

# KIWISPORT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND REVIEW

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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MARCH 2019



# ESTABLISHED IN 2009, KIWISPORT IS A GOVERNMENT FUNDED INITIATIVE THAT AIMS TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (5-18) TO TAKE PART IN ORGANISED SPORT.

Kiwisport has two components:

- The Direct Fund - \$13.17m provided to all schools annually from the Ministry of Education via operational grant funding.
- The Regional Partnership Fund (RPF) - \$8.49m distributed annually by Sport NZ via Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) to increase opportunities for school-aged children (5-18) to participate in organised sport.

In 2018 Sport NZ led a review of the Kiwisport RPF.

The purpose of the Review was to:

1. Determine whether the objectives remained fit for purpose in light of current Sport NZ strategy
2. Look at whether the RPF aligns with the aims of Sport NZ's Young People Plan
3. Inform Sport NZ strategic investment decisions from July 2020

Tracey Diack (ex GM, Sport Wellington) led the Review, working alongside an internal Sport NZ project team and an external reference group. The external reference group was comprised of representatives with diverse interests from different parts of the sport, recreation and education sectors. They contributed to strategic thinking, understanding of potential impact on their respective sectors, recommendations and the risks associated with any change in the RPF.

Significant sector and community consultation was undertaken, which included 600 people from 400 organisations covering 44 different sports. More than 20 different types of organisation including NSOs, RSOs, clubs, primary, secondary, tertiary, venues, TAs, health, recreation, private providers, RSTs and Charitable Trusts were consulted.

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

### 1.

#### DETERMINE WHETHER THE OBJECTIVES REMAINED FIT FOR PURPOSE IN LIGHT OF CURRENT SPORT NZ STRATEGY

The Kiwisport RPF objectives are:

- To increase the number of school-aged children participating in organised sport
- To increase the availability and accessibility of sport opportunities for all school-aged children
- To support children in developing skills that will enable them to participate effectively in sport at both primary and secondary level.

The Review findings articulate that, in more recent years, the distribution of the Kiwisport RPF has deviated from the original objectives; and is now also less aligned to Sport NZ's strategies and plans.

Whilst communities still value young people's participation in organised sport, there is a strong belief that the objectives of the RPF should be reset to focus on: higher quality provision, less focus on 'organised sport' as it's currently defined, widening the focus from schools and clubs to whole community offering, prioritising certain groups in order to address societal inequities, better evaluation, and including influencers such as whānau and coaches within initiatives.

# 2.

## TO LOOK AT WHETHER THE KIWISPORT RPF ALIGNS WITH THE AIMS OF SPORT NZ'S YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

The Sport NZ Young People Plan (YPP) 2016-20 outlines six critical success factors in ensuring young people receive quality opportunities, experiences and support.

Overall, the Kiwisport Review found the RPF contributes positively to the critical success factors of the YPP but is not as aligned as it could be. Some definitions, lack of support and influence from Sport NZ, and limited resources allocated by some RSTs, has meant that the RPF has not contributed as much as it could to the critical success factors.

Key feedback relating to the critical success factors of the YPP and how they align with the Kiwisport RPF are as follows:

### Young people are physically literate

Kiwisport was introduced before Sport NZ implemented its Physical Literacy Approach and therefore the objectives of the RPF do not align well. Almost all RSTs agreed that it is important for the RPF to align with the Physical Literacy Approach, and many thought the word 'quality' should be included, to encompass the approach.

### Young people's experiences are high quality, stage-appropriate and fun

The word 'quality' is currently missing from RPF objectives, as are 'stage appropriate' and 'fun'. There is a lack of consistency across the country in promoting and checking quality standards and impact.

### Young people are positively influenced, encouraged and supported

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 the RPF helps partners achieve this critical success factor but the RPF could definitely contribute if the scope was widened to include influences such as whānau, coaches etc..

### Young people can access quality opportunities

When, in 2015, Sport NZ introduced a new expectation that RSTs focus on engaging low-participating communities and females aged 10-18yrs, this aligned better with current strategy.

### Young people can participate and compete to the level of their aspiration

The RPF objectives and Sport NZ advice has emphasised new and more opportunities rather than the provision of funding for long-term engagement and higher-level competition. RSTs consider that this critical success factor should not be a priority for Kiwisport from 2020 onwards, and that participation in quality experiences and 'having-a-go' should be the focus.

### Young people are empowered to shape their community sport experience

There is evidence that RSTs undertook significant consultation including young people when preparing their Kiwisport plans 2015-18. Some RSTs have a requirement for fund recipients to show evidence of child/youth consultation and measures of success, but this is not consistent across the country.

# 3.

## TO INFORM SPORT NZ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT DECISIONS FROM JULY 2020

In order to more effectively invest the RPF, Sport NZ needed to understand and investigate the areas for improved alignment and utilisation.

The following is a summary of areas to be considered in the lead up to 2020 investment decisions:

The Review found that RPF funding has had a positive impact on increasing young people's opportunities and participation in organised sport, and in such activities that build life skills.

However, the consultation raised common themes including: quality should be more important than 'numbers', delivery should be wider than 'organised sport', better consideration of the needs of young people and all the factors influencing their ability to participate and 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. There was agreement across the country that the needs of young people should be more strongly at the forefront of decisions regarding the RPF's distribution, the development of initiatives, and the monitoring and evaluation of those initiatives. These needs may be different in each region.

There is a role for Sport NZ to provide greater strategic leadership in regards to the utilisation, distribution and support for both the fund and the RSTs through whom the RPF is channelled, as well as improvement of monitoring and evaluation.

RSTs believe they would be able to have more impact from the RPF if there was greater resource available to them. 65% of RSTs consulted specifically said they would like to see a change to the RPF to include an administration/management fee for each RST.

RSTs, NSOs and Sport NZ staff were supportive of greater targeting of funds to low or declining participant groups or to communities with higher levels of deprivation. The wider community organisations consulted were divided with greater support for this approach coming from the education sector.

## OTHER FINDINGS

The name and value of the RPF were regularly raised by communities and RSTs during the consultation. Support for a name change was widespread with many suggesting that a new name for the RPF would help regenerate its profile and offer an opportunity for a more relevant title.

An increase in the fund's value was raised commonly by the community and RSTs. Unlike the Ministry of Education Direct Fund, which has increased each year by CPI, the Kiwisport RPF has remained at the same level, meaning a significant decrease in real terms over the last nine years.

## NEXT STEPS

Sport NZ is currently considering the findings of the report, including the recommendations, which are helping inform Sport NZ's investment framework, to be in place from July 2020.

Sport NZ will continue to have conversations with Ministry of Education, as the Direct Fund holders.

Sport NZ will be communicating regularly with the sector in coming months with regard to this.

Sport NZ is currently considering the findings of the report, including the recommendations, which are helping inform Sport NZ's investment framework. This will be released to the sector mid 2019 with any changes to be in place from July 2020.

If you have any questions about the review, this report, the consultation process, or need further information please contact Fran McEwen -Young People Strategy Lead at Sport NZ – [fran.mcewen@sportnz.org.nz](mailto:fran.mcewen@sportnz.org.nz)



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