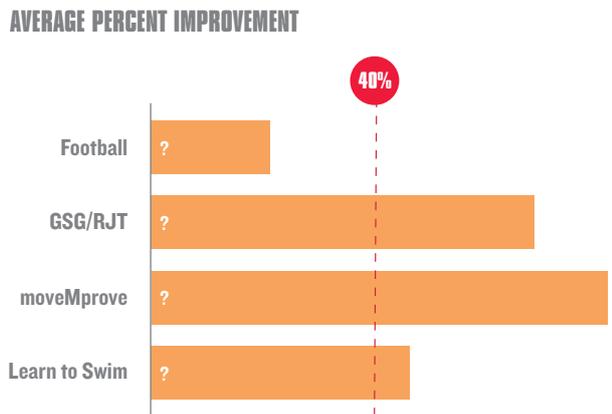
- Swim for life aquatics
- Football in schools
- moveMprove
- Get Set Go / Run Jump Throw

In addition, the project aims to support the professional development of teachers to increase confidence and capabilities to deliver high quality PE lessons outside of the project.

The project has supported over 140,000 primary aged children across the greater Wellington region to develop fundamental movement skills. Skill acquisition is among the many benefits this project facilitates.

Deliverers of the project were required to perform pre and post assessments for all participating students. A cross-section of participating students was asked to complete a self-assessment. Self-assessment is a powerful tool in measuring the success of the project from the perspective of the participant.

**FIGURE 9**  
**OVERALL AVERAGE % IMPROVEMENT ACROSS EACH PROGRAMME BASED ON PRE AND POST ASSESSMENT OF EACH PARTICIPANT (2017 DATA)**



## Other impacts of the Kiwisport RPF

- a) There is some anecdotal evidence of other benefits of Kiwisport over and above the three initial objectives, for example:
- “As a result of these lessons, one school has developed a school swim club that has seen a link to the competitive squads.”
  - “... the Whanganui Multisport Club has increased its coaching capability and its assets to run future programmes that won’t require any further assistance.”
  - “Project focuses on significant upskilling of volunteers as well. 6 new club coaches have been recruited and 4 club coaches have been upskilled.”
  - “Successful programme, in part due to the cross-club collaboration. This project was the brain child of HSOB Junior Rugby Club, but would not have been so successful had they not had the partnership of their on-field opponents, OBM and UAWA Rugby Clubs.”
  - “We also focused on a train the trainer approach and ended our sessions with 4 new coaches/parent mentors that will be able to run programs in Hicks Bay.”
  - “Programme works well with interaction from local community i.e. parents and clubs in addition to support from regional bodies i.e. golf & tennis.”
  - “The provision of lunchtime activities has been successful and led to a reduction of behaviour incidents in the playground.”
  - “Parental involvement has increased as parents are now riding with their children to school.”

This provides some examples of how Kiwisport has been used by RSTs purposefully or has resulted as a by-product in greater community connectedness or other system build advantages.

- b) RSTs and their communities have shown the ability to leverage additional funds to support Kiwisport funded initiatives. The total in-kind and financial contributions from 2009 – 2017 resulted in an additional \$52.9m (RSTs approved \$63m of the Kiwisport RPF over this same period).
- c) There was evidence, during the consultation in regard to the Kiwisport review, of the communities continued engagement and support for Kiwisport. Over the 18 community wide consultations hosted, 433 individuals representing over 320 organisations attended to have their say on the future of Kiwisport. During these sessions, many wanted to thank their RSTs and Sport NZ for having Kiwisport funding available and for the difference it had made to their sport or activity. Many were very concerned about Kiwisport funding not being available from 2020 onwards and the negative impact that may have.

**“Ensuring the funding is protected and delivered into the future.”**

- d) Some RSTs leverage the Kiwisport funds to assist with system build e.g.
- Sport Wellington has a requirement for some sports organisations to build a volunteer plan during the course of the delivery period and they allocate people resource from inside their organisation to assist with the development of that plan.
  - Sport Wellington builds a requirement into some projects for physical literacy training to be undertaken by deliverers.
  - Sport Taranaki undertakes session visits to view planning, implementation and success of initiatives; feedback is provided to the fund holder.
  - Sport Canterbury align support for Kiwisport funded initiatives with their other community sport outcomes and allocate resource to support and review those initiatives (i.e. where locally-led projects overlap with Kiwisport funded delivery)
  - Aktive will be adjusting their funding to just one funding round to ensure applicants do their due diligence. They will be asking for applications of intent and use this as a touchpoint to improve applications, and to assist the applicant to improve their knowledge and understanding. This may be supported by other tools and resources such as webinars or workshops.
  - Across Auckland, all RSTs are linking their funding to the “Auckland Approach” which means much better alignment between the strategic objectives of the region and funding. Questions are asked of funding recipients about other impacts their projects have had such as pathways and long-term engagement.
- e) There has been some negative feedback about the impact of Kiwisport. The education workforce involved in the Play.sport pilot sites, have indicated that Kiwisport has had a negative impact on the quality and provision of physical education (in primary schools). This is further explored in Section 2.5.3 - Use of funding in curriculum time and Section 2.9 - Impact on schools and communities in the Play.sport pilot sites.

## Summary

There is limited information available to assess impact to date. This Review was asked to consider impact to date based on existing Kiwisport RPF reporting but inconsistencies in this reporting make that difficult. There is some evidence of the positive impact that the Kiwisport RPF has had:

- Increased individual participants and participant sessions over time since the inception of Kiwisport as reported by Kiwisport RPF participation reporting.
- Increased participation, increased availability and accessibility of opportunities, and skill development as reported narratively by some Kiwisport funded initiatives (via Kiwisport RPF participation reporting).
- Increased numbers of students participating in organised sport (81% to large or some extent) in early reporting (2012) from a survey of schools.
- 7 of the 10 highest sports invested in show increases in either or both NZSSSC participation figures or 0-18 membership figures since 2010.
- 4,500 application approved for new or expanded initiatives.
- Increased availability and accessibility of sports opportunities (77% to large or some extent) in early reporting (2012) from a survey of schools.
- Increased development of skills (82% to large or some extent) in early reporting (2012) from a survey of schools.
- Individual initiative data indicates skill improvement.
- Increased community and volunteer engagement as reported by some Kiwisport funded initiatives (via Kiwisport RPF participation reporting).
- Additional funds leveraged to support Kiwisport RPF funded initiatives.

There is some reporting that the Kiwisport RPF has had a negative impact. This is contained to issues within a primary school setting and, in some cases, Kiwisport funded initiatives being used as physical education.

Although it is difficult to confidently state that the Kiwisport RPF has achieved its objectives, it would be fair to state that there is evidence of impact on those objectives.

As will be discussed throughout this report, there are many changes and improvements which can be made to ensure that in the future Kiwisport is better able to be evaluated.

## 2.4 CURRENT IMPACT ON, AND ALIGNMENT WITH, SPORT NZ'S COMMUNITY SPORT STRATEGY AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

Understanding how the Kiwisport RPF impacts on, and aligns with, the implementation of the aims of Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy 2015- 2020 and Young People Plan 2016-2020 is quite complex due to the complex nature of these strategies. An efficient way to consider impact and alignment is within the following two tables:

Community Sport Strategy 2015 - 2020

Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund Impact and Alignment

### OVERALL SUMMARY

There is an "overall" contribution that Kiwisport makes that is hard to define by the parts below. Those RSTs that utilise Kiwisport as one of their tools to achieve their own strategic goals and by association achieve Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy outcomes, will be able to point to Kiwisport as helping them achieve elements of the Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy.

For many RSTs, Kiwisport is not seen as a separate burden of responsibility rather a leveraging tool to influence. For example, Kiwisport was used at Sport Wellington as an opportunity to create or enhance relationships with Māori sport providers by engaging and then encouraging them to apply for Kiwisport funding to provide opportunities for Māori. Flexibility was required by the assessors and decision makers when fund applications weren't as thorough as they could have been, and support was offered by other parts of the business as necessary. This is combining Sport Wellington's own community sport plan and strategic plan with Kiwisport to achieve common outcomes. There are other similar examples across the country.

Overall, Kiwisport contributes positively to Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy in some part due to new expectations introduced when the Strategy was introduced. Sport NZ's hands-off approach over the past three/four years has meant that Kiwisport is not as aligned as it could have been with greater influence on leaders and decision makers within RSTs.

## PHILOSOPHY

### PARTICIPANT-FOCUSSED

Initially, whilst Kiwisport RPF was community focussed, it was not participant focused. As this philosophy became more common in the sport sector, it has become part of how the Kiwisport RPF is implemented across the country.

The level of focus on the participant does vary across the country currently. Most minimally, one RST has no requirement for voice of the participant in either the application or reporting stages of their processes but they do utilise local surveys (of children's preferences etc.) for their funding decisions. At the other end of the spectrum, one RST requires applicants to identify their target community and the rationale for delivery.

Notwithstanding how integrated or overt the participant-focussed philosophy is applied within each RST's Kiwisport processes, all RSTs are aligned with Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy and indicated they wanted Kiwisport to have greater alignment with this particular philosophy.

### SYSTEM-LED

The Kiwisport RPF objectives and Sport NZ's guidelines were primarily focussed on ensuring more delivery of sport for children. System-led was not a term used in 2009, nor was it a focus for Kiwisport RPF.

Over time, there has been increased Kiwisport investment in some system-led elements of delivery of sport to children, mostly coaching.

### PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN

In 2009, Kiwisport was new to Sport NZ and RSTs. Sport NZ provided support to RSTs which included a limited number of templates and an annual forum for key staff. Reporting requirements and tools were cumbersome and each RST was required to set-up their own systems, processes, and templates etc.

Over time, and most markedly in 2014, Sport NZ support and oversight of Kiwisport reduced significantly including the halting of the annual forum.

Reporting remained fairly similar over this time with small changes to allow for requirement changes that had been implemented.

Sport NZ now, in 2018, has little to no robust measurements of Kiwisport that can be used to truly show an impact or a clear return on investment. Some RSTs have more robust systems, processes and measures and can tell a better regional story of impact than Sport NZ can tell nationally.

## OUTCOMES

### FOCUS AREA 1: SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (5-18)

**Outcome:** An increase in children taking part in 3 hours or more of organised and/or informal sport a week in schools by 2020

The Kiwisport RPF has a focus on school-aged children (5-18) also. All Kiwisport RPF investment went to initiatives that would impact on children aged 5-18 although some initiatives funded have focused on particular barriers to participation or enablers of more or better-quality participation e.g. coaching or equipment.

Kiwisport did contribute to this outcome (from 2009 – 2015, 57% of all projects were delivered in school time (curriculum and lunchtime) but within the last two years Sport NZ has required a reduction in Kiwisport funded initiatives that are delivered in curriculum time (delivery in curriculum time reduced from 42% of total projects (2009-2015) to 36% in 2015/16 and reduced again to 21% in 2016/17).

### FOCUS AREA 2: LOCAL DELIVERY (PARTICULARLY IN LOW-PARTICIPATION COMMUNITIES)

**Outcome:** An increase in children taking part in 3 hours or more of organised and/or informal sport a week in schools by 2020

The Kiwisport RPF's distribution is regionalised based on a plan established by local RSTs and approved by Sport NZ. This plan (required every three years) requires community consultation which identifies local priorities and barriers.

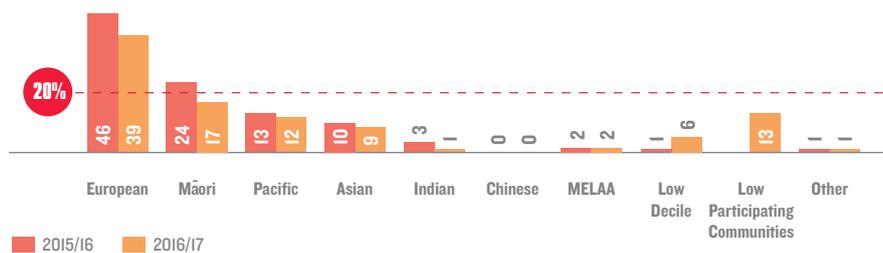
Over the period of 2009 to 2017, Sport NZ and RSTs gained greater access to information and data which meant that there could be greater targeting of the fund to those with greater barriers or lower levels of participation. In 2015/16, Sport NZ required of RSTs to identify their regional target participation groups and to prioritise those groups for funding. This requirement was implemented differently across the country but since that time, with reporting changes, investment levels have shown changes too.

No data is available prior to 2015/16 but as can be seen from the graph below, changes from 2015/16 to 2016/17 include a large increase in investment in low-participating communities and low-decile schools.

## FIGURE 10

**% INVESTMENT IN TARGET PARTICIPATION GROUPS - 2015/16 AND 2016/17 – KIWISPORT REPORTING**

**% INVESTMENT IN TPGS 2015/16 and 2016/17**



### FOCUS AREA 3: COMPETITIVE SPORT (INCLUDING TALENT IDENTIFICATION)

**Outcome:** An increase in high engagement participation reported from targeted sport by 2020

Within the rules and boundaries of the Kiwisport RPF, there is nothing that refers to or aligns with this focus area. Most RSTs have required sport specific delivery to show alignment with the regional or national body.

There is no reporting that captures the level of investment in traditional competition structures.

More recently, many RSTs have broadened the variety of their investments to better fulfil the participant-focussed philosophy potentially to the detriment of traditional competition structures.

Nevertheless, there is some evidence of an alignment of impact between the level of investment in sport and the national membership rates of those same sports (see Section 2.3 - Impact to date).



## OVERALL SUMMARY

Kiwisport contributes positively to Sport NZ's Young People Plan but is not as aligned as it could potentially be. Some definitions (such as 'organised sport' or the lack of the word 'quality'), lack of support and influence from Sport NZ, and limited resources allocated by some RSTs has meant that Kiwisport has not contributed as much as it could to the critical success factors as detailed below.

## CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS (CSF)

### THEY ARE PHYSICALLY LITERATE

Kiwisport was introduced before Sport NZ implemented their physical literacy approach.

The objectives of Kiwisport, if taken at face value, do not align with the physical literacy approach i.e. a focus on 'increased participation' detracts from a physical literacy approach. The definition of organised sport does not align with the physical literacy approach.

Some RSTs have implemented a physical literacy approach in regard to some aspects of their implementation of the Kiwisport RPF, for example at Sport Wellington, it may be built into an organisation's requirements to have some training on what the physical literacy approach is; at Sport Southland, it is a factor taken into consideration when the assessment panel is making decisions.

Almost all RSTs agreed that it is very important for Kiwisport to align with the physical literacy approach although the words physical literacy may not be ones that are best to use. Many thought the word quality should be included and would encompass physical literacy.

### THEIR EXPERIENCES ARE HIGH QUALITY, STAGE-APPROPRIATE AND FUN

The word 'quality' is missing from the Kiwisport RPF objectives.

There is some evidence that some RSTs promote currently available quality guidelines and have requirements and audits in place to check quality standards but there is lack of consistency across the country.

There is no reporting requirement regarding quality of delivery or impact for the young people involved.

'Stage-appropriate' and 'fun' could be considered to be part of high-quality. Currently there is no specific mention of these elements within Kiwisport RPF guidance. Some RSTs look for these elements in funding applications.

### THEY ARE POSITIVELY INFLUENCED, ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED

There is nothing within Kiwisport which supports or detracts from this critical success factor. There are examples within individual RSTs of education and support happening to ensure that funded initiatives deliver a quality experience.

There is no evidence that Sport NZ utilises Kiwisport to help them achieve this critical success factor but Kiwisport could definitely contribute if, for example, there were resources that supported teachers, parents, coaches and volunteers in order to give all young people a positive physical activity experience.

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**THEY CAN ACCESS QUALITY OPPORTUNITIES**

Kiwisport became aligned with elements of this critical success factor when Sport NZ introduced a new expectation that RSTs focus on approaches to engage low-participating communities and girls aged 10-18yrs.

Additionally, many RSTs require or offer applicants to meet with relevant staff prior to submitting their application so that advice and education on delivery to particular groups in the community can be shared.

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**THEY CAN PARTICIPATE AND COMPETE TO THE LEVEL OF THEIR ASPIRATION**

The Kiwisport objectives, and the advice provided by Sport NZ over the past 8 years, emphasised new and more opportunities rather than the provision of funding for long-term engagement and higher-level competition.

There are examples across the country where the Kiwisport RPF has contributed to the reduction in barriers which contribute to this critical success factor e.g. covering transport costs for teams to get to leagues that are a distance from their school.

As can be seen below, RSTs consider that this CSF should not be a priority for Kiwisport from 2020 onwards.

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**THEY ARE EMPOWERED TO SHAPE THEIR COMMUNITY SPORT EXPERIENCE**

There is evidence that RSTs undertook significant consultation including young people when preparing their Kiwisport plans 2015-2018.

What is potentially missing from Kiwisport is that deliverers and fund recipients do the same either before their applications and/or during delivery and redesign. Some RSTs have a requirement to show evidence of consultation or measures of success but this is not consistent across the country.

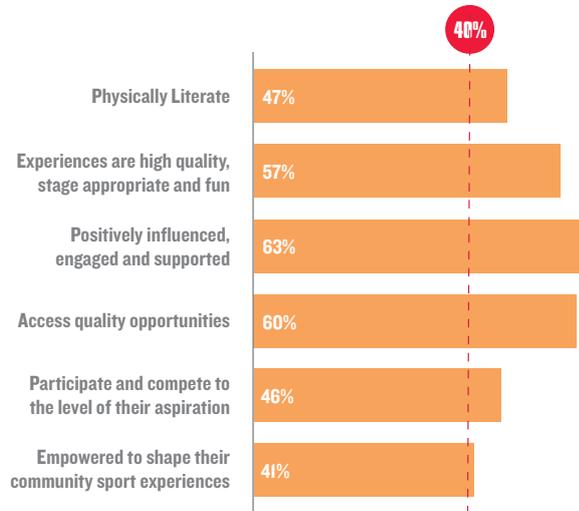
RSTs consider that there is some alignment between the Kiwisport RPF (in regard to how they implement the fund) and the Sport NZ Young People Plan 2016-2020 as represented from the graph below:

## FIGURE 11

### RST RATINGS OF THE KIWISPORT RPF'S CURRENT ALIGNMENT WITH SPORT NZ YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

#### KIWISPORT ALIGNMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

As rated by RSTs (current), where 100% is complete alignment



Further, RSTs consider that the critical success factors of the Young People Plan that the Kiwisport RPF should align with are as follows:

1. Experiences are high-quality, stage-appropriate and fun
2. Physically literate
3. Access quality opportunities
4. Empowered to shape their community sport experiences

Many RSTs spoke of the need for Kiwisport to be better aligned to Sport NZ strategies and other work areas. Some state that they are already doing this in both overt and covert ways within their RST or their current Kiwisport practices.

Some RSTs state that Sport NZ needs to take more of a lead in this space to ensure consistency, alignment and leadership across the country.

## 2.5 IMPROVED ALIGNMENT AND UTILISATION

This review was asked to explore how the Kiwisport RPF could be better aligned and utilised to contribute, and bring maximum impact, to Sport NZ’s current and future community sport strategies. More specifically, 10 areas were asked to be considered and commentary on each of these is provided below.

### 2.5.1 WEIGHTING OF FUNDING ALLOCATION (TARGETING)

Each RST is required to undertake community consultation (triennially) and create a regional plan for the distribution of the fund in their region. Over the previous 8 years plans around the country have varied with some targeting by age (i.e. predominance of funding toward primary school aged children), or on fundamental skills, or on coaches.

In 2015, Sport NZ (in alignment with the Community Sport Strategy) introduced two new guidelines expecting RSTs to consider initiatives that:

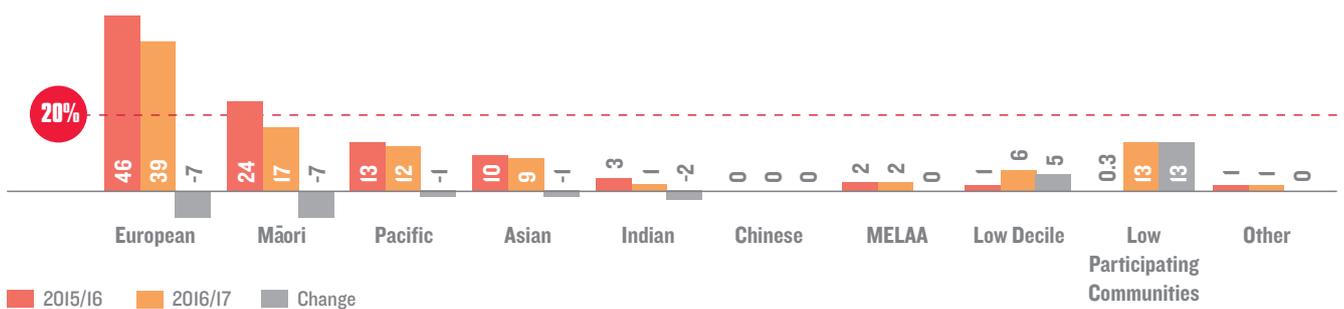
- Identify and focus on approaches/programmes that supports low participating groups getting the appropriate activity or sporting opportunity.
- Focus on some innovative approaches to getting girls (10-18) participating in activities and sports that meet their needs.

At the same time, Sport NZ updated the reporting requirements which show that investment in 2015/16 for low participating communities and targeted participation groups was 54%, and this increased to 61% in 2016/17. An overall increase of 7%. The breakdown of this investment (and change) can be seen in the figure below:

**FIGURE 12**

% TOTAL INVESTMENT - 2015/16 TO 2016/17

% TOTAL INVESTMENT



Generally, RSTs are supportive of local/regional targeting but do not want to be told who to target from Sport NZ (to a point). Many RSTs state that their community consultation did or would self-identify targeted groups which do align with Sport NZ national strategies.

There are concerns from many RSTs that whilst they are supportive of targeting, they see a need to support or shoulder-tap the organisations or people from these targeted communities to participate in the Kiwisport funding process. These groups are more likely to need promotional targeting, support with applications and reporting, and in some cases, help to ensure quality delivery. RSTs are stating that they need more funding/resources to be able to achieve this.

Within the community consultation for this review, there was a lack of acknowledgement of the barriers that different groups face to be able to participate to the same level as others. The community favoured (slightly) no targeting but the reasons provided were based on the current Kiwisport model and objectives:

- “A good programme should be inclusive not exclusive”
- “Targeting is sexist and racist”
- “No discrimination, all children”
- “Too difficult in mixed school class”
- “All children have needs”
- “Too hard to deliver, delivery would be a nightmare”
- “Should be based on the merit of the sport”
- “Let the RSOs, clubs, sport decide”

Those within the community that were supportive of targeting (suggested targets listed below), favoured regional determination that is supported by facts and figures. There was also an acknowledgement that some groups may need extra support or assistance to create appropriate opportunities.

- Low socio-economic (cost is a barrier; not same opportunities)
- Different cultures (culturally appropriate opportunities)
- Māori girls (latent talent)
- Females (girls only sessions)
- Will get more impact if targeted (better use of limited funds)
- Low participating

**“Focus on under-represented target groups i.e. female, Māori.”**

**“Target support to areas of greater deprivation.”**

**“If you don’t intentionally include, you unintentionally exclude”**

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National organisations were supportive of Kiwisport being a targeted fund particularly for low-socio economic areas. Similar to the community feedback, they would like decisions to be evidence based.

There was some concern by the community and national organisations regarding exclusivity of opportunities if targeting occurred i.e. that an initiative developed for Indian teenage girls would not be available to everyone. This mindset does not take into consideration that delivery should be about participant need and empowering young people in the design of their own opportunities. If the target is Indian teenage girls then hopefully the provider is getting input from the Indian teenage girls about how, where, who and what that activity involves which may or may not include other girls/boys, and/or other ethnicities, and/or other ages.

To gain maximum impact from this limited fund, investment spread across many kids may not impact as well as a higher level of investment across a few kids. A small subsidy for participation for a kid from a low deprivation community is unlikely to make much of a difference. This is likely to be the kid that is already participating in 6 sports over the year. A large or ongoing investment in a kid from a high deprivation community may increase their participation from only PE at school to include participation in a summer sport with the provision of the appropriate shoes and equipment, thereby encouraging ongoing participation.

More recently, the Active NZ 2017 results show a high level of participation of kids generally, 95% in any given week, averaging 11 hours over 5.4 sports and activities. But, there are differences between ages, genders, ethnicities and deprivation, and combinations of those factors.

There are also differences in the motivational factors and the hurdles (barriers) between ages, genders, ethnicities and deprivation. It is these differences that need greater consideration when determining where funding is being allocated and to whom.

## Summary

For Kiwisport to bring maximum impact to Sport NZ's current and future community sport strategies, the fund should prioritise those kids with low or declining participation levels and/or where greater barriers to participation exist.

The risk of moving to an even greater targeted approach is the unknown impact on current participants. If 61% of the I6/17 investment went to targeted groups or low participant communities, this meant that 39% (over \$2.7m) was invested in others that may not directly be within the targeted groups or communities.

The regional decision making along with RST oversight and local knowledge should mitigate this risk somewhat. With information being shared well in advance of any change (by Sport NZ), and potentially a step-change approach applied by RSTs (RSTs will do this without any input from Sport NZ if they consider parts of their community will be significantly disadvantaged by these changes), any impact should be able to be managed.

The Active NZ survey and a triennial review of Kiwisport will also ensure that if there is any significant negative impact that it will be identified quickly and potential remedies can be explored and implemented.

Improved utilisation and alignment can be achieved by:

- Providing clarity in the purpose of Kiwisport that the funding is prioritised to young people with low or declining participation levels and/or where greater barriers to participation exist.
- Establishing a Fund Framework (name to be determined) which should include details such as:
  - Clarity regarding initiatives being funded for outcomes and the inclusion of administration costs, equipment costs, transport costs
  - Encouragement of longer-term investment with appropriate monitoring and evaluation and opportunity for fast failure
- Improving communication with and between RSTs to share what and how they are each applying the purpose and principles to achieve positive outcomes in their communities (including sharing good practice and having information easily accessible).
- Including whanau participation (not just the young person) in experiences and consider the development of coaches, officials and volunteers; and increasing emphasis on improved understanding amongst parents, coaches, teachers etc. of the needs of young people in regard to their participation in sport and active recreation.
- RSTs promoting and advocating to a wider group within their region regarding the availability and purpose of the fund (including engagement with young people and organisation already working with, or representative of, targeted communities). To achieve this, RSTs, in some cases, need greater support and guidance from Sport NZ and increased funding to provide the necessary resource.

## 2.5.2 DIVISION OF FUNDING BETWEEN AGES

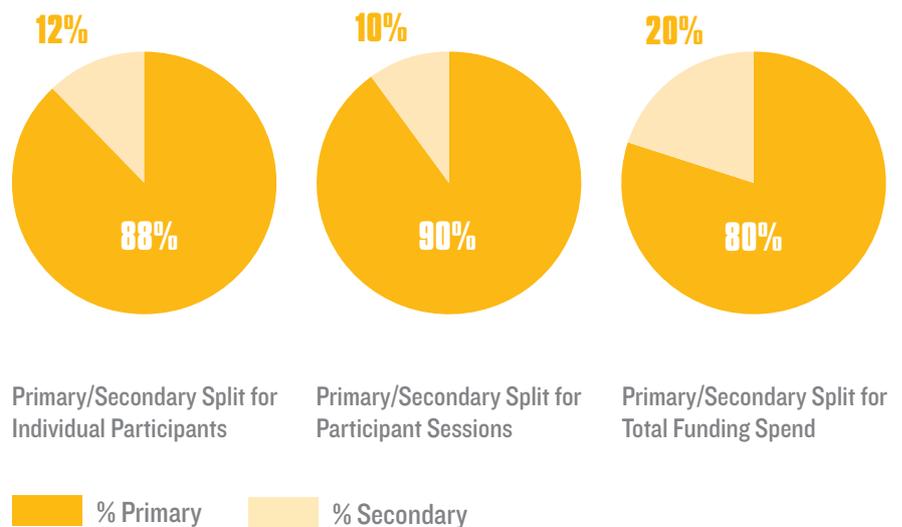
Currently, there are no 'rules' set for how Kiwisport funds are distributed in relation to the age of the child. Sport NZ introduced a 'guideline' in March 2015, which has continued as a Sport NZ expectation - *"Focus on some innovative approaches to getting girls (10-18) participating in activities and sports that meet their needs."*

Additionally, at the end of the 2012-2015 period, Sport NZ verbally or individually (based on their 2015-2018 plan) encouraged RSTs to consider more funding be directed towards secondary aged kids.

The previous distribution of funds across the three age groups is not measurable. Sport NZ captures information regarding primary aged (5 – 12) and secondary aged (13 – 18) only. The delivery and funding split across these two age groups is shown below:

**FIGURE 13**

PRIMARY/SECONDARY SPLIT FOR:  
- INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS  
- PARTICIPANT SESSIONS  
- TOTAL FUNDING SPEND



It is important to note that 2017 school rolls indicate that 64% are primary and 36% are secondary. Additionally, the Direct Fund is \$13.36 per primary school student and \$24.14 per secondary school student (2018 figures excluding GST).

During consultation, the community was asked if funding should target different age groups and why. This question was answered in three ways. Either by stating what the priority for engagement should be at each age; or by giving a weighting to each age; or by saying that it should be determined by need within each region and that this may change across regions or over time. The community stated the following:

- i. In regard to priority for engagement by age, predominately it was considered that primary aged kids need fundamental movement skills, they need the opportunity to have-a-go at lots of things, to develop a passion and interest in sport/being active. At intermediate age, they should be growing their skill level and interests, continue with FMS, and grow confidence. At secondary age, they should be in sport specialisation, skill development, focus on keeping them engaged, game sense and leadership development
- ii. Weighting seemed to favour primary school aged kids.

**“Primary – develop the love of sport and physical activity at a younger age to last lifetime”**

Reasons for this were: to create a habit, make it enjoyable and they will continue, greater impact, increase ability, most impressionable age, less support in primary schools.

Reasons for funding to be weighted to intermediate/secondary (these reasons were mostly in regard to secondary) were: to address the drop-out ages, transition from school to club, crucial target group yrs. 9+10, less parental involvement, help late bloomers and less active, higher cost to participate, motivations and interests change.

**“Secondary – big drop off here – too competitive. More initiatives with participation focus”**

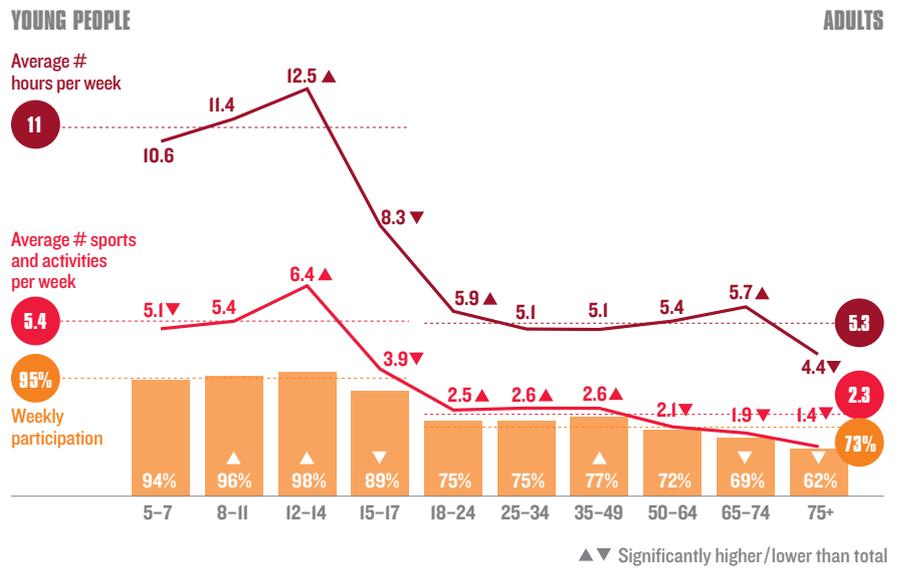
- iii. The reasons provided for letting regions determine any weighting was mostly because of “*regional differences*”, and “*depends on the opportunity being offered*”. There was mention of rural vs. urban, and decile differences, and the development of community to help all kids

In regard to national organisations, there was more support for targeting primary aged children. In some instances, this may have been related to the sport or activity they were representing e.g. Water Safety NZ currently target foundation years to develop water skills (they state that by the time the kids are teenagers they do not want to learn water skills).

The Active NZ 2017 survey indicates that participation in sport and physical activity by young people is relatively high.

**FIGURE 14**

WEEKLY PARTICIPATION, TIME AND NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES

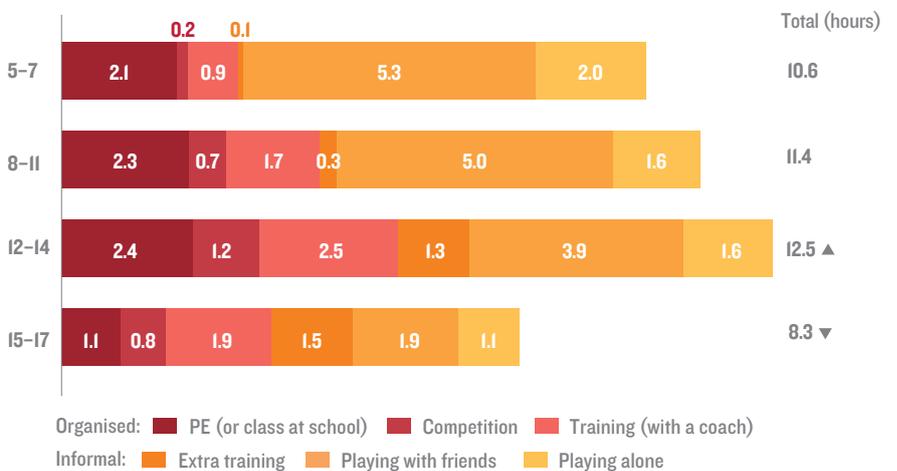


The late intermediate/early secondary years are marked by the highest participation rates throughout the life course – 98% of 12-14yrs participate in sport and/or physical activity at least once a week, for an average of 12.5 hours. Whilst the lowest participation rates are the 15-17-year age group – only 89% report weekly physical activity, for an average of 8.3 hours.

The differences in how young people participate at different ages can be seen in the figure below. The significant difference between 12-14yr olds and 15-17yr olds is due to a reduction in time spent in play and PE. There is no relevant data available about whether any of these experiences are of high quality (although enjoyment of PE and overall happiness was measured) and what the long-term impact may be on continued participation in sport and active recreation.

**FIGURE 15**

AVERAGE TIME PER WEEK SPENT PARTICIPATING IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF ORGANISED AND INFORMAL SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES BY AGE

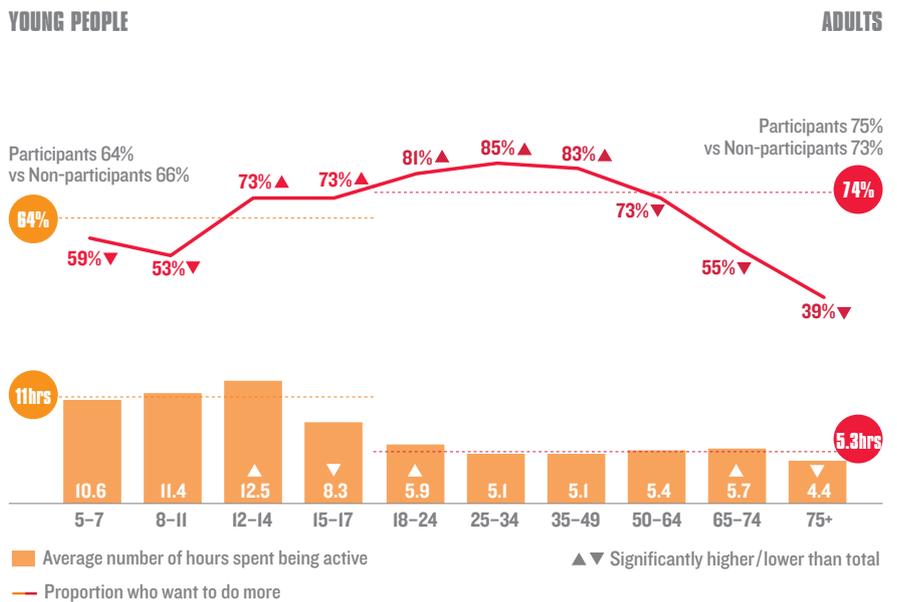


Note that there are also gender, ethnicity and disability differences in participation and barriers reported within the Active NZ survey, details of this are discussed further in Section 2.5.1 – Weighting of funding allocation (targeting).

Young people aged 12-17 (73%) are more likely to want to participate more, but generally young people want to participate more irrespective of current participation levels (see figure 16 below).

### FIGURE 16

PROPORTION WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE MORE AND TIME SPENT PARTICIPATING PER WEEK BY AGE



### Summary

If only considering age as a factor for funding it would seem to be an easy answer to consider targeting 15-17yr olds (lowest participation by age at 8.3hrs per week). But when you consider socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, disability and other barriers or hurdles, the decision becomes more complex. This is even without any consideration of any regional differences in participation and/or other differences that impact regionally (as mentioned in Section 2.5.5 - Funding allocation system to each region).

Additionally, the impact on current participation levels of the other age groups would be unknown but, considering that there are over 800,000 participants per annum with the support of Kiwisport funding, it would be a fair assumption to say that this is likely to have a negative impact on maintaining current participation levels for other age groups.

The community feedback was varied with preference for weighting towards primary aged children but noting that this should be a regional decision.

Current Sport NZ strategies prioritise young people (i.e. 5-18 yrs.) and those in low-participation communities of which an example of young women is provided. Future Sport NZ strategy is unknown at the time of writing this report but will be known when Sport NZ implement the recommended Fund Framework and therefore any strategic alignment could happen at that time.

It is the opinion of this Review that Sport NZ should not dictate targets based on age but that improved utilisation and alignment can be achieved by:

- Providing clarity in the purpose of Kiwisport that the funding is prioritised to young people with low or declining participation levels and/or where greater barriers to participation exist.
- Allowing greater flexibility of regional decision making, holding RSTs accountable if those decisions are made outside of purpose and principles.
- Sport NZ to educate and influence RSTs via regular communication about the importance of continual and wide community engagement especially with young people.
- Establishing a Fund Framework (name to be determined).

### 2.5.3 USE OF FUNDING IN CURRICULUM TIME

Since its inception, the Kiwisport RPF and the education system have purposely been linked. Most obviously because of the Direct Fund but additionally by Ministerial expectations and advice from Sport NZ to RSTs.

*“All of the RPF will be directed at supporting schools and partnerships with clubs”*

*Ministerial Expectation*

*“Schools are the obvious catchment zone for kids to get involved and play sport.”*

*Sport NZ Advice*

*“The Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund is ‘school centric’. The Regional Partnership Fund is centred on school-aged children. RSTs will invest in organisations which have programmes/projects that demonstrate a focus on more kids playing more sport in school and out of school.”*

*Sport NZ Advice*

There was no restriction to what “in school” meant. This advice, along with the Kiwisport objectives which were often shortened to “More kids, more participation, better skills”, led to many Kiwisport funded initiatives being delivered in curriculum time.

This curriculum time delivery was supported by schools and in many instances also included funding support from a school’s Kiwisport Direct Funds.

As secondary schools have PE expertise and compulsory HPE for yrs. 9/10, with the subject being optional for yrs. 11-13, there seems to be little issue in regard to outside providers in secondary school curriculum (PE) time. The discussion below refers to primary schools and the use of Kiwisport funding in primary school curriculum (PE) time.

The Reports, reviews, projects and research over time have provided mixed responses in regard to outside providers in curriculum time:

- *“...Many primary schools had been involved with [RPF funded] programmes to upskill teachers, which have enhanced their PE programmes.”*  
*ERO, Review of Direct Fund (2012)*
- *“The use of external providers to deliver health and physical education learning is an issue that requires further exploration”*  
*(the most frequently cited source of support for classroom teaching was external providers - 45% at Year 4 and 33% at Year 8.) National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement (HPE) (2013)*
- *“Educators noted that schools have an obligation to be discerning in relation to the use of external/sport providers, but currently that there are no guidelines for Principals to follow. In addition, external sport providers do not have to meet any criteria when delivering in school curriculum time in relation to quality or qualifications.”*  
*School Sport Futures Project (2015)*
- *“Many schools and services used external facilitators to support their physical education curriculum delivery. These facilitators provided programmes that focused on sports’ skills development and the social aspects of working in a team. Leaders in schools and services that were doing very well expected teachers would take what they learnt from these facilitators and use this in their own lesson delivery. Curriculum leaders supported teachers to do this, and for some, this was an aspect of their appraisal.”*  
*ERO, Food, nutrition and physical activity in New Zealand schools and early learning services: Effective practice (2016)*
- *“There are advantages in using that outside expertise. What concerns me is the lack of strong connection with overall planning...for it to be effective it needs to go to a deeper level, and so that anything learned in a session can be continued.”*  
*(School, Waitakere) Reviewing the Game Plan, Play.sport Review (2017)*

In 2016, Sport NZ introduced a new guideline for RSTs in regard to the use of funding in curriculum (PE) time - *“...to reduce the funding of Kiwisport funded delivery in school (curriculum) time.”*

The impact of this change was delivery in curriculum time reduced from 42% of total projects (2009-2015) to 21% in 2016/17.

RSTs have applied the guideline in various ways across the country but overall want better language, improved understanding of purpose and similar messaging to others impacted (i.e. codes via their national bodies, schools via MoE).

There is an appreciation by most RSTs of the pros and cons of this guideline and most can provide good reasons about why they have applied exceptions.

During this review the community identified the challenges because of the guideline:

- Reduces linkages between school and local club
- Reduces pathways
- Not cost effective, increased cost
- Can't keep staff
- Lower return on investment
- Some say the quality would decline
- Activities with equipment, such as bikes, are not possible in shorter timeframes
- Staff are needed to deliver other community programmes after school

There is a lack of understanding about what teachers should be doing in curriculum time (by the general community) and about the big picture purpose of the guideline. There was also a lack of consideration of other ways that sport and active recreation can be delivered. Some of this was due to the previous 7 years of emphasis on numbers and there was concern that it would not be cost effective any other way.

The majority of teachers, principals and other school staff, such as sport co-ordinators, did not like a 'rule' about no Kiwisport funded delivery in curriculum time. This audience (and others) thought that this was a school's responsibility, and that there should be better partnerships and purposes identified but definitely not a blanket rule.

**“Blame MOE for lack of quality PE; we (schools) should take responsibility not Kiwisport”**

Primary School Principal

A primary school principal's group in Auckland stated that Kiwisport has had no negative impact on their PE curriculum and that sport is a motivational aspect for their students.

**“Kiwisport is enabling! Not hindering.”**

Primary School Principal

Physical Education NZ would like teachers to be critical consumers of sport and physical activity and to be totally engaged when it is happening but admit they have “dropped the ball” in regard to delivering HPE professional development to primary schools.

Play.sport workforce state that schools have used Kiwisport providers as their PE programme, mostly because teachers don't understand quality PE and how to integrate outside providers into the curriculum. They state that this has led to disenfranchised teachers and kids having a distorted view of PE which impacts when moving from primary to secondary school.

RSTs, primary school workforce, and many national organisations are supportive of flexibility being applied in regard to Kiwisport funding being used for curriculum time initiatives. Those that were supportive suggested that 'real' partnerships should be in place and that the provider needs to be of proven quality.

The School Sport Futures Project identified that external providers were viewed as effective when *“they really understood the curriculum; they understood the need to align sport with learning outcomes through co-curricular activities; and they worked with teachers to deliver a programme (not instead of teachers).”*

The Ministry of Education is currently working on their levels of expectation for physical activity and think that it would be important for RSTs and external providers to understand these levels when considering their interactions with schools.

(The education and curriculum links to health, physical education and physical activity are identified in 5.3 Appendix Three – Education links to physical education and physical activity.)

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## Summary

There is a lack of evidence and mixed views of the positive or negative impact that the Kiwisport RPF (and by association, outside or external providers) may have had on the primary school PE curriculum.

The majority of primary school staff engaged in this consultation considered that Kiwisport had helped not hindered. Play.sport workforce were an exception (and could be argued have a greater expertise in this area), and considered that Kiwisport investment had disenfranchised teachers and that schools take the easy option if put forward to them.

Currently, almost every RST is applying an exception to the guideline. Their local knowledge, expertise and relationships mean that they are considering each initiative on a case by case basis and applying sound principles to their decision making.

Each school in New Zealand is unique and they have the authority to design and shape their curriculum to ensure it is meaningful and beneficial to their community. Whilst there is evidence of a lack of confidence in teaching HPE within the primary sector, schools involved in this review state that they would prefer to make decisions about who they engage to support their teachers, and not to have the option taken away from them all together.

Additionally, as discussed in many other sections of this review, the widening of the type of activity that can be funded by Kiwisport may mean that more funding may be available to support sport and active recreation in more areas of the curriculum such as 'Education Outside the Classroom' (EOTC).

Improved utilisation and alignment can be achieved by:

- Ensuring participant need is at the forefront of all decision making (considering the approaches of locally-led, physical literacy and insights-driven).
- Ensuring funding decisions do not undermine or are detrimental to the education sector, or to any initiatives supporting improved HPE outcomes (this may include a requirement of evidence of co-planning between a school and an outside provider before funding can be approved).
- Allowing for consideration of teacher training and professional development as part of funded initiatives.
- Sport NZ (with the support of MoE) to provide greater support for, and communication with, RSTs individually and collectively in regard to the education sector, the NZ Curriculum, and the levels of expectation for physical activity, and greater resource for RSTs so they can do the same for their communities.
- With the above factors in place (within 'Funding Decision Principles' and a Fund Framework), the current guideline regarding funding initiatives in curriculum time would be unnecessary and should be revoked.

## 2.5.4 USE OF KIWISPORT FOR BASIC SKILLS

Currently, the Kiwisport RPF is being used for the development of basic sport skills (more specifically learn to swim and learn to ride). One of the current objectives of Kiwisport is to *“Support children in developing skills that will enable them to participate effectively in sport at both primary and secondary level”*.

In regard to swimming and riding:

- Swimming initiatives, in most cases ‘learn to swim’, have received the most Kiwisport investment (8.1% of all funding available) since its inception (\$5.2m involving over 360,000 participants for 3.6m participant sessions).
- The Active NZ Survey 2017 states that 36% of kids participated in swimming in the 7 days prior. This was the third most popular sport or activity (after running/jogging/cross-country 52% and playing 41%).
- Swimming NZ youth (0-18yrs) membership has decreased by 9.5% since 2011/12 and NZSSSC participation in swimming has decreased by 6.2% since 2009.
- Cycling initiatives have received \$1.7m (2.7% of all funding available) and the type of investment was not limited to ‘learn to ride’ but included the purchase of equipment, training of coaches, and introduction to track cycling/mountain biking/BMX.
- Active NZ Survey 2017 – 29% of kids participated in cycling or biking in the 7 days prior. This was the sixth most popular activity along walking for fitness.
- Cycling NZ youth (0-18yrs) membership has increased by 41.3% since 2013/14 and NZSSSC participation in cycling has increased by 21% since 2009.

All RSTs are supportive of basic sport skills, in particular learn to swim. There are many reasons such as it being a core life skill, the pathways it provides, and its link to confidence and competence.

Many RSTs state that funding should be the responsibility of others including the education system, Water Safety NZ, or the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). A few RSTs specifically mentioned that these activities should go to targeted populations, where need is identified.

Some RSTs mention teacher education and that this should be the focus rather than delivery to kids. This was also supported by schools and other education workforce.

### “Teacher education focus as opposed to student numbers”

#### Play.sport Workforce

The wider community used the terms ‘fundamental movement skills’ (FMS) and basic sport skills interchangeably (Sport NZ does not have a definition of ‘basic skills’ but they are considered different to FMS). Overall, there was significant support for learn to swim to be funded, not necessarily by Kiwisport, for all Kiwi kids.

Learn to Swim, and sometimes Learn to Ride, was seen as an essential life skill. It was also considered a skill that could lead to involvement in other sports/activities, not just aquatics, because of confidence building.

Some considered Learn to Swim and Learn to Ride, basic sport skills, the responsibility of families and schools whilst others stated that some would not receive these opportunities if it wasn’t for Kiwisport funding.

The wider community used the terms ‘fundamental movement skills’ (FMS) and basic sport skills interchangeably (Sport NZ does not have a definition of ‘basic skills’ but they are considered different to FMS). Overall, there was significant support for learn to swim to be funded, not necessarily by Kiwisport, for all Kiwi kids.

Learn to Swim, and sometimes Learn to Ride, was seen as an essential life skill. It was also considered a skill that could lead to involvement in other sports/activities, not just aquatics, because of confidence building.

Some considered Learn to Swim and Learn to Ride, basic sport skills, the responsibility of families and schools whilst others stated that some would not receive these opportunities if it wasn't for Kiwisport funding.

**“Basic or development skills are the domain of the parents”**

**“Some kids would never get these skills without Kiwisport funding”**

**“Tricky. Kiwisport NZ can't be the parents of NZ. This is a parent's job! But some families need support for this and this can be supported in schools/communities somehow.”**

**“Parents love that kids get opportunities that they themselves may not be able to provide.”**

Principal, Auckland

There was much support for regional or local relevancy to be considered.

**“Schools directing what need is regionally/local (beaches, stream/river)”**

Principal

Primary school staff and other workforce still considered basic skills as important and needed. Some considered that the Ministry of Education was responsible for funding these opportunities:

**“...they [MoE] are currently renegeing on implementation of HPE curriculum”**

Primary School Principal

Aquatic skills are mentioned specifically in the NZ Curriculum: “Note that: it is expected that all students will have had opportunities to learn basic aquatics skills by the end of year 6” page 22, **The New Zealand Curriculum**.

The New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) assessed the standard of aquatic education in schools in 2016. Of the schools surveyed, 94% provided water-based education (97% for primary schools) consisting mainly of swimming lessons but which could also include survival skills, water safety days or beach days. Of those, only 27% provided a minimal or acceptable level of aquatic education (8 lessons of 30 minutes – Water Safety NZ).

Schools were also asked in the NZCER research what assistance they needed to improve water-based aquatic education delivery, 71% indicated funding assistance and 51% wanted help with professional development of staff to teach swimming/aquatic skills.

NZTA and ACC have recently launched a new “Cycling Education System”. This multi-pronged approach was expected to have a soft launch in July 2018. This ‘System’ included delivery of cycling education (BikeReady) focusing on children and their families. The total investment in the “System” is going to be \$24m by 2021.

BikeReady cycle skills training for schools and curriculum resources are free but schools and students may not have access to equipment.

Some Auckland schools stated that learning some basic skills such as learn to ride, was not safe outside of the school setting:

**“Learn to ride – shared driveways = not safe; in school is important”**

Primary School Teacher

## Summary

The community, RSTs and schools consider basic skills to be important. It is considered that learning of basic skills even if not associated directly with a sport, provides confidence and lifelong opportunities for participation. There is an identified need for improved teacher learning in this area.

There are varied opinions about who should be responsible for the cost of this with suggestions including the Ministry of Education (aquatic skills), Water Safety NZ (water skills), NZTA (cycling skills), and Kiwisport.

Whilst there is no direct evidence that learning basic skills has led to other engagement, there is no evidence to the contrary either. These activities, when delivered to a high quality, contribute to a young person’s physical literacy. Swimming and cycling/biking are currently part of the top six activities that kids are currently doing.

As there are many organisations, funders and other regional factors involved it would seem vitally important that decisions on Kiwisport investment in this area are made locally/regionally with an excellent understanding of whom the partners are (or could be) and what particular barriers exist (i.e. funding for delivery may not be the barrier but access to equipment may be).

There are many examples of flexibility and consideration of local young people’s needs being met by RSTs going outside the lines of the current guidelines. It is the guidelines that need to be realigned to ensure improved alignment, utilisation and encouragement of all RSTs to apply more flexibility in their decision making based on their regional and local knowledge.

Improved utilisation and alignment can be achieved by:

- Removing any reference to ‘organised sport’ and ensuring emphasis is on fulfilling the needs of young people through quality sport and active recreation experiences.
- Allowing greater flexibility of regional decision making, holding RSTs accountable if those decisions are made outside of purpose and principles.
- Establishing a Fund Framework (name to be determined) which should include details such as:
  - National support (by Sport NZ) for programmes/initiatives e.g. Water Safety NZ’s Water Skills for Life.
  - Clarity that FMS and Basic Skill initiatives can be funded if there is a proven need.
  - Clarity regarding initiatives being funded for outcomes (not outputs) and the inclusion of administration costs, equipment costs, transport costs.
- Encouraging more sharing of information (in particular other national funders or sport and active recreation initiatives e.g. NZTA/ACC “Cycling Education System”) and good practice between RSTs via the proposed technological solution/portal and by Sport NZ hosting a national Kiwisport forum annually.
- Greater support for, and communication with RSTs, individually and collectively in regard to these changes, and greater resource for RSTs so they can do the same for their communities.

## 2.5.5 FUNDING ALLOCATION SYSTEM TO EACH REGION

Currently, funding is allocated to RSTs based on the number of enrolled students in their region calculated according to roll-return information from the Ministry of Education.

A suggested variance to this is that money is allocated to regions based on their population of prioritised groups (such as declining or low participation and/or where barriers to greater participation exist).

During the community consultation, responses from regions varied with three regions that weren't supportive of targeted funding, six regions that were supportive of targeted funding across the country, and the rest were neutral (i.e. support for both amongst attendees) but generally supportive of targeted funding within their own regional allocation.

For current system:

- "Stick to the per capita allocation of funding"
- "No, creates further disparity; how to administer"
- "No, money goes to where programme/delivery is quality experience"

For more targeted:

- "Yes, low participant populations/communities. If you want to get your outcomes, this is the quickest way and also makes most positive impact"
- "Yes, money to non-participants and yes, money to regional priorities (within national framework)"
- "This is a country of have/have nots; we need to focus our spending where the challenges are"

Neutral or targeting within regional allocation:

- "Only fair to base this on population or identified low participating regions"
- "No, should be a balance on population/socio-economic/lack of engagement"
- "Needs a holistic model that allows the co-ordination and collaboration of a range of funded criteria"

RST responses are included above with specific mention of regional allocation by only two RSTs. One RST (Gisborne) suggested that funding should be allocated across the country based on need; whereas one (Otago) want the fund to be maintained as 'per school roll', not based on target participation groups or another determinant.

Other national organisations (Water Safety NZ, NSOs) were supportive of targeted funding but acknowledged that each region or area needed different funding models based on their needs.

Targeting that was supported included high deprivation areas; low socio-economic; needs based on multiple factors e.g. gender, race; those with greater barriers e.g. isolated communities where transport or opportunities are limited; low decile schools. This was explored further in Section 2.5.1 – Weighting of funding allocation (targeting).

There is some evidence (see Section 2.3 – Impact to date) that guidance to RSTs to target within their regions has resulted in a greater level of investment to prioritised groups. There is not enough evidence to deduce what the impact may be of any change in funding allocation model.

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There are many factors which make it difficult to determine why one region should have more (or less) Kiwisport funds over another region to distribute. These factors include:

- the cost of sport and active recreation delivery may be different in different regions which may mean that the cost to increase participation for a prioritised population in one region is quite different to another.
- the barriers in each region are different and will have different costs associated to them.
- partners and funders, their levels of available funds or resources, and their priorities, will be different in each region and may add significant variances to each project.

Additionally, future Sport NZ strategy is unknown at the time of writing this report. Within the current Young People Plan, there is no indication of preferred regions or targeted groups. Within the current Community Sport Strategy focus areas include school-aged children and local delivery (particularly in low-participation communities). These may change from 2020 onwards or new insights may alter nationally prioritised populations. Keeping decision making at a regional level will allow for agility and greater responsiveness to local variances in local prioritised populations.

Given the high demand by both the community and RSTs for longer-term funding. Consistency of funding for a region is very important. Any change in the level of funding needs to be notified well in advance of any such change.

## Summary

Currently there is alignment with the funding allocation (i.e. based on school roll in each region) and Sport NZ strategies and plans. There is support from RSTs and some of the community for greater targeting but only within the regional allocation.

Maintaining the status quo in regard to the regional allocation of funds, based on school roll, is recommended. Further consideration of this may be needed once Sport NZ completes its community sport strategy for 2020 onwards.

## 2.5.6 CLARITY OF EXPECTATIONS FOR USAGE OF RPF FUNDING

Generally, there is a lack of clarity in regard to expectations for usage of RPF funding and varied implementation of some of the guidelines provided since 2009. Specifically, for the purpose of this review, terminology such as seed funding, sustainability, partner funding, and administration were mentioned at the outset. During the course of the consultation, some other terms were commonly discussed and these have been considered below also.

When asking questions of RSTs regarding ‘seed funding’ and ‘sustainability’, almost all RST staff scoffed at these words and what the expectations are around them. These two concepts were seen as intertwined and have been applied quite differently across the country.

There is an acceptance by RSTs that, particularly in low-socio economic communities, seed funding and sustainability are rarely achievable. RSTs were varied in how they applied and took these into consideration with some RSTs not considering them at all while others requiring evidence of proposed sustainability post Kiwisport investment.

There was a concern that the requirement for seed-funding meant that Kiwisport was only going to fund ‘new’ initiatives, and that consideration should be given to those initiatives that are working well and achieving the outcomes desired but simply could not continue without Kiwisport funding.

The other issue with seed funding, as it relates to low-participation groups in particular, is the requirement for community funding to support the initiative. It is often the case that there is less funding available or less capability and capacity for organisations with these low-participating communities to access the funding (including Kiwisport funding in the first instance). This does not mean that partner funding should not be included as it does ensure ‘skin in the game’ but an appropriate level of consideration and support is needed for particular communities.

Generally, RSTs would like seed funding and sustainability expectations to be dropped, and if not dropped then definitely greater clarity and consistency about how they are applied. One RST thought that sustainability is appropriate but acknowledged it can be a barrier. Another RST thought that seed funding/sustainability should change to focus on **an approach to sustainability/impacting community**.

The community often referred to sustainability along with multi-year funding. They were supportive of creating opportunities that were sustainable but noted that often more time was needed to get to a point of sustainability.

Many RSTs considered that with funding for administration and management of the Kiwisport RPF that they could support initiatives and organisations more to ensure their delivery was quality and that they had a greater chance of success and therefore sustainability.

The term ‘administration’, originally, was used in regard to no RSTs utilising any of the fund for their administration of the fund. The advice from Sport NZ in 2009 and again in 2014 was:

***“Can the Regional Partnership Fund be used for administration?”***

***No. All Regional Partnership Fund money will go out the door to support projects achieving Kiwisport objectives. It is not expected to be used to subsidise overheads and administration costs of RSTs.”***

Whilst the RPF is not being used by any RST for their own administration, the ‘administration’ guideline has been extended by some RSTs to funding applications. Some do not consider funding any administration costs within an application (this often includes coaching costs); some consider administration costs on a case by case basis but remove those elements if there is not enough funding to go around.

There are a few RSTs that consider administration costs as part of an overall project cost delivering on outcomes that align with a region’s Kiwisport plan and will fund accordingly.

Similar to seed funding and sustainability, RSTs want clarity and consistency in regard to administration.

'Partner funding' was understood clearly but is currently applied very differently across the country. Most RSTs still wanted flexibility in how this would be applied in their region. In most cases, there seemed to be a good understanding about why, locally, different criteria were in place, and how those criteria were applied to decision making.

Currently, expectations range from "no partner funding required" (Sport Taranaki) to "up to 50% funded only" (Sport Tasman and Sport Otago). Half of the RSTs have an upper limit i.e. Kiwisport will contribute up to 65% of the total project cost, whilst the other half provide more flexibility and do not have an upper limit.

Most RSTs consider in-kind contribution as partner funding with one RST stating that applicants tended to try to get away with in-kind contributions being partner funding so the RST just removed any expectation of partner funding.

Some RSTs currently prioritise initiatives/applications that show a high level of partner contribution. This would seem to favour those communities with more money readily available to them or more accessible to them because of their capability and capacity and therefore may be detrimental to targeted populations.

Other terms that arose commonly throughout the consultation for this review were transport, families/whanau, and other supporters (such as coaches, volunteers, teachers, and parents) which I have grouped as 'enablers'.

'Transport' was regarded by many communities as one of the biggest barriers to participation. Within rural communities it was mentioned in regard to distance and cost, in urban communities it was mentioned in regard to time and cost. All communities were supportive of transport being considered for funding by Kiwisport when it contributed to a young person's participation in sport or active recreation.

**"Kiwisport funding should assist with transport and capability to get the kids to the clubs."**

**"Low-participating children with physical and intellectual disabilities – help get them active with Kiwisport (transport)."**

Currently, there are differences to how RSTs consider the inclusion of transport costs within a Kiwisport funded initiative. Some RSTs do not think they are 'allowed' to fund transport whilst other 'remove' it from the application if there is not enough money, and some consider it to be part of the entire project and fund appropriately.

The rural travel fund is available to some communities and as has already been happening, the RSTs in those communities would need to be aware of whom and for what that fund is being used for to ensure alignment.

Some RSTs were supportive of the inclusion of 'whanau', not as the target, but as 'enablers' to encourage kids. The community suggested that 'family' activities were important, especially for some ethnicities, and this was further supported by NSOs of which some had had previous success with initiatives involving families.

**"Family focus – family sports where they can all play together i.e. badminton, table tennis e.g. Friday Whanau touch at Aratahi."**

**"Not limiting access to funds just to young people. Parents are their role models – they need to be educated"**

There were many comments regarding the importance of deliverers (coaches, teachers) and the upskilling of these enablers to ensure high quality. All of the Auckland RSTs and Northland, along with some NSOs were very supportive of the 'Good Sports' initiative and suggested that attendance be a requirement for all funded initiatives (currently applied in these regions).

**“Invest in people, not ‘schemes’ or ‘initiatives’ becomes \$ grab and ‘tick box’ outcome as opposed to long term, progressive and sustainable outcomes”**

**“Allocate funds to up-skill volunteers.”**

Additionally, other research (Innovate Change, 2016) identified both Samoan and Indian young people in Auckland *“confirmed their parents play a key role in making decisions on whether or not they participate in sport and recreation. This could involve directing the young person to a particular sport or turning away from it. For instance, “My Dad liked and said I should play Badminton, so I did and he was right” (Under 18-year-old Indian man).”*

A wider view of the young person needs to be considered when evaluating which projects to fund and to what extent other factors and inclusions are part of that funded project. This consideration is supported by the community and most RSTs.

## Summary

The confusion and lack of clarity has come about for multiple reasons. Sport NZ, for the last 4 years, have been quite hands off in regard to the Kiwisport RPF. There have been no national forums to ensure consistent messaging and clarity.

Additionally, staff turnover in RSTs has resulted in either a gap in knowledge, information not being shared or a Chinese whispers scenario in which the current continues to be the 'norm' within the RST.

Overall, the principles of these expectations (seed funding, sustainability, partner funding) are worthy if not realistic in some situations. RSTs have applied these terms, in most cases, to best suit the outcomes of Kiwisport and their communities.

RSTs that have moved their thinking in regard to Kiwisport funding to align with their own and Sport NZ strategy have also moved their thinking in regard to other factors (transport, families/whanau, enablers). This should be encouraged further.

Improved utilisation and alignment can be achieved by:

- Removing reference to and requirement for 'seed funding', 'sustainability' and 'partner funding' but providing purpose and principles of the Kiwisport RPF which each RST can apply as appropriate for their communities.
- Improving communication with and between RSTs to share what and how they are each applying the purpose and principles to achieve positive outcomes in their communities (including sharing good practice and having information easily accessible).
- Establishing a Fund Framework (name to be determined) which should include details such as:
  - Clarity regarding initiatives being funded for outcomes and the inclusion of administration costs, equipment costs, transport costs
  - Clarity about how the Kiwisport RPF can or cannot be used by RSTs i.e. if funded for administration is this coming from the RPF; if they are funding a project that they are partners in (and potentially funded by Kiwisport) how is this managed.
- Including whanau participation (not just the young person) in experiences and consider the development of coaches, officials and volunteers; and increasing emphasis on improved understanding amongst parents, coaches, teachers etc. of the needs of young people in regard to their participation in sport and active recreation.

## 2.5.7 IMPLICATIONS OF NIL ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Currently, RSTs receive no funding directly for the management and administration of the RPF at a regional level. There is an acknowledgement of some added benefits to RSTs for being responsible for Kiwisport such as interest earned, leverage to achieve other outcomes, community profile and influence, and stakeholder connections to name a few.

There are huge variances across the country in regard to how much resource each RST applies to their management and administration of the RPF. This review did not look into this in detail but a few examples can be provided:

- Sport Hawkes Bay (\$320k/annum) allocate approximately 70% of one role to Kiwisport (which included many site visits) plus other personnel were engaged for funding rounds and meetings with potential applicants.
- Sport Tasman (\$280k/annum) estimate that it costs them \$40k/annum to administer and manage Kiwisport.
- Sport Gisborne (\$105k/annum) allocate approximately 20% of one role to Kiwisport plus other personnel engaged with decision making and providing advice to applicants.
- Sport Wellington (\$885k/annum) allocate IFTE (senior position) to Kiwisport (includes some site visits) and another approximately 100-150 hrs of other personnel over the year; a total cost of close to \$100k per annum.

The integration of Kiwisport into the RSTs as a whole also varied across the country. Some have seen it as an additional piece of work:

- *“Kiwisport is something going on, on the side. We have our normal jobs.”*
- *“It’s really existed outside of our work. Our role is to get the applicants in and be advisor, but not really decisions makers and empowerers. We are just managing it.”*

While others have integrated and found greater benefit and alignment with their own strategies:

- *“... widened organisations that can apply – good relationships because of Kiwisport”.*
- *“Kiwisport integrated across different staff”*
- *“Feels good to align Kiwisport with organisation’s overall objectives”*
- *“Leverage to get access to schools”*

Approximately 65% of the RSTs consulted specifically said they would like to see a change to Kiwisport to include an administration/management fee for the RST. All RSTs could see benefits to being funded with the most common being:

- Quality management
- Capability build into providers/applicants (especially from low participation communities)
- Bigger reach and promotion
- Better alignment across the work of the organisation and with Sport NZ
- Monitoring and Evaluation/Measuring Impact

RST state that, with funding for administration and management of the Kiwisport RPF, they would:

- *“We would align it and integrate it if it was up to us to decide how it was spent, but not without admin.”*
- *“We could look further out than our current sport providers.”*
- *“Allows for quality control and could allow for greater risk i.e. an initiative that starts as an outlier”*
- *“Future focussed relationships”*
- *“More time (resource) would allow for cross-organisational approaches”*
- *“Be able to support providers with quality”*

There was a concern from a few RSTs about the impact on the community (and also them indirectly) if any funding for RSTs to administrate and manage Kiwisport came from their regional pool of funding. Many did not want the funding if it was going to impact negatively on the amount available for the community. Others spoke of this but thought that the positive impact on quality would outweigh the reduction in funds available for the community.

Many RSTs thought that there were opportunities for operational/administration efficiencies by utilising technology better as a collective.

Most Sport NZ staff consulted were in support of RSTs receiving funding for the management and administration of the Kiwisport RPF. All were in support if funding included the monitoring of quality delivery.

This current guideline/rule (that none of the RPF funding is to be used for funding the RST for administration of the fund) has also led to a misunderstanding of what can be funded for community delivery. This is explored further in Section 2.5.6 – Clarity of expectations for usage of RPF funding, but essentially either because of a misunderstanding or a sense of unfairness, most RSTs will not fund any administration component of initiatives they are funding.

John Page’s “True to Label” quotes Chris Clarke, Global Local:

*“Operational capacity is a key element. As discussed earlier, many funders are obsessed with money to the front line and are loath to fund the necessary operational capacity. This often results in measuring the wrong things. Narrow specification may mean a train reaches its destination on time but fails to stop at intermediate stations.”*

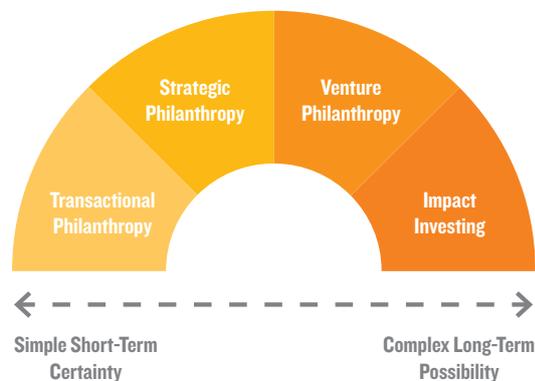
In the case of Kiwisport, consideration of appropriate funding of RSTs for operational capacity and a wider specification will help contribute to both Kiwisport outcomes and other Sport NZ strategies.

The table below shows examples of other funding agencies and their administration costs:

FUNDING AGENCY	OPERATING COSTS AS % OF TOTAL COSTS (INCLUDING FUNDS ALLOCATED)	
	2016	2017
JR McKenzie Trust	18.4%	15.5%
Rata Foundation	12.8%	13.2%
Wellington Community Trust	20.4%	19.9%

It would be interesting to understand what resource is allocated to fund distribution in organisations or government departments where fund distribution is only part of the business, as it is with RSTs.

With additional funding, there is an opportunity for some (larger) RSTs (and Sport NZ) to consider the fund in a more strategic way and work alongside other philanthropic organisations to ensure the best use of the Kiwisport funds for their community. For example, the Centre for Social Impact created a grant-making dial (right) “to help funders and grantmakers consider the difference in complexity of various types of funding, the different time horizons, and the different levels of risk.”



## Summary

Most RSTs were cognisant of the benefits and leverage they receive from the management and administration of the Kiwisport RPF in their regions.

Most RSTs considered that there would be added benefit and improved outcomes if they received additional support to resource the management and administration of Kiwisport. This would include improved monitoring and evaluation of funded initiatives/projects.

There are other benefits to Sport NZ and the sector if RSTs were funded including:

- Improved monitoring and evaluation of funded initiatives/projects
- Ability for cycles of improvement of delivery to be implemented
- More alignment to targeted populations
- Opportunity to work more strategically with other sectors (funding, education)

Improved utilisation and alignment can be achieved by:

- Funding RSTs for the management and administration of the Kiwisport RPF. (Value or amount to be determined. The challenge in determining the value or amount is that there is a base level of work needed simply to administer the fund no matter what the fund value. This should be taken into consideration along with the volume of work that comes with managing a higher value fund.)
- Educating and influencing senior management at RSTs of the benefits of improved alignment of Kiwisport to other Sport NZ investments and strategies.
- Implementing a single national technological solution/portal including the supply of templates.
- Allowing greater flexibility of regional decision making, in line with overall purpose and principles, to ensure the RST can achieve many benefits with one investment.
- Sport NZ and RSTs learning from and aligning with other funding organisations and the funding sector as a whole.

## 2.5.8 CONNECTION TO OTHER MAJOR SPORT NZ-LED REVIEWS

The Kiwisport RPF is an enabler to participation and should help to reduce or remove barriers. Therefore, it should align with, and enhance, other Sport-NZ led reviews and their recommendations. A consideration of some of the major reviews is below.

### ACTIVE RECREATION FRAMEWORK

The Kiwisport RPF is currently aligned to the **Active Recreation Framework** in many ways:

- Kiwisport decisions and approaches are regional and local. This supports the recommendation with the Active Recreation Framework to *“Adopt/ support regional and local approaches to the building of participation opportunities”*.
- Insights are utilised by RSTs in their decision making, and regular community consultation engages and informs the community.
- Many RSTs have aligned the Kiwisport RPF with their region’s vision and goals.
- Kiwisport encourages partnerships in particular with the education sector.

**Improved connection/alignment** can be achieved by making the following changes to the Kiwisport RPF:

- Remove any reference to ‘organised sport’ and widen purpose of the Kiwisport RPF to include sport and active recreation. The definition of ‘organised sport’ counteracts the definition of Active Recreation used within the Framework (*“generally non-competitive physical activities undertaken for the purpose of well-being and enjoyment”*).
- Increase capacity of RSTs to increase their Kiwisport engagement with a wider group of community organisations including Active Recreation organisations and others that can provide opportunities to low-participant groups.
- Increase focus on quality experiences. Currently Kiwisport objectives and measures do not mention quality.
- Improve information sharing about Kiwisport funded initiatives including case studies on good practice.
- Improve information sharing amongst funders (all) (via a single national technological portal for Kiwisport) and ensure greater certainty of funding (i.e. Sport NZ approved funding for multi-year investment and RSTs do the same with their community. Whilst this has happened previously, currently RSTs have been receiving I+I+I funding assurances.)

## MĀORI PARTICIPATION REVIEW

The Kiwisport RPF is currently aligned to the **Māori Participation Review** in many ways:

- RSTs utilise insights and local knowledge in their decision making.
- There is an expectation that RSTs consider approaches and programmes that support low participating groups which includes low decile communities.
- 17% of the funding in 2016/17 was invested in Māori and 13% was invested in low-participating communities.

Improved connection/alignment can be achieved by making the following changes to the Kiwisport RPF:

- Improve support for RSTs from Sport NZ in order to form truly collaborative partnerships with Māori and educate on consultation and engagement in regard to funding and investment.
- Increase Sport NZ capacity/resource to engage annually with Te Puni Kokiri in regard to their Matiki – Moving the Māori Nation Fund; other cross-government opportunities should also be explored.
- Consider barriers for Māori to participate in sport and active recreation “as Māori” and emphasise the importance of funding to remove or mitigate those barriers.
- Include whanau participation (not just the young person) in experiences and consider the development of coaches, officials and volunteers.
- Remove any reference to ‘organised sport’ and widen purpose of the Kiwisport RPF to include sport and active recreation. Some traditional Māori activities such as Kapa Haka may not be considered organised sport but are considered active recreation.
- Improve Kiwisport connections and information sharing between RSTs that share geographical boundaries to allow for flexibility of funding for Māori organisations that cross over those boundaries.

## SECONDARY AGE REVIEW (DRAFT)

The Kiwisport RPF is currently aligned to the **Secondary Age Review (draft)** in many ways:

- Kiwisport decisions and approaches are regional and local. This supports the principle within the Report that *“solutions must be local”*.
- There are some examples of initiatives being funded which use a youth development and empowerment approach. This has tended to happen in regions where the RST has not felt bound by the current Sport NZ Kiwisport RPF rules and guidelines.
- Partnerships are one of the current Kiwisport RPF expectations.

**Improved connection/alignment** can be achieved by making the following changes to the Kiwisport RPF:

- Increase focus on quality experiences. Currently Kiwisport objectives and measures do not mention quality.
- Remove any reference to ‘organised sport’ and widen purpose of the Kiwisport RPF to include sport and active recreation. Overall 60% of secondary-aged young people participate (on a weekly basis) in active recreation activities only.
- Increase the importance and value of meeting the needs of young people, and educate - Sport NZ to RSTs and RSTs to their community - about how to achieve this.
- Improve Kiwisport connections and information sharing between RSTs, in particular to share information about secondary age funded initiatives.
- Update and align Fund Framework to allow for the funding of *“flexible and agile design and delivery models”*, including clarity on the ability to fund factors that directly contribute to quality of the experience such as equipment and technology.

## SCHOOL SPORT FUTURES REPORT

The Kiwisport RPF is currently aligned to the **School Sport Futures Report** in many ways:

- Some Kiwisport funded projects claim to provide teacher professional development. Whilst some of this provision may not fit the Ministry of Education's facilitation provider guidelines, some of the project's evaluations show the value that teachers have applied to those opportunities.
- There are many examples across the country of successful school/community connections and collaborations.
- Whilst there is no common application of parental education and information, one RST does require funded initiatives to provide information to parents about their programmes, the future pathways or other opportunities, and elements of physical literacy.

**Improved connection/alignment** can be achieved by making the following changes to the Kiwisport RPF:

- Current Sport NZ Kiwisport RPF guidelines require reduced funding in curriculum time; however, information is lacking for schools and RSTs about the purpose and preferred outcomes. Joint messages from Sport NZ and the Ministry of Education would be beneficial to explain and clarify their preferred positions (and thereafter, regular shared messaging).
- Funded initiatives should not be detrimental to the education system, i.e. they should not replace PE in primary school settings, but may have a role to play in enhancing and supporting the delivery of PE.
- Truly collaborative partnerships should be evident or at least the establishment of them should be underway before outside delivery in schools is funded by Kiwisport.
- Increase focus on quality experiences and meeting the needs of young people. This will contribute to "the adoption of a physical literacy approach". Additionally, decisions regarding funding investments should align with Sport NZ approaches of locally-led and physical literacy.
- Update and align Fund Framework for improved monitoring and evaluation of young people's initiatives to ensure they are meeting their needs. Additional funding of agencies to improve and audit this monitoring and evaluation may be required.
- Increase emphasis on improved understanding amongst parents, coaches, teachers etc. of the needs of young people in regard to their participation in sport and active recreation.

## DISABILITY REVIEW

The Disability Review had not been completed at the time of writing this report. Five draft focus areas had been identified as being:

- Provide quality experiences
- Facilitating collaboration
- Leadership
- Establish enabling attitudes
- Increased capability

An analysis of current alignment is not possible but consideration of potential connection/alignment has been considered below.

**Potential connection/alignment** can be achieved by making the following changes to the Kiwisport RPF:

- Increase focus on quality experiences. Currently Kiwisport objectives and measures do not mention quality.
- Remove any reference to 'organised sport' and widen purpose of the Kiwisport RPF to include sport and active recreation. This may allow for increased consideration of alternative experiences for those with a disability.
- Consider greater connection to, and collaboration with, other organisations and funds e.g. Halberg Disability Sport Foundation.

## 2.5.9 REGIONAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND PLANNING PROCESS

The current model requires each RST to have a specific Kiwisport consultation every three years which forms the priorities and structure of a plan which is then approved by Sport NZ.

The community consultation overwhelmingly supported local/regional determination over any national decision making. Communities indicated they want some national consistency and oversight but considered that locals knew best. Many thought a longer-term big picture strategy was needed from a national body, like Sport NZ, but that it was important to tailor this to local context.

There were some specific suggestions in regard to planning and consultation from the community, such as:

- *“Description of local priorities need to be more tangible less policy”*
- *“Clear and consistent guidelines”*
- *“More transparency on where funds are allocated”*
- *“Diverse representation on panel”*
- *“A strategic, community owned plan”*
- *“Develop a model for a holistic delivery of strategic and viable pathways rather than individual pockets of funding”*
- *“Being agile with the need and the emerging future”*
- *“Expect RSTs to know what young people want in their community”*

One stakeholder, Water Safety NZ, wanted a partnership with Kiwisport funding at a national level, rather than having to replicate with every region. There is an opportunity for the funding framework to indicate preferred providers or programmes such as the Water Safety NZ “Water Skills for Life” initiative.

Some NSOs wanted more consistency and continuity across the country. One NSO stated that Kiwisport should be “National strategy, locally driven, community delivered”.

RSTs and Sport NZ staff agree that there needs to be greater clarity, rules and guidelines from Sport NZ but that decisions on initiatives funded should be made at the regional/local level.

There were differences in opinions between RSTs and between Sport NZ staff about the need for specific Kiwisport regional community consultation (and any supporting processes or plans). Some thought that RSTs had enough community connection and local insights to make decisions without having specific consultation. The benefits of this were:

- Agility of decision making
- Alignment with locally-led initiatives in each region
- Opportunity to utilise Kiwisport funds as a leverage or tool (for innovative approaches)
- Quick decision-making including piloting, failing fast and learning from opportunities
- Under-resourced community organisations can be shoulder-tapped or supported
- Potentially allows for greater innovation
- Could be more targeted and aligned

Others thought that it was important to continue to have community consultation specifically regarding Kiwisport. The reasons provided were:

- RSTs don't know what they don't know
- Increased transparency
- Opportunity for community connection

Interestingly, Sport NZ allowed RSTs not to do a community consultation in 2018 (would have been expected within the three-year cycle), and were not required to submit a Kiwisport plan (although a small number of questions regarding changes for the 2017/18 – 2019/20 period were asked). None of the 14 RSTs independent of Sport NZ undertook any community consultation. Some indicated that this Kiwisport RPF review was going to be used as their consultation (three RSTs asked for the transcript of their community consultation although all had at least one staff member present). Additionally, when asked specifically if their community would self-identify targeted groups, most RSTs stated that their communities would rely on them (the RST) to know who the targets should be and to inform and educate them (the community).

Flexibility in planning and decision making has also been implemented in some regions via a 'Fast Fund' or 'Kickstart Fund'. These funds were established in some regions to allow for quicker decision making and fund distribution.

In Auckland, funds of up to \$5,000 are reviewed by an internal working group (RST staff) and approved by the local RST Board. This 'Fast Fund' is managed differently to other ring-fenced funds which distribute higher amounts. Active staff stated that having a 'Fast Fund' is useful but they also stated that some of the rules and criteria they would like in place would not apply to the 'Fast Fund'.

This highlights the differences in the RSTs and the difficulty of one set of rules across the country. In Auckland, the 'Fast Fund' is valued at approximately \$157,000 per annum which is higher than Sport Gisborne's entire fund of \$105,000 per annum of which (in 2017) all but two applications were at or under \$5,000.

Sport NZ has also influenced RSTs into implementing their Kiwisport differently to how their community indicated they would have preferred. For example, one RST said that their community wanted the fund to be more non-contestable (it was already 80% non-contestable) but due to Sport NZ influence, this particular RST moved towards a more contestable process (now 100% contestable).

Over the past couple of years, Sport NZ has introduced guidelines that RSTs have been expected to implement in the middle of a completed community plan. For example, reduction of investment for delivery in curriculum time. Sometimes these guidelines are not in line with the community consultation and therefore the plan that is currently in place. It is then up to the RST to inform and educate their community about upcoming changes and the reasons for these changes, and/or convince Sport NZ why that guideline cannot or should not be followed in their region.

Sport NZ staff seem supportive for RSTs to be empowered further to utilise Kiwisport funds for initiatives as they see best for their communities. RSTs want clarity and consistency in regard to what is and isn't allowed and for assurances of regional consistency about how those are applied.

For example, one RST wanted reassurance that other RSTs were also collecting back unspent monies and reinvesting that money in other initiatives. There are actually many examples of this happening across the country but because there is no Kiwisport forum or reporting back from Sport NZ to RSTs, there is a lack of knowledge and trust about how others are implementing.

In some areas there are issues with cross-region misalignment. Where community consultation in one region and the fund distribution process are quite different to the neighbouring region which causes issues with organisations that cross those boundaries (e.g. RSOs) and are applying to both e.g. Southland and Otago, or within Auckland. This issue is not resolved by community consultation but does need RSTs to communicate between themselves regarding Kiwisport investments.

## Summary

A requirement for a specific consultation every three years does not seem necessary. Some RSTs feel that because of their ongoing community engagement that a one-off consultation would not provide any additional benefit. Others could choose to have a specific consultation regarding the Kiwisport RPF if they felt this was beneficial to their work and decision making.

A required consultation can be just as flawed as having no consultation. An important element of community consultation is for a wide yet relevant range of people and organisations to input. Further guidance, support and communication from Sport NZ, and with and other RSTs, will ensure that RSTs have greater awareness of opportunities.

Similarly, a regional plan that is approved by Sport NZ may hinder the implementation of a nimble and flexible approach. A national Fund Framework which is applied regionally accordingly to regional insights and needs should be all that is needed.

Communities do want transparency and clarity from their RSTs. The plans submitted to Sport NZ are written for Sport NZ and not the community. How an RST communicates with their community about this Fund is still important.

Improved alignment and utilisation can be achieved by:

- Removing the requirement for RSTs to undertake a separate Kiwisport community consultation and produce a regional Kiwisport plan, but for Sport NZ to educate and influence RSTs via regular communication about the importance of continual and wide community engagement (including young people) as part of all their work.
  - Note: this does not negate the need for RSTs to communicate with their communities about how they are going to make decisions and distribute funds.
- Establishing a Fund Framework (name to be determined) which should include details such as:
  - How funding decisions are shared with communities (single national technological solution/portal would support this also)
  - National support (by Sport NZ) for programmes/initiatives
  - Collection of unspent monies
  - Common templates
  - Reporting and quality assessments
- Implementing one single national technological solution/portal that allows for national consistency but regional variances as needed.
- Encouraging more sharing of information and good practice between RSTs via the proposed technological solution/portal (above) and by Sport NZ hosting a national Kiwisport forum annually (supported by funding of RSTs to manage and administer the Kiwisport RPF).
- Improving the monitoring and evaluation of Kiwisport initiatives, and the sharing of the results of these.
- The inclusion of Kiwisport as one element of Sport NZ's community sport investment into RSTs and therefore included as part of regular conversations between RSTs and their Sport NZ relationship managers.

## 2.5.10 NATURE OF ORGANISATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

One of the original Ministerial expectations was that “All of the RPF will be directed at supporting schools and partnerships with clubs”. Guidance from Sport NZ reiterated this, for example:

*“The following types of partnership will be considered:*

- *Clusters of schools working with a community group (including an RST).*
- *Schools working with clubs.*
- *Sports working with schools e.g. regional or national sport organisations.*
- *Local providers working with schools e.g. YMCA, territorial authority.”*

Over time, and with the introduction of the guideline to reduce funded initiatives being delivered in curriculum time, partnerships were expanded to include more or different community partners and, in some cases, did not involve schools at all e.g. holiday programmes.

Although the fund is called the ‘Regional Partnership Fund’, some RSTs currently don’t require partnerships and many in the sector are aware that some of the partnerships are not truly collaborative (rather there are many examples of schools simply signing a common email to say they want that deliverer in their school).

Currently, RSTs are funding a wide range of recipients and whilst some RSTs still look for links with schools, others have moved their thinking to consideration of the young person’s needs, not just the setting.

Of the over 4,500 applications approved, there were over 1500 unique funding recipients. Approximately 59% were sport and recreation organisations (NSOs, RSOs, Clubs, YMCA etc.), 34.5% were education organisations, 1.2% were Councils, and 5.3% were other organisations such as youth groups and trusts.

All RSTs were supportive of thinking wider in regards to funding recipients with three concerns raised:

- i. Profit-making or business providers making money off Kiwisport
- ii. Sport specific delivery should be supported/endorsed by the sport (regional or national body)
- iii. Undermining of the existing sporting system – whilst supportive of considering the young person and their needs, RSTs were also cognisant of their role in the development and sustainability of the sporting system (and the other values that the sporting system provides to a local community)

There were a few RSTs who raised the issue of RSTs being recipients too. Generally, these RSTs wanted greater clarity and improved accountability for this scenario. There was in fact clarity provided by Sport NZ in their original documentation that RSTs can be recipients of Kiwisport funding but it is true that currently there is no external accountability for this scenario.

The wider community was supportive of ‘community’ being fund recipients which included churches, Maraes, sports clubs, schools, RSOs etc.

The wider community consultation raised some concern in the following areas:

- Profit-making private providers – mixed views on whether they should be allowed to receive Kiwisport funding. NSO feedback was that private providers should be able to be used if in partnerships, ensuring quality and utilising NSO endorsed programme.
- Schools not “coming to the party” in regard to partnerships
- Club capability and capacity – there should be more support for clubs

In regard to requirements of organisation prior to receipt of funding, RSTs currently apply different rules. One RST, for example, only accepts applications from incorporated societies, charitable trusts or schools. Some RSTs adjust their reporting and fund distribution based on their knowledge and experience with an organisation. Many RSTs require sport organisations to show they are aligned with and have the support of their regional or national organisation.

Additionally, there have been some self-imposed limitations on the nature of organisations eligible for funding based on the ‘organised sport’ definition. Some RSTs, and some potential deliverers, have not been funded (or applied for funding) because they have considered that they do not deliver ‘organised sport’.

**“How can we get funding for activity that is not necessarily ‘organised sport’?  
Outdoor rec – totally limiting – not eligible for funding etc., not ‘organised sport’.”**

As discussed and recommended in Section 2.2 - Ministerial expectations, the expectation of the fund only funding partnerships between the clubs and schools is unrealistic.

## Summary

The wider community are supportive of a wider view of who should be eligible for funding. ‘Community’ was the wording most often used which included schools, clubs, RSOs, maraes, churches, Councils and other providers.

Whilst some concern was raised by both the community and RSTs regarding private providers, most were supportive as long as it was not detrimental to the sport system.

RSTs want clarity about RSTs as recipients of funding and accountability for such scenarios.

Improved alignment and utilisation can be achieved by:

- Widening the scope of organisations able to access funding. Although this happens currently for most RSTs, Sport NZ needs to realign and provide clarity in new Fund Framework and the Ministerial expectations need to be revoked.
- Sport specific delivery being in alignment with the regional and national organisation’s strategy and programmes i.e. funded initiatives are not detrimental to the sport sector.
- RSTs promoting and advocating to a wider group within their region regarding the availability and purpose of the fund (including engagement with young people and organisations already working with, or representative of, targeted communities). To achieve this, RSTs, in some cases, need greater support and guidance from Sport NZ and increased funding to provide the necessary resource.
- Removing any reference to ‘organised sport’ and ensuring emphasis is on fulfilling the needs of young people through quality sport and active recreation experiences.
- Allowing greater flexibility of regional decision making; holding RSTs accountable if those decisions are made outside of purpose and principles.

## 2.6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Initially, one of the Ministerial expectations in regard to the Kiwisport RPF was that “Schools and community providers receiving the funds are not weighed down by too much bureaucracy”. The Minister also stated that having the Kiwisport RPF being the responsibility of RSTs was a test of RSTs’ capability to deliver.

This put Sport NZ in a difficult position of wanting to empower RSTs, reduce bureaucracy, but also to be able to inform the Minister of the success of Kiwisport and therefore of the RSTs.

Currently, Sport NZ requires the following to be reported on for each funded initiative:

Provider	
Project Name	
Activity Description	
Project start and end dates	Annually – current status
Project Type	
Financials	Total Project Cost
	Financial partners
	Application amount
	Annually – total RPF approved to be paid
	Annually – total RPF paid
	School contribution
	NSO/RSO contribution
	Trust contribution
	TA contribution
	Sponsorship
	Other contributions (who/what and amount)
Outcome	Participant fees
	In-kind contributions (value and details)
	Drop-down menu from three objectives
	Drop-down menu from nine options
	Drop-down menu from five options
	Drop-down options
	Number of sessions
	Session duration
	Individual participants
	Total participants across all sessions
	Male/Female
Primary/Secondary	
Point of Note	
Schools Involved	
Suburbs Involved (if not in schools)	
Low participation targets	

All RSTs are currently undertaking the minimal requirements as per Sport NZ reporting and most were supportive of a better technological solution to reporting and information management in regard to Kiwisport overall.

There are differences across the country about how Kiwisport is currently monitored and evaluated by individual RSTs (one RST undertakes site visits of all initiatives, whilst another RST requires nothing extra over and above the Sport NZ information (above)).

Most RSTs are very similar in what they would like to see in regard to the monitoring and evaluation of Kiwisport which included:

- Voice of the participant
- Qualitative measures
- Quantitative measures
- Case studies or story telling
- Conversion or continued engagement in the sport or activity

A few RSTs referenced the last version of the Sport NZ community sport reporting structure and suggested that reporting could be a similar. This currently consists of four questions:

- How much did you do?
- How well did you do it?
- What impact did this have?
- What did you learn?

Across the wide variety of organisations and people consulted with during this review, the most common responses were for numbers not to be the focus and for quality to be included.

One NSO stated, in response to the question 'should quality be monitored and how?' responded, "Yes, give RST responsibility and a bit of money".



Many options were put forward in regard to ways that delivery to children could be monitored and evaluated. The most common of these were:

- Feedback from those involved – child, teacher, parent, whanau, deliverer, coach. A variety of ways of getting or showcasing this feedback were suggested from videos to surveys to voting buttons. The use of IT/technology was suggested as a simple solution/tool. Questions for kids in particular included:
  - What did you like and why?; What didn't you enjoy?
  - Would you do it again?
  - Would you tell or teach someone else?
  - What did you learn?
  - Did you make friends?
- Storytelling (learning stories) – what worked well, what didn't, why. Holistic outcomes for the kids
- School evaluation, teachers trained
- Link to sport/activity post intervention, not just the sport/activity that they participated in but others too
- Videos of coaches for self-assessment, independent evaluation of coaches/deliverers
- Monitoring, reflection
- Independent quality assessment of delivery, regular (by the RST?), interview the organisation not just written report
- Quantitative data – number of kids, how many sessions, how often; skill improvement (if appropriate)
- Case studies – sustainable change of behaviour

There were additional comments, from the community, about the support needed to do this reporting e.g. reminders, IT, templates, assessment, and help with being set-up well at beginning to ensure they are capturing the right information.

Sport NZ staff were also supportive of change in regard to monitoring and evaluation. Physical literacy and quality were mentioned by all but no common suggestions about how to measure or monitor these elements. Most would like to see the alignment of Kiwisport reporting with the community sport Investment reporting in both timing and structure (i.e. Results Based Accountability reporting). There was general agreement that a national IT solution which included monitoring/reporting would be beneficial. (Some RSTs were supportive of a change in timing to align with their other reporting whilst some considered it would be an additional burden at that time. This perceived burden may be offset by a change in the reporting requirements and any IT solution that is implemented.)

It would be fair to say that what is happening now, nationally, is quantitative data capturing. Some of this data is used for some national reporting by Sport NZ. There is no monitoring or evaluation happening of either the Kiwisport RPF or the RSTs responsible for the distribution of the Kiwisport RPF.

Regionally, some RSTs are undertaking some qualitative assessments, but few are utilising any qualitative assessments for cycles of improvement or to showcase good practice (regionally or nationally).

In regard to monitoring and evaluation of RSTs, the efficacy of RSTs as the distribution channel for Kiwisport, and the opportunities for improvements, is discussed in Section 2.8 – Efficacy of current distribution channel via RSTs.

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## Summary

There is universal support across the country for Kiwisport to be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively. There was common agreement that feedback from participants (children, adults, teachers etc.) was very important and that the community needed more support to be able to monitor and evaluate better.

There are currently no national outcomes/measures for Kiwisport and neither Sport NZ nor RSTs are really held accountable for the impact or success of Kiwisport.

Sport NZ should consider:

- Removing current objectives and having a new purpose and overall Sport NZ outcomes/measures for the Kiwisport RPF.
- As part of a newly developed Fund Framework:
  - Determine what information is needed annually, and consider in what volume that is needed (i.e. does each and every funded initiative need to be reported on?).
  - Define quality, or the elements of quality that should be taken in consideration in regard to sport and active recreation delivery to children, and consider how this is communicated.
  - Change reporting requirements to improve the capturing of qualitative and quantitative information, ideally alignment with the community sport investment questions (i.e. RBA accountability) and dates.
  - Include Sport NZ's own monitoring and evaluation framework for the fund with a triennial review of the Fund and Sport NZ outcomes/measures.
- Greater support for, and communication with, RSTs individually and collectively in regard to any changes, and greater resource for RSTs so they can do the same for their communities.
- A single national technological solution/portal is established which allows for direct reporting by funded initiatives and contributes to transparency and availability of information.
- The inclusion of Kiwisport as one element of Sport NZ's community sport investment into RSTs and therefore included as part of regular conversations between RSTs and their Sport NZ relationship managers.
- Sport NZ should report back to their community i.e. RSTs, NSOs etc. regarding impact, results and good practise (delivery, partnerships, reporting, quality).

## 2.7 COLLABORATION WITH KIWISPORT DIRECT FUND

The Kiwisport Direct Fund is managed by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Since the introduction of Kiwisport in 2009, the value of the Direct Fund has increased by 9.7% (as opposed to the RPF which has remained the same dollar value, in fact decreasing in real value by 11%). This increase has come about because the Kiwisport Direct Fund is considered part of operational costs and therefore increases when there is a universal increase in operational costs (normally annually in the budget).

The 2018 Direct Fund amounts are:

YEAR LEVEL	2018 FUNDING RATE GST EXCLUSIVE	2018 FUNDING RATE GST INCLUSIVE
Years 1-8	13.36	15.37
Years 9-13+	24.14	27.77

Each school receives their funding in their quarterly operations grant. The reporting requirements are minimal (must include a short statement in their annual report on how Kiwisport funding has been used to increase students' participation in organised sport), especially compared to reporting required of each initiative that receives RPF funding. It is our understanding that the MoE doesn't do anything with the information provided by schools (if they provide it at all) regarding Kiwisport.

Schools are advised that use of the funding is also monitored as part of their regular Education Review Office (ERO) review. After reviewing a sample of school ERO reviews available online and after speaking with primary school principals, there is no evidence that ERO has asked any questions regarding Kiwisport within the past 5 years. (Note: two reports (2010 and 2012) were completed by ERO regarding the impact of the Kiwisport Direct Fund. The results of these are discussed in Section 2.3 – Impact to date.)

The information provided to schools regarding the use of the Kiwisport Direct Fund is minimal also. The Ministry of Education website (where school principals refer to gain any information about Kiwisport) states:

- *KiwiSport is a Government funding initiative that promotes sport and aims to increase opportunities for school-aged students to participate in organised sport.*
- *KiwiSport funding has 2 funding channels. Direct funding comes from the Ministry of Education and complementary funding comes from Sport New Zealand via SPARC and regional sports trusts, who allocate funding from the KiwiSport Regional Partnership Fund.*
- *This funding is not for normal operating costs, such as routine property or grounds maintenance.*
- *KiwiSport funding can be used to employ and pay teaching staff, such as a sports coordinator, as long as this contributes to KiwiSport's objectives.*

There is no information about the three objectives of Kiwisport or any of the Ministerial expectations of the RPF such as: "All of the RPF will be directed at supporting schools and partnerships with clubs".

This lack of information and understanding was evident in conversations with Play.sport personnel from Upper Hutt who were confused about the two funds, what the Direct Fund can and can't be used for, and some resentment of outside providers that suggest to schools that their Direct Fund gets used to subsidise the activities they are offering which may have received RPF funding.

The primary use of the Kiwisport Direct Fund in secondary schools is for sport co-ordinators. In some cases, the Kiwisport RPF partners with secondary schools to increase the hours or influence the responsibilities of the sport co-ordinator to achieve Kiwisport RPF objectives.

ERO did complete two reports (Kiwisport in Schools 2010; Kiwisport in Schools 2012) regarding school's use of Kiwisport and the ways in which students are better able to participate in organised sporting opportunities. As reported earlier in Section 2.3 - Impact to date, the Kiwisport Direct Fund, the most recent report, 2012, concluded that:

*"Many schools commented very positively on KiwiSport. Their responses indicate that funding has had the intended impact in most schools to at least some extent. KiwiSport has led to increased sports opportunities and participation, and improved support for skills development. Many primary schools had been involved with programmes to upskill teachers, which have enhanced their PE programmes. Many secondary schools had used the funding to employ or extend the hours of a sports coordinator."*

Nationally, there is no collaboration between Sport NZ and the MoE in regard to Kiwisport. For the purposes of this review, a meeting was held between Sport NZ and MoE. MoE confirmed that the Kiwisport Direct Fund is not currently being reviewed and there was no intention to review it but did note that other reviews currently underway may impact on it.

MoE and Sport NZ agree that it may be possible for the Kiwisport RPF and the Kiwisport Direct Fund to have different, but similar, purposes from a national perspective, yet still be able to complement each other at a local or regional level.

Currently, regionally, there are connections and synergies between the Direct Fund and the RPF. The 2012 Kiwisport in Schools (ERO, 2012) report indicated that, of the 245 schools surveyed, 85% had been in contact with their local RST, 25% had applied for funding and 77% of those applications had been successful. The report also stated that over 90% of schools had been involved with at least one of the nine RST programmes/activities listed in the questionnaire.

There are multiple examples across the country of school clusters pooling their Direct Fund and, in partnership with the RPF, delivering on Kiwisport objectives. One such example is in Auckland with three clusters (Manaiakalani, Mt Roskill and Tamaki) and their relationship with Sport Auckland and the Kiwisport RPF. For the purpose of this review, a consultation was held with 10 schools, including 9 principals across these three clusters. The clear message was that together, the Direct Fund and the RPF, with the support of Sport Auckland, was having a positive impact on the children in their schools and also their relationships and connections with the community around them.

This group was adamant they did not want to see any change in Kiwisport in the future (except for the widening of 'organised sport') and agreed that their model was more beneficial to them than if they were not working together. They wanted to promote their model more widely, suggesting in the future that Kiwisport should *"fund clusters and regional sports trusts to partner for best results"*. One principal also suggested that there should be *"specific reporting of funding to ensure it is used (by schools)"*.

In Auckland (and in other areas where similar partnership models exist) the RST, either through current or new relationships, had to build understanding (with schools) of the purpose and potential outcomes of this type of connectivity and synergy in regard to Kiwisport.

## Summary

Synergy and alignment of the name and exact purpose of these two funds is less important at a national level. What is important is encouraging schools and communities to work together for better outcomes for young people (aged 5-18yrs) through sport and active recreation experiences.

There are currently issues with each sector's understanding of the other's implementation of their funds. When a good relationship/partnership between RST and/or provider and the school is in place, the purpose of the funds matters less rather their understanding of each other's aims and objectives and how they can achieve those together becomes important. The funding is then simply a tool to help them achieve those common objectives.

To resolve this and improve the collaboration between the RPF and the Direct Fund there are some key actions that need to be taken:

- Nationally, Sport NZ and the Ministry of Education collaborate on a Fund Framework in regard to funded initiatives working in school environments, and that this Fund Framework is reviewed regularly (utilising insights of successful and unsuccessful collaborative initiatives).
- Nationally, examples of successful collaborations between the Direct Fund and the RPF are showcased and shared.
- Regionally, increased and regular information (including examples of successful collaborations) shared between RSTs and school principals, and other education-based workforce, regarding Kiwisport (both the RPF and the Direct Fund), ideally in conjunction with regional Ministry of Education staff.

## 2.8 EFFICACY OF CURRENT DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL VIA RSTS

In considering the efficacy of RSTs as the current distribution channel, we need to be able to evaluate if they have produced or contributed to the desired or intended result of the Kiwisport RPF. As can be seen in Section 2.3 – Impact to date, actual results against the original objectives are difficult to measure but overall show a positive impact across the three objectives.

RSTs did establish their own processes and systems to deliver upon the expectations of Sport NZ in regard to the Kiwisport RPF, including regular community consultation. They also distributed the funds according to those objectives and guidelines, and reported regularly (to Sport NZ) as required.

An independent review of six RSTs Kiwisport investment processes (selection, management and monitoring of Kiwisport investments) was completed in April 2015. That review<sup>3</sup> summarised that, *"In general, these RSTs have delivered Kiwisport investment processes in 2012-15 that reflect their community priorities and provide a good range of Kiwisport initiatives in local communities"*.

Additionally, that review stated that all six RSTs demonstrated a commitment to the overarching Kiwisport objectives by having alignment with their regional plans, consideration of age groups, and having requirements regarding evidence of partnership and leverage.

There is also evidence of RSTs abiding by changes in expectations by Sport NZ and the impact of those changes. One example is expectation that funding for initiatives in curriculum time will be reduced (communicated with RSTs in 2015/16). The impact of this change, and therefore implementation by RSTs, is delivery in curriculum time reduced from 42% of total projects (2009-2015) to 36% in 2015/16 and reduced again to 21% in 2016/17.

For the purposes of this Kiwisport RPF review, all RSTs were specifically asked if RSTs were the best organisations to manage Kiwisport and why. It is not surprising that all RSTs consulted were supportive of the fund continuing to be managed by RSTs. The reasons given were common across the country and included:

- Neutrality, not sport specific, no bias, independent
- Local knowledge and relationships. RSTs consider that they are well connected with multiple relationships in various sectors.
- Aligned with national strategy. RSTs already have a relationship and alignment with Sport NZ and the Community Sport Strategy.
- Community leadership, trust and, in some cases, RSTs are one of the few organisations covering a whole region

There were suggestions by many RSTs of the need for improved consistency of some processes and opportunities for greater efficiencies with shared technology.

This was not a question asked directly of the community during the many community consultations but across the country there were some comments about RSTs.

Along with the strong favouritism towards local/regional determination, there were discussions within some of the community consultations where they stated they trusted their RST to make the right decisions.

<sup>3</sup> Summary report of the review of Regional Sports Trusts' Kiwisport investment process (2015)

The community were asked how fund distribution could be improved in their region. This was an opportunity to discuss any matter regarding Kiwisport. Across the whole country, there was only one suggestion of another agency (or agencies) being responsible for Kiwisport and that was *“Decided by Sport NZ. Direct to Sports (NSO). No RST involved”*.

Some suggested that there could be greater accountability in RST decision-making and clearer understanding and consistency of guidelines. There was also the occasional mention of greater transparency of where money has gone.

During the community consultation, RSTs were mentioned specifically:

- *“RSTs knows their customer’s needs”*
- *“Regions and needs vary; RSTs have a better grasp”*
- *“RSTs would/should know the needs of their communities best”*
- *“The local RST should already understand national objectives and understand local needs”*

Additionally, RSTs were supported by other stakeholders such as:

- *“RSTs are a critical partner”* Water Safety NZ
- *“...there are regional variations and RSTs know their communities the best”*  
Oranga Tamariki
- *“...physical activity not just sport – therefore better through RSTs”*  
Local Government
- *“...absolute trust in the RSTs”*  
Sport NZ staff member

There were a couple of dissenting opinions too:

- *“RSTs disconnected from sports – money should go through NSOs”*  
National Sport Organisation
- *“Why is KS delivery led/managed by RST’s rather than NSO/RSO when delivery of “organised sport” is our core business”*  
National Sport Organisation

It has been interesting throughout this review to consider the impact of RSTs on the success of the fund due to their autonomy in its distribution and to consider Sport NZ’s role in influencing RSTs.

Keat and Sam (2013) examined the implications for RSTs since the inception of Kiwisport. They explored the policy problem (young people’s involvement in organised sport), the policy instrument (Kiwisport RPF), and identified that the **policy target is RSTs** (and not actually the young person or their community).

*“...in many ways, RSTs are the targets since they are the principal link between clubs, schools and regional sport organizations.”*

This is a very important distinction and impacts the way that Sport NZ should think about policy implementation in regard to Kiwisport. The RST is the “implementing organisation” and should be the focus of consideration for Sport NZ in regard to frameworks, language and/or changes they may want to apply.

## Summary

There was a high level of support from the community and national organisations involved in this review for RSTs as administrators and managers of the Kiwisport RPF.

There are differences to how Kiwisport is managed, communicated, determined and monitored across the country with variances in the level of resourcing and value placed on the Kiwisport RPF. Capacity is limiting some RSTs ability to get the most impact from the fund.

Their current alignment to Sport NZ strategy, their local knowledge of their region, and their independence are the key benefits of continuing with RSTs as fund managers.

Sport NZ must view RSTs as the policy target and implementing organisation, and consider their role in influencing the outcomes they are trying to achieve.

There are opportunities to ensure greater alignment to Sport NZ strategy and improve alignment of Kiwisport across the county. To achieve this Sport NZ should consider:

- Improving communication with and between RSTs to share what and how they are each applying the purpose and principles to achieve positive outcomes in their communities (including sharing good practice and having information easily accessible).
- Educating and influencing RSTs via regular communication about the importance of continual and wide community engagement especially with young people and organisations already working with, or representative of, targeted communities.
- Establishing a Fund Framework (name to be determined) which should include details such as:
  - How funding decisions are shared with communities
  - National support (by Sport NZ) for programmes/initiatives
  - Collection of unspent monies
  - Common templates
  - Reporting and quality assessments
  - Providing clarity about how the Kiwisport RPF can or cannot be used by RSTs i.e. if funded for administration is this coming from the RPF; if they are funding an initiative that they are partners in (and potentially funded by Kiwisport) how is this managed.
- Educating and influencing senior management at RSTs of the benefits of improved alignment of Kiwisport to other Sport NZ investments and strategies.
- Implementing one single national technological solution/portal that allows for national consistency but regional variances as needed.
- Funding RSTs for the management and administration of the Kiwisport RPF (value or amount to be determined. The challenge in determining the value or amount is that there is a base level of work needed simply to administer the fund no matter what the fund value. This should be taken into consideration along with the volume of work that comes with managing a higher value fund.)

## 2.9 IMPACT ON SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE PLAY.SPORT PILOT SITES

Play.sport is a community-based initiative to improve the quality and quantity of physical education and sport in schools and communities. It is a multi-layered approach to the provision of PE and sport with hands-on, practical support and training for teachers, schools, parents and community organisations to improve the quality of the PE and sport experience for young people. This includes professional development, workforce support, community alliances and the sharing of facilities.

As part of this review, the Play.sport workforce at both pilot sites were interviewed (note that these interviews did not include teachers or leaders from any of the schools engaged in Play.sport). A summary of their feedback is below:

### PLAY.SPORT WORKFORCE (UPPER HUTT)

The understanding of Kiwisport amongst this workforce was limited and there was confusion between the Direct Fund and the RPF.

This workforce considered that Kiwisport has had a negative impact on quality PE because schools have used outside providers as their PE lesson but there was an acknowledgement that teachers still don't understand quality PE and don't know how to integrate outside providers.

Good examples of delivery were provided and this included swimming, AFL and rugby (provision of coaches at extra-curricular times) – these are not all necessarily Kiwisport funded.

It was considered that Kiwisport is currently hindering one of Play.sport's aims (to enhance young people's wellbeing by improving connections to co-curricular and extra-curricular sporting opportunities) because it sits (mostly) in a curriculum space, not extra-curricular and this confuses schools/communities. They thought there were opportunities for greater alignment and contribution though if Kiwisport was utilised for train the trainer, by making curricular links more obvious, by providers being able to be more adaptive to suit what is happening in the curriculum space, by contributing to coaching, skill development and removing barriers to participation.

It was also felt that Kiwisport is hindering another Play.sport aim (to enhance young people's wellbeing by improving the consistency and quality of outside providers of physical activity and sport) because the measures that determine funding are quantity driven not quality driven.

This workforce considered improved alignment and strategic use of outside providers could happen with a young person-centred approach, more guidelines and support for schools, and capability and capacity building of local organisations.

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## **PLAY.SPORT WORKFORCE (WAITAKERE)**

There was an acceptance that schools are responsible for what comes into their schools but this workforce considered that Kiwisport did not help because schools will take the “easy option” and they have become dependent on Kiwisport.

It was considered that Kiwisport can contribute more to one of Play.sport’s aims (to enhance young people’s wellbeing by improving connections to co-curricular and extra-curricular sporting opportunities) by ensuring funding is linked to the needs of the community, linked to HPE learning outcomes and to a teacher education focus as opposed to student numbers.

It was felt that Kiwisport is hindering another Play.sport aim (to enhance young people’s wellbeing by improving the consistency and quality of outside providers of physical activity and sport) because Kiwisport funding is used to deliver in PE time with no teacher input. This could be improved if there was quality assurance of providers and providers learn how to work in with school PE programmes. Additionally, providers need to have flexible programmes that fit the needs of the students (as identified by teachers) and be open to co-delivering with the teachers.

One secondary school sport co-ordinator said that Kiwisport was adding value to what he could implement in his school. He added that there have been increased opportunities targeted to what the kids have indicated they wanted to try and that this would not have been possible without Kiwisport funding.

In March 2017, the “Reviewing the Game Plan” report was published. This report captured baseline (term 2 2016) and implementation (term 4 2016) data from the first year of Play.sport. Those interviewed or surveyed for this report include school staff, Play.sport workforce, and other national and community stakeholders.

Within this report, teachers identified barriers to offering a quality PE programme. The major barrier mentioned in the teacher survey was *“finding the time for PE in the face of competing priorities”*. A second set of barriers was identified relating to the knowledge and skills needed to plan effective learning; and a third barrier was access to resources and spaces.

Most teachers reported that outside providers are an infrequent part of PE learning, according to this report, but there is quite a variance. Some teachers report that over 40% of their PE programme is provided or supported by providers, while other schools report no use of providers for PE. There was no indication within this report if the outside providers referred to were subsidised fully or in part, or at all by Kiwisport RPF funding.

*“There are advantages in using that outside expertise. What concerns me is the lack of strong connection with overall planning...for it to be effective it needs to go to a deeper level, and so that anything learned in a session can be continued.” (School, Waitakere)*

A second report, “Reflections at Half Time” was released in June 2018. This report captured school survey data (term 3 2017) and information from schools and stakeholders (term 4 2017). This report states that addressing known challenges will strengthen and evolve Play.sport. One of the 13 challenges identified was to address *“ongoing internal non-alignments (e.g., the link between Kiwisport and Play.sport)”* to develop and evolve the community space.

It is noted that *“there did not appear to be a unified view of the community aspect of Play.sport and this aspect had less momentum than the PE learning aspect”*. One reason provided for this was because *“at a strategic leadership level, ideas about the community connections aspect of Play.sport were still in development”*.

The report identifies that the two pilot sites were evolving from different models initially which created greater confusion in Waitakere where activators were previously (or still were) deliverers of Kiwisport funded activity. This was not the case in Upper Hutt. The report states, in relation to primary activators, *“Overall, the big picture focus of the activator role was generally clear to all groups, that is, to support physical activity outside of the curriculum (e.g., at lunch time) and to foster school-community connections to support this activity. Less clear was how these school-community connections might be fostered, and which community groups or resources could be focused on.”*

There has been some direct connection between the Play.sport workforce and Kiwisport funded initiatives; for example, in one pilot site an activator worked with external providers to help them understand the shift in practice from the Kiwisport provision model to the Play.sport broker model.

There has also been a decrease (in the nine primary schools visited for this report) in the use of external providers in curriculum time. The implementation of this change varied from a very strategic use of external providers in partnership with them to not using them at all. The report states that *“Across the two communities, some of the schools that had stopped using providers were finding that relying on teachers to deliver PE was leaving a gap in terms of how to support the development of basic or specialised movement skills. Looking to 2018, these schools wanted to find a better balance between their new focus on the key competencies and hauora and a focus on movement skills.”*

It was acknowledged in this report that schools' decreased use of providers was "creating challenges for community stakeholders and activators, some of whom were working with providers and clubs to communicate the reasons behind this shift and the pathways forward" and that "some community stakeholders suggested this shift in practice would be supported by a clear strategic direction that included messaging that could assist providers to understand the shift, and the new expectations."

This report states that in 2017 that the lack of alignment between Play.sport and Kiwisport "was still creating tensions for activators and community stakeholders. Those working in this space wanted to see more systems-level alignment and national communications about the shift in practice from the provision of programmes to a needs-based and brokering approach."

## Summary

There is not enough evidence to say the Kiwisport alone is having a positive or negative impact on either of these two Play.sport pilot sites. It would seem that there have been gaps in the implementation of Play.sport including lack of clarity both locally and nationally about the community connections aspect, and those gaps along with a lack of connection and/or partnerships and understanding with Kiwisport locally has resulted in a lack of alignment.

It is my opinion that improved alignment with Kiwisport could happen now, even within the current Kiwisport RPF objectives and guidelines, if there was increased understanding and an agreement or partnership about how Kiwisport is implemented within the pilot regions.

Nevertheless, Sport NZ should also consider:

- Ensuring participant need is at the forefront of all decision making (considering the approaches of locally-led, physical literacy and insights-driven).
- Prioritising funding to initiatives with truly collaborative partnerships or initiatives that will result in truly collaborative partnerships.
- Ensuring funding decisions do not undermine or are detrimental to the education sector, or to any initiatives supporting improved HPE outcomes (this may include a requirement of evidence of co-planning between a school and an outside provider before funding can be approved).
- Allowing for consideration of teacher training and professional development as part of funded initiatives.
- Sport NZ (with the support of MoE) to provide greater support for, and communication with, RSTs individually and collectively in regard to the education sector, the NZ Curriculum, and the levels of expectation for physical activity, and greater resource for RSTs so they can do the same for their communities.
- Nationally, Sport NZ and the Ministry of Education collaborate on a framework in regard to Kiwisport funded initiatives working in school environments, and that this framework is reviewed regularly (utilising insights of successful and unsuccessful collaborative initiatives).
- Nationally, examples of successful collaborations between the Direct Fund and the RPF are showcased and shared.
- Regionally, increased and regular information (including examples of successful collaborations) shared between RSTs and school principals, and other education-based workforce, regarding Kiwisport (both the RPF and the Direct Fund), ideally in conjunction with regional Ministry of Education staff.

# CONCLUSION AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

## CONCLUSION

Community feedback, RST expertise and participation reporting figures all indicate that Kiwisport funding has had a positive impact on increasing young people's opportunities and participation in organised sport.

The consultation raised common themes of:

- Quality more important than numbers
- Delivery should be wider than 'organised sport', in regards to type of activity and type of organisation
- Consider the needs of the young person and all the factors influencing their participation
- Greater support for organisations to achieve quality delivery outcomes

The current Kiwisport objectives and Ministerial expectations are considered limiting to what could or should be available to young people.

Kiwisport contributes positively to Sport NZ's Community Sport Strategy and Young People Plan but is not as aligned as it could potentially be. There is a role for Sport NZ to provide greater strategic leadership in regard to the utilisation, distribution and support for this fund and RSTs (the 'policy targets').

Sport NZ's lack of oversight and delays in reviewing the Kiwisport RPF has created missed opportunities:

- To influence RSTs and therefore the projects being invested in
- To influence MoE and ensure common understanding of purpose and partnerships
- To have clarity and consistency
- To improve monitoring and evaluation especially qualitative information

Generally, RSTs think the fund needs to be nimble and flexible in regard to funding decisions with greater clarity and consistency in regard to process.

RSTs would be able to achieve more with the Kiwisport RPF with greater resource available to them (approximately 65% of the RSTs consulted specifically said they would like to see a change to Kiwisport to include an administration/management fee for the RST). The benefits of this, that align with the recommended changes to the Kiwisport RPF, are:

- Quality management
- Capability build into providers/applicants (especially from low participation communities)
- Bigger reach and promotion
- Better alignment across the work of the organisation and with Sport NZ
- Monitoring and Evaluation/Measuring Impact

There was agreement across the country that the needs of the young person need to be at the forefront of decisions regarding the fund's distribution, to the development of initiatives, and to the monitoring and evaluation of those initiatives. The community were clear that these needs may be different in each region.

RSTs, NSOs and Sport NZ staff were supportive of greater targeting of funds to low or declining participant groups or those with high deprivation; the general community were divided with greater support for this approach from the education sector.

Collaborative partnerships between schools and the community because of Kiwisport funding do exist and more can be put in place to ensure that there are improvements across the country. There is limited support or evidence from the consultation that Kiwisport impacts negatively on the delivery of PE (primary schools specifically).

Improved monitoring and evaluation including the measuring of quality was supported by the wider community, RSTs and Sport NZ staff. These improvements included consideration of the better utilisation of technology.

The name and value of the fund were not included explicitly in the terms of reference of this review. Both topics were raised by the community and/or RSTs as part of the consultation. Additionally, both topics were discussed in detail with the external reference group and the internal project team.

There is support for a change to the name of the Kiwisport RPF to better reflect and support the other recommendations made by this review.

An increase in the fund value was raised commonly by the community and RSTs. Increased funding could support additional delivery, or improvement in monitoring and evaluation, or ensuring high-quality deliver occurred. This was also supported by the internal project team and external reference group.

These have been identified as key considerations for Sport NZ (below). Other considerations that have been identified throughout this review are collated in Appendix Two – Collation of considerations and advise throughout report.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- a) That Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund is renamed the “Korikori Community Activation Fund” or something else to be determined.

### Risks

- Current awareness of Kiwisport will be negatively impacted

### Mitigations

- The point of the name change is to influence and change perception of purpose; awareness of new purpose, and new potential applicants is reason for change

- b) That the value of the Korikori Community Activation Fund (currently \$8.49m per annum) be increased to account for loss of real financial value since the inception of the fund in 2009; and that the fund continues to be increased annually based on CPI.

### Risks

- Impact on other Sport NZ work i.e. no new money is sourced
- The risk of not increasing the value of the Fund is low; maintaining the fund at its current value would affect the impact the Fund could have with the prioritised populations

### Mitigations

- Annual budget bid for CPI increases
- Sport NZ to analyse the opportunity cost to increasing Kiwisport value

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund objectives and Ministerial expectations established in 2009 be revoked.

### Risks

- Revocation requires cabinet paper and therefore impacts implementation timeframes
- Cabinet paper may expose funds and increase risk of movement to other purposes
- Lack of support from the Ministry of Education (MoE) for cabinet paper

### Mitigations

- Clear and regular communication with sector
- Clear purpose for change aligned with Sport NZ's 2020 Community Sport Strategy
- Reassure MoE that changes to Kiwisport RPF will not impact negatively on Kiwisport Direct Fund; continue to build relationship with MoE regarding Kiwisport

2. That the purpose of the Korikori Community Activation Fund is: The Korikori Community Activation Fund is available to the community to deliver high quality sport and active recreation experiences that meet the needs of young people (aged 5-18yrs), prioritising those with low or declining participation rates and/or where barriers to participation exist.

### Risks

- Impact on other Sport NZ work i.e. no new money is sourced
- The risk of not increasing the value of the Fund is low; maintaining the fund at its current value would affect the impact the Fund could have with the prioritised populations

### Mitigations

- Annual budget bid for CPI increases
- Sport NZ to analyse the opportunity cost to increasing Kiwisport value



3. That Sport NZ increase their capacity and support to enable effective influencing, embedding, strategic alignment, education and communication of, or with, RSTs (and other relevant organisations).

### Risks

- Increased resource (staff member) within Sport NZ but not RSTs
- The risk of not increasing support in regard to the Fund or not aligning with other work would affect the impact the Fund could have with the prioritised populations
- More support (capacity) from Sport NZ for the Fund potentially means less somewhere else or the limits the ability to focus on something new

### Mitigations

- RSTs may show resistance to applying change and/or have a lack of engagement in collaborative opportunities with other RSTs in regard to the Fund
- The appropriate level of resource needs to be allocated to ensure successful implementation of fund changes and alignment with other work
- Kiwisport can be leveraged to contribute to other outcomes such as parental education (links to high quality delivery, physical literacy)

4. That RSTs remain as the regional managers of the Fund for their respective regions and receive funding (value or amount to be determined) to manage and administrate the fund effectively. This funding should be 'new' money and not be retained from the fund total (\$8.49m/annum).

### Risks

- Impact on other Sport NZ work i.e. no new money is sourced
- Reputational risk to RST from the perception of the community (risk will be higher if funding to the community reduces)
- RSTs will be resistant to the inclusion of consequences
- Sport NZ show lack of acknowledgement of the role and load of the RSTs
- If RSTs do not remain as the regional managers of the Fund this would negatively impact their leadership role in their community and their ability to leverage to achieve other strategic objectives

### Mitigations

- Annual budget bid for CPI increases
- Sport NZ to analyse the opportunity cost to funding RSTs including utilising the fund itself
- Clear messages within Fund Framework of expectations on RSTs; Sport NZ to support RSTs with appropriate messages to their communities
- Standard operation practice with clear indicators of what is considered non-alignment and the procedure and consequences needs to be included in Fund Framework
- Sport NZ to formally acknowledge the current and future role of RSTs in impacting on the purpose of the Fund
- Advance warning to RSTs ahead of the rest of the community sport sector of any change that may impact negatively on them

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5. That Sport NZ builds and implements a Korikori Community Activation Fund Framework to provide clear guidance for fund managers (regional sports trusts). This Framework should be reviewed regularly and would also outline Sport NZ's responsibilities and accountabilities.
- 5.1 That the Korikori Community Activation Fund Framework includes a monitoring, evaluation and reporting schedule which includes:
- Results Based Accountability expectations of RSTs regarding projects funded.
  - That the timing of this reporting is aligned with other reporting for RSTs which is primarily 30 April of each year.
  - Sport NZ outcomes (specific to the Korikori Community Activation Fund) which are reviewed triennially.
  - Expectations of result feedback loops (both Sport NZ to RSTs and the sector, and RSTs to their respective communities)
- 5.2 That Korikori Community Activation Fund Framework includes "Funding Decision Principles" as follows:
- Decisions regarding, and delivery of, Korikori Community Activation Fund projects will align with Sport NZ strategy and approaches of locally-led, physical literacy, and insights driven.
  - Priority should be given to projects that show evidence of, or will result in, truly collaborative partnerships.
  - Delivery will be of high-quality and will have a positive impact on young people; and that evidence of outcomes will be able to be demonstrated.
  - Decisions regarding, and delivery of, Korikori Community Activation Fund projects will not be detrimental to the sport and/or education sectors, and will consider the funding sector.
  - Consideration that the empowerment of young people and the reduction of barriers may require enablers (coaches, teachers, parents/whanau) to be influenced, engaged, included in activities, or educated as part of the delivery of a project.

## Risks

- Ability to measure any impact of a change to approach e.g. move from only quantity to the inclusion of quality
- Lack of clarity provided in Fund Framework for RSTs
- Greater requirement of schools to engage as partners with Korikori funded outside providers
- Sport NZ outcomes are perceived by RSTs as their outcomes and change their decision-making behaviour accordingly
- Lack of resource within RSTs will impact on "Funding Decision Principles" application
- "Not being detrimental to the sport and/or education sectors" may limit innovation
- The inclusion of consideration for 'enablers' may result in funding being directed at a 'system-build' initiative rather than a 'delivery' initiative which may have elements of 'system-build'
- The language used within these principles is for decision makers i.e. the policy targets; the risk is that this language is repeated to the community
- A great project/initiative may not receive funding because there is no evidence of a current partnership

## Mitigations

- Robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting schedule in place prior to roll-out of any changes; ensure richness of data/information and education is included
- Engage RSTs, young people and MoE in the development of the Fund Framework; provide examples where possible
- Initial and ongoing communication with schools regarding purpose and principles of the Korikori Community Activation Fund. Communication to include information on role of outside providers to support curriculum delivery not replace
- Ensure clarity in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting schedule of the expectations of RSTs
- Sport NZ to fund appropriate levels of resource within RSTs and/or influence senior management to see the benefits of RSTs resourcing Kiwisport management
- Sport NZ and RSTs should encourage engagement with appropriate partners regarding new projects or initiatives
- Sport NZ to educate and provide examples; monitoring, evaluation and reporting schedule includes cross-RST review of projects and initiatives
- RSTs and Sport NZ to work together, at national forum, to determine common messages and language for the community
- Educate that partnerships take time and may come at a later stage of a project e.g. an expansion

- 
6. That Sport NZ engage with the Ministry of Education regarding:
- support for cabinet paper to revoke current Kiwisport RPF objectives;
  - the proposed name change from Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund to Korikori Community Activation Fund;
  - their contribution to the development of a Fund Framework;
  - the establishment of an implementation and communication plan where any changes impact on the education sector; and
  - for ongoing relationship building.

### Risks

- Lack of engagement and support from MoE
- Review of Kiwisport RPF highlights the presence of the Direct Fund within MoE, raising questions about the contribution the Direct Fund makes towards MoE objectives
- MoE undertake changes to the Direct Fund without consultation with Sport NZ and/or schools

### Mitigations

- Engage with MoE in regard to these recommendations understanding the potential impact on schools
- Reassure MoE that changes to Kiwisport RPF will not impact negatively on Kiwisport Direct Fund
- Continue to build relationship with MoE regarding the Fund

- 
7. That a single national technological solution/portal for applications, responses, decisions, and reporting is established and implemented across the country with allowances for regional variances. Funding for the development, implementation, training and ongoing utilisation of this technological solution/portal will be the responsibility of Sport NZ.

### Risks

- Changes to system administration negatively effects current regional systems and processes developed by RSTs

### Mitigations

- Ensure any change is well communicated and consider in advance what support may be needed
- Budget and resource appropriately
- Engage with RSTs in the development and implementation of the single national technological solution/portal

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# APPENDIX ONE

## CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

It was determined that both community consultation and consultations with regional sports trusts would be the basis for this review. Additionally, some specific organisations, projects or individuals were identified to interview separately. In the course of the consultation, some organisations were given additional opportunities to participate in smaller interviews or consultations due to not being able to attend one of the community consultations.

### I. Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs)

The consultation designed specifically for RSTs covered current procedures and considerations, their thoughts regarding Kiwisport's alignment with current Sport NZ strategy, and what they saw for the future in regard to Kiwisport funding.

RSTs were advised what the content of the discussion was going to be and self-determined who should be present from their organisations. Attendees included CEO, Board members, external members of their assessment panels and staff. Each of the face-to-face RST consultations (except Sport Canterbury) had a Sport NZ staff member in attendance.

The consultation with Sport Bay of Plenty was postponed due to weather and then cancelled due to availability. Sport Bay of Plenty did submit responses to the same questions asked of other RSTs.

REGIONAL SPORTS TRUST	# OF ATTENDEES
Aktive, Harbour Sport, CLM Community Sport, Sport Auckland	12
Aktive	3 (plus phone interview with 1 other staff member)
Sport Canterbury	10
Sport Hawke's Bay	5
Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti	12
Sport Manawatu	8
Sport Northland	4
Sport Otago	7
Sport Southland	9
Sport Taranaki	13
Sport Tasman	6
Sport Waikato	5
Sport Wellington	16
Sport Whanganui	10
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>	<b>121</b>

## 2. Community

The community consultation was designed to be flexible depending on the number of people in attendance. There were four sections which consisted of “Big Picture” questions regarding the objectives and Minister’s expectations, curriculum time engagement, spectrum questions regarding quality, non-participation and decision making, and finally a graffiti wall of various questions ranging from targeting to monitoring and evaluation.

RSTs were advised of the range of people and organisations that we would like to attend but it was up to them about who and how many (maximum of 50 was preferred). A Sport NZ staff member attended each of the community consultations.

REGION	# OF ATTENDEES	# OF ORGANISATIONS
Auckland – North Harbour	11	10
Auckland - Central	17	12
Auckland - Waitakere	8	7
Auckland – Counties Manukau	9	5
Auckland – Regional/National orgs.	28	22
Bay of Plenty	34	29
Canterbury	51	37
Hawke’s Bay	41	31
Gisborne Tairāwhiti	7	7
Manawatu	11	7
Northland	41	27
Otago	11	9
Southland	14	14
Taranaki	30	23
Tasman	19	17
Waikato	53	31
Wellington	33	20
Whanganui	15	18
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES/ORGS.</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>326</b>

Two RSTs also undertook online surveys for members of their communities that could not attend a community consultation; feedback was received from 17 individuals/organisations.

### 3. Other

The last type of consultation consisted of one-on-one with individuals or face-to-face with one organisation, or a group consultation with similar types of organisations or projects. Email feedback was also received from some organisations that could not attend the opportunities provided.

ORGANISATION (OR TYPE)	# OF PEOPLE	# OF ORGANISATIONS
Sport New Zealand	9	1
Auckland – Primary School Clusters	11	10
Southland – Regional Sports Director	1	1
Oranga Tamariki	3	1
National Sport Organisations	6	6
Water Safety NZ	1	1
Physical Education NZ (PENZ)	1	1
Disability Organisations	10	9
Play.sport (Upper Hutt and Waitakere)	15	6
Ministry of Education	2	1
Hillary Outdoors	1	1
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES/ORGS.</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>38</b>

Overall, consultation consisted of:

- Over 600 people engaged
- Close to 400 organisations
- 44 different sports represented
- Over 20 different types of organisation were represented (see table below)

ORGANISATION TYPE	# OF PEOPLE
Central Government	13
Club	44
Disability	11
Facility	4
Health	5
Intermediate	2
NRO	2
NSO	30
Other	18
Primary School	41
Private Provider	14
Primary School Sport	2
Recreation	3
RSO	159
RST	188
Secondary School	33
Secondary School Sport	8
TA	21
Tertiary/University	6
Trust	9

# APPENDIX TWO

## 5.2 COLLATION OF CONSIDERATIONS AND ADVISE THROUGHOUT REPORT

### Purpose and Principles

- a) That the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund objectives established in 2009 be revoked.
- b) That the Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund Ministerial expectations established in 2009 be revoked.
- c) That Kiwisport Regional Partnership Fund is renamed the “Korikori Community Activation Fund” or something else to be determined.
- d) That the purpose of the Fund is:

The Fund is available to the community to deliver high quality sport and active recreation experiences that meet the needs of young people (aged 5-18yrs), prioritising those with low or declining participation rates and/or where barriers to participation exist.

- Ensuring participant need is at the forefront of all decision making (considering the approaches of locally-led, physical literacy and insights-driven).
- Prioritising funding to initiatives with truly collaborative partnerships or initiatives that will result in truly collaborative partnerships.
- Ensuring funding decisions do not undermine or are detrimental to the education sector, or to any initiatives supporting improved health and PE outcomes (this may include a requirement of evidence of co-planning between a school and an outside provider before funding can be approved).
- Sport specific delivery being in alignment with the regional and national organisation's strategy and programmes i.e. funded initiatives are not detrimental to the sport sector.
- Remove any reference to ‘organised sport’ and widen purpose of the Kiwisport RPF to include sport and active recreation.
- Consider barriers for Māori to participate in sport and active recreation “as Māori” and emphasise the importance of funding to remove or mitigate those barriers.
- Consider greater connection to, and collaboration with, other organisations and funds

## Fund Framework

- Establishing a Fund Framework which should include details such as:
  - Clarity regarding initiatives being funded for outcomes and the inclusion of administration costs, equipment costs, transport costs.
  - Encouragement of longer-term investment with appropriate monitoring and evaluation and opportunity for fast failure.
  - Removing reference to 'partner funding' but that projects involving partnerships are prioritised.
  - The current guideline regarding funding initiatives in curriculum time would be unnecessary and should be revoked.
  - Confirming the Fund for a period of no less than three years.
  - Potential inclusion of a requirement of evidence of co-planning between a school and an outside provider before funding can be approved.
  - National support (by Sport NZ) for programmes/initiatives e.g. Water Safety NZ's Water Skills for Life, or Good Sports
  - Clarity that FMS and basic skills initiatives can be funded if there is a proven need.
  - Maintaining the status quo in regard to the regional allocation, based on school roll, of funds.
  - Removing reference to and requirement for 'seed funding', 'sustainability' and 'partner funding'.
  - Clarity about how the Kiwisport RPF can or cannot be used by RSTs i.e. if funded for administration is this coming from the RPF; if they are funding a project that they are partners in (and potentially funded by Kiwisport) how is this managed.
  - Improved monitoring and evaluation of young people's initiatives to ensure they are meeting their needs, and the sharing of the results of these. Additional funding of agencies to improve and audit this monitoring and evaluation may be required.
  - Removing the requirement for RSTs to undertake a separate Kiwisport community consultation and produce a regional Kiwisport plan (this does not negate the need for RSTs to communicate with their communities about how they are going to make decisions and distribute Kiwisport funds.
  - How funding decisions are shared with communities
  - Collection of unspent monies
  - Widening the scope of organisations able to access funding.
  - Determine what information is needed annually, and consider in what volume that is needed (i.e. does each and every funded initiative need to be reported on?).
  - Define quality, or the elements of quality that should be taken in consideration in regard to sport and active recreation delivery to children, and consider how this is communicated.
  - Change reporting requirements to improve the capturing of qualitative and quantitative information, ideally alignment with the community sport investment questions (i.e. RBA accountability).
  - Include Sport NZ's own monitoring and evaluation framework for the fund with a triennial review of the Fund and Sport NZ outcomes/measures.

## RSTs and Sport NZ

- Improving communication with and between RSTs to share what and how they are each applying the purpose and principles to achieve positive outcomes in their communities (including sharing good practice and having information easily accessible).
- Sport NZ to educate and influence RSTs via regular communication about the importance of continual and wide community engagement especially with young people.
- RSTs promoting and advocating to a wider group within their region regarding the availability and purpose of the fund (including engagement with young people and organisations already working with, or representative of, targeted communities). To achieve this, RSTs, in some cases, need greater support and guidance from Sport NZ and increased funding to provide the necessary resource.
- Educating and influencing senior management at RSTs of the benefits of improved alignment of Kiwisport to other Sport NZ investments and strategies.
- Allowing greater flexibility of regional decision making, in line with overall purpose and principles, to ensure the RST can achieve many benefits with one investment.
- Sport NZ (with the support of the Ministry of Education (MoE)) to provide greater support for, and communication with, RSTs individually and collectively in regard to the education sector, the NZ Curriculum, and the levels of expectation for physical activity, and greater resource for RSTs so they can do the same for their communities.
- Encouraging more sharing of information (in particular other national funders or sport and active recreation initiatives e.g. NZTA/ACC “Cycling Education System”) and good practice between RSTs via the proposed technological solution/portal and by Sport NZ hosting a national Kiwisport forum annually.
- Funding RSTs for the management and administration of the Kiwisport RPF.
- Sport NZ and RSTs learning from and aligning with other funding organisations and the funding sector as a whole.
- Increase capacity of RSTs to increase their Kiwisport engagement with a wider group of community organisations including Active Recreation organisations and others that can provide opportunities to low-participant groups.
- Improve support for RSTs from Sport NZ in order to form truly collaborative partnerships with Māori and educate on consultation and engagement in regard to funding and investment.
- Increase Sport NZ capacity/resource to engage annually with Te Puni Kokiri in regard to their Matiki – Moving the Māori Nation Fund; other cross-government opportunities should also be explored.
- Improve Kiwisport connections and information sharing between RSTs that share geographical boundaries to allow for flexibility of funding for Māori organisations that cross over those boundaries.
- The inclusion of Kiwisport as one element of Sport NZ’s community sport investment into RSTs and therefore included as part of regular conversations between RSTs and their Sport NZ relationship managers.
- Sport NZ should report back to their community i.e. RSTs, NSOs etc. regarding impact, results and good practise (delivery, partnerships, reporting, quality).
- Nationally, Sport NZ and MoE collaborate on a Fund Framework in regard to funded initiatives working in school environments, and that this Fund Framework is reviewed regularly (utilising insights of successful and unsuccessful collaborative initiatives).
- Nationally, examples of successful collaborations between the Direct Fund and the RPF are showcased and shared.
- Regionally, increased and regular information (including examples of successful collaborations) shared between RSTs and school principals, and other education-based workforce, regarding Kiwisport (both the RPF and the Direct Fund), ideally in conjunction with regional MoE staff.

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## Enablers

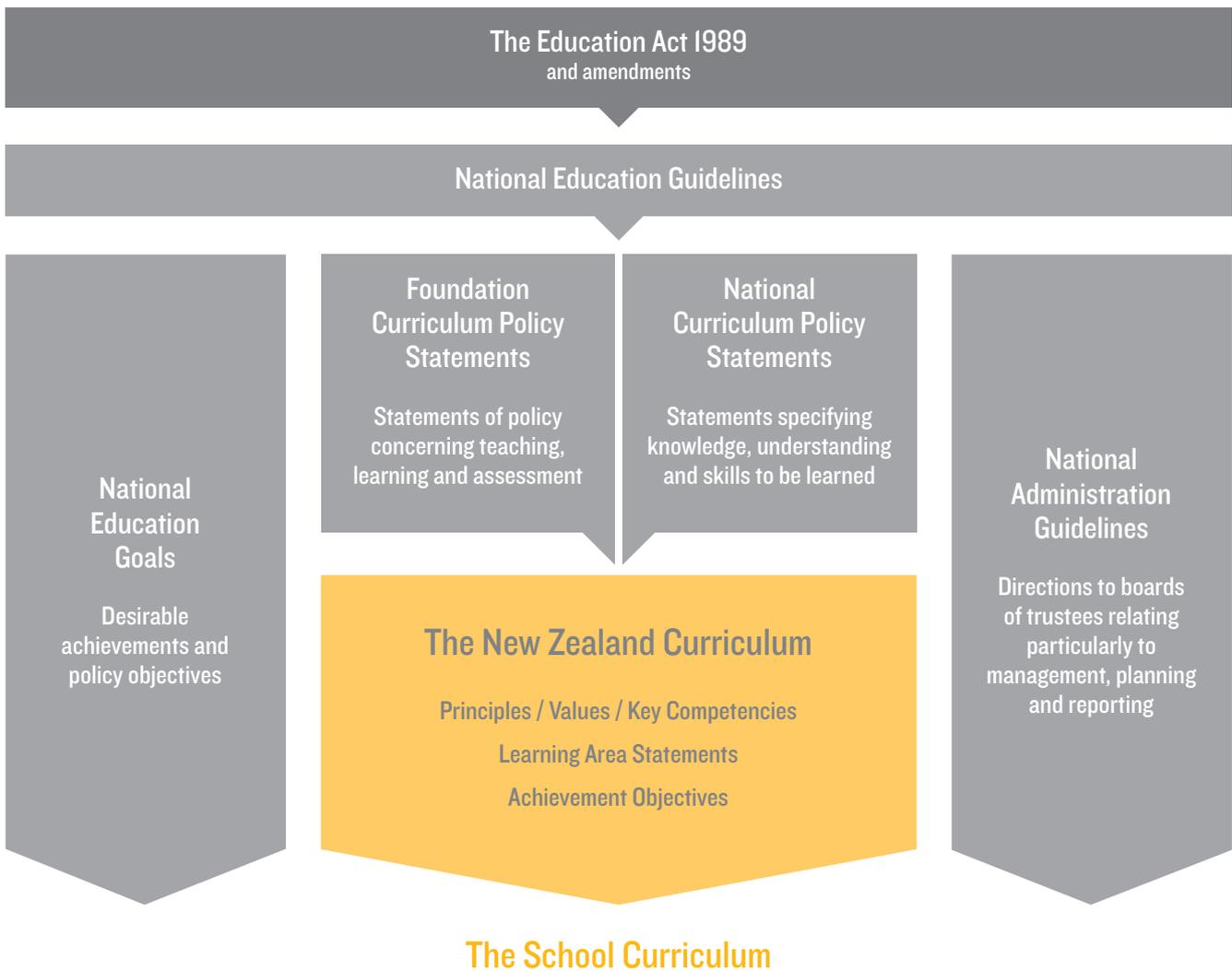
- Including whanau participation (not just the young person) in experiences and consider the development of coaches, officials and volunteers; and increasing emphasis on improved understanding amongst parents, coaches, teachers etc. of the needs of young people in regard to their participation in sport and active recreation.
- Allowing for consideration of teacher training and professional development as part of funded initiatives.
- Clarity on the ability to fund other factors that directly contribute to quality of the experience such as equipment and technology.

## Technology

- Implementing one single national technological solution/portal:
  - that allows for national consistency but regional variances as needed;
  - including the supply of templates;
  - that allows for direct reporting by funded initiatives and contributes to transparency and availability of information.

# APPENDIX THREE

## 5.3 EDUCATION LINKS TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



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### **The National Education Goals (NEGs) include NEG 5 which states:**

A broad education through a balanced curriculum covering essential learning areas. Priority should be given to the development of high levels of competence (knowledge and skills) in literacy and numeracy, science and technology and physical activity.

### **The National Administration Goals (NAGs) require each Board, through the principal and staff to:**

Give priority to regular quality physical activity that develops movement skills for all students, especially in years 1-6.

### **Within the New Zealand Curriculum, the key learning of Health and Physical Education (HPE) describes physical education as:**

The focus is on movement and its contribution to the development of individuals and communities. By learning in, through, and about movement, students gain an understanding that movement is integral to human expression and that it can contribute to people's pleasure and enhance their lives. They learn to understand, appreciate, and move their bodies, relate positively to others, and demonstrate constructive attitudes and values. This learning takes place as they engage in play, games, sport, exercise, recreation, adventure, and expressive movement in diverse physical and social environments. Physical education encourages students to engage in movement experiences that promote and support the development of physical and social skills. It fosters critical thinking and action and enables students to understand the role and significance of physical activity for individuals and society.

### **And within the HPE curriculum:**

It is expected that all students will have had opportunities to learn basic aquatics skills by the end of year 6.

### **Each school has the authority to interpret and apply the New Zealand Curriculum to their context:**

Curriculum is designed and interpreted in a three-stage process: as the national curriculum, the school curriculum, and the classroom curriculum. The national curriculum provides the framework and common direction for schools, regardless of type, size, or location. It gives schools the scope, flexibility, and authority they need to design and shape their curriculum so that teaching and learning is meaningful and beneficial to their particular communities of students. In turn, the design of each school's curriculum should allow teachers the scope to make interpretations in response to the particular needs, interests, and talents of individuals and groups of students in their classes.



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