

National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy

2023



SPORT
NEW ZEALAND
IHI AOTEAROA

GLG *Innovate
Initiate
Activate*

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Acknowledgements

Dave Stewart
Auckland Council

Glenn McGovern
Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

Jo Wiggins
Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

Zanta Jones
Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

Josh Port
Northland Basketball

Mary Gardiner
Netball Northern Zone

Pippa Sommerville
Auckland Council

Sally Sheedy
Waipa District Council

Simon Tattersfield
Aktive

Tina Harris-Ririnui
Bay Venues

Tracy Prince-Puketapu
Recreation Aotearoa

Authors

Richard Hutchinson, David Allan
and Brendon Rope

Contact:
Global Leisure Group Limited
PO Box 2147
Stoke, Nelson

Email: Davea@glg.nz

Disclaimer

In preparing this strategy it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions on the basis of the information supplied to Global Leisure Group Limited in the course of investigations for this strategy. The recommended actions contained in this strategy are subject to uncertainty and variation depending on evolving events but have been conscientiously prepared based on consultation feedback and an understanding of trends in facility provision.

The authors did not carry out an audit or verification of the information supplied during the preparation of this strategy, unless otherwise stated in the strategy. Whilst due care was taken during enquiries, Global Leisure Group Limited does not take any responsibility for any errors nor mis-statements in the strategy arising from information supplied to the authors during the preparation of this strategy.

GST

All dollar amounts in report are GST exclusive unless otherwise stated.

Contents

1	Foreword.....	3	9	Potential Solutions to Meet Demand	33
2	Executive Summary	4	10	Strategic Approach	
2.1	Introduction	4		- Where Do We Want To Be?	34
2.2	Current situation	4	10.1	Grow authentic relationships and work in partnership with mana whenua	34
2.3	Future considerations	4	10.2	Using what we already have	34
2.4	This document	4	10.3	Shifting the demand (right size, right location, right mix)	35
2.5	Why facility planning is important.....	5	10.4	Sustainable development	35
2.6	Updated guidance.....	5	10.5	Participant centred approach.....	35
2.7	Key concepts	5	10.6	Co-design with key user groups and stakeholders.....	35
2.8	FTE shortfall	5	11	Key Shifts - How We Get There	36
2.9	Regional and national facilities	5	11.1	A network approach	36
2.10	Where do we want to be?.....	6	11.2	Partnering and collaboration	36
2.11	Key shifts - how we get there.....	6	11.3	Focus on local planning	36
2.12	Conclusion.....	6	11.4	Apply the guiding planning principles to network and project planning and delivery	36
3	Introduction.....	7	11.5	Improved management approaches	36
3.1	Scope	7	11.6	Continued improvement in planning and facility audit data	36
3.2	Why is this strategy needed?	8	12	Conclusions	37
3.3	Why invest in indoor and outdoor covered active recreation and sport facilities	9			
3.4	Active recreation and sport facility planning	10			
4	Trends: Looking to the Future.....	11			
4.1	A changing population	11			
4.2	Changing participation.....	12			
4.3	Trend implications	14			
5	Guiding Principles for this Strategy	16			
6	Case Studies	17			
7	Aotearoa New Zealand's Current Active Recreation and Sport Provision	19			
7.1	National active recreation and sport provision metrics.....	19			
8	Overall Active Recreation and Indoor Court Demand.....	26			
8.1	Active recreation and indoor court demand	26			
8.2	Difference between the 2013 demand calculations	26			
8.3	Indicators to support regional and local analysis	26			
8.4	Active recreation and sport provision surplus/shortfall (regional analysis 2023)	28			
8.5	Regional active recreation and sport supply v demand (2038).....	29			
8.6	Regional imbalance overview	30			

List of Tables

Table 1	Demographic trends	11
Table 2	Sport participation (Active NZ – participated in past 7 days).....	13
Table 3	Sport in schools	13
Table 4	FTE assumption based on court type	20
Table 5	Service requirement description of indoor space purpose/type – local level	22
Table 6	Additional service requirement description of indoor space purpose/type – sub-regional level.....	22
Table 7	Additional service requirement description of indoor space purpose/type – regional level	22
Table 8	Active recreation and sport court provision (regional analysis 2023).....	23
Table 9	Active recreation and sport provision surplus/shortfall (regional analysis 2023)	28
Table 10	Active recreation and sport provision surplus/shortfall (regional analysis 2038)	29
Table 11	Summary of supply of NSO organised indoor events and indoor venue supply.....	31

List of Figures

Figure 1	Social return on investment.....	9
Figure 2	Community activity based on the motivations of the participant	12
Figure 3	Participation in competitive and non-competitive sports and activities (young people).....	12
Figure 4	Participation in competitive and non-competitive sports and activities (adults).....	12
Figure 5	Indoor facility design drivers	21

1. Foreword

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa (Sport NZ) aims to inspire New Zealanders to develop a lifelong love of play, active recreation, and sport. Above all, we want to see 'Every Body Active' and having access to a great network of community, school, and privately run indoor recreation and sport facilities gives people the opportunity to be active, get fit, play sport socially or competitively, meet people, and have fun.

We have opportunities to improve the accessibility, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability, and the fit-for purpose nature of our aging facilities across the country, whilst recognising we are operating in a tight fiscal environment, especially for local government and other providers and funders of indoor recreation and sport facilities.

The 2023 National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy represents a significant step forward in providing guidance for planning and investing in indoor and outdoor covered court facilities across Aotearoa New Zealand. We want to see facilities that are appropriately scaled and best located to meet the needs of all stakeholders and participants. There is also a deliberate need for collaboration and partnership in the way forward to make the most of the opportunities we may have to improve and expand our indoor and outdoor covered facility network.

Sport NZ contracted Global Leisure Group (GLG) to develop the 2023 National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy, building off the previous strategy developed in 2013. I would like to acknowledge and thank them and the Project Steering Group who have provided invaluable support and expert reference for GLG in preparing this strategy.

Glenn McGovern

Manager Spaces and Places, Sport NZ

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Introduction

Indoor active recreation and sport facilities perform a critical role in our communities by providing safe and fun environments to participate in a range of activities to improve individual and community wellbeing.

Whilst indoor active recreation and sport facility provision is a significant financial commitment, recent Sport NZ research has determined that overall sport and physical activity provides \$2.12 of social return for every \$1 spent and indoor facilities contributes to this.

This strategy sets the direction of change to inform investment into our indoor active recreation and sport facility network. It provides guidance on how to transition and transform our current network to best meet community needs.

The strategy has been informed by an analysis of indoor court supply and demand and research. Insights have been provided by a wide spectrum of the indoor recreation and sport sector stakeholders from Territorial Authorities (TAs), National Sports Organisations (NSOs) - traditional and emerging, Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs), facility operators, the Ministry of Education (MoE), and others.

2.2 Current situation

The indoor active recreation and sport sector is facing ever increasing pressures:

- maintaining an existing and aging network of indoor facilities
- meeting increasing demand from a growing, diversifying and aging population
- adapting to the changing needs within the community
- the escalating cost of provision, both capital and operational
- adapting to climatic change and improving environmental sustainability.

In 2023 there were a total of 1,157 indoor courts in Aotearoa New Zealand, of which 590 are school courts. The network of facilities is aging with 68% of courts over 25 years old and 33% over 50 years old.

There has been an evident change in the past 10 years in what active recreation and sport activities people engage in and how they are physically active - with growth in more casually and socially based play, recreation and sport.

A critical factor is meeting latent demand. In some parts of the country the provision of facilities has not met the increase in population growth and the demand for indoor active recreation and sport participation. This is especially acute in the Auckland region where the population has increased by 21% between 2013 and 2023, however, only a few additional indoor facilities have been developed.

2.3 Future considerations

The planning period for this strategy is 15 years to 2038. In that time in Aotearoa New Zealand:

- The resident population is projected to grow from 5,127,900 in 2022 to 5,876,400.
- The 65+ years age group is projected to keep increasing and to reach 22% of the population.
- The population of tamariki (age 5 to 12 years old) and rangatahi (age 12 to 17 years old) is projected to remain unchanged.
- Growing ethnic diversity is projected within our population overall.
- If the 24% of the population that identified as disabled in 2013 remains constant, then the numbers of disabled people will increase consistent with population growth.

These influences will drive a shift to cater more to the aging population, disabled people, Māori and those of Asian ethnicity in particular.

Changing weather patterns are likely to continue with more rain and intense heat, driving demand for more activity to be indoors or under cover.

2.4 This document

The goal of this strategy and supporting document is to inform the organisations that contribute to the network of indoor active recreation and sport facilities (TAs, educational institutes, and others) with the following information to help them to make good decisions on what is required and where it is needed.

- What indoor facilities are currently available and where they are.
- What needs the current indoor facilities fulfil.
- What the current indoor facility needs of our communities are.
- How the current indoor facility needs will track in the near future - out to 2038.
- Who to involve in the process.
- Insights on quality facility planning practice.

2.5 Why facility planning is important

Quality facility planning is vital because the investment in building, maintaining and supporting indoor facilities should represent the best use of resources to satisfy the needs of the communities they serve. The indoor facilities that are built are fit for the purpose for their intended uses.

2.6 Updated guidance

This strategy provides updated guidance to assist in the development of a network of indoor active recreation and sport facilities that are:

- appropriately scaled
- financially and environmentally more sustainable
- universally accessible
- best located to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

2.7 Key concepts

This document looks at two major concepts in analysing requirements and uses indoor sports courts to analyse supply.

1. **Court availability** is measured as a full time equivalent (FTE). Not all full size or three-quarter indoor courts are available to communities to use. For example, a facility which is fully available for community activity or access during early morning to late evening opening hours is assessed as 1 FTE, whereas a facility that was developed primarily for education purposes and has limited community access available is assessed as 0.5 FTE.
2. **All indoor courts:** School gymnasiums, outdoor covered courts (regardless of sport code compliance) are considered as an indoor court, suitable for active recreation and sport. The recommended minimum size for new build single court or converted community court for active recreation and community sport is 34.5m x 18.25m x 7.5m (court area and run off only). If the need is only for active recreation and local community sport consideration could be given to providing undersized courts with lower ceilings. Sport code compliant indoor courts are required for premier senior leagues, regional, national and international competition only.

2.8 FTE shortfall

Nationally, to meet demand, the total number of FTE courts available for community access would need to increase by 20% by 2038:

In 2023 we had 602 FTE courts

In 2038 we require 720 FTE courts

There are regional variances with some regions needing to increase their available space by as much as 78%. The notable current shortages are in the Auckland (73 courts), Waikato (15 courts) and Bay of Plenty (13 courts) regions. Planning must begin now, or some regions will be even less able to meet the demand for indoor active recreation and sport facilities.

2.9 Regional and national facilities

There are sufficient regional level and above competition facilities for the supply of events.

However, securing access for the full calendar of events is a challenge for some sports codes. By applying management solutions, prioritising community access to suitable facilities and ensuring that they are affordable for sports codes, would mean no additional regional, national or international event facilities are required.



2.10 Where do we want to be?

Better planning of facilities means more robust decision-making about investment into fit-for-purpose facilities, best use of finite resources, operational efficiencies, and ultimately enhanced wellbeing through increased participation in indoor play, active recreation and sport activities. We need to transition to:

- growing authentic relationships and working in partnership with mana whenua
- using/adapting what indoor facilities we already have, looking to the school network and private (existing buildings like commercial/warehouses) to assist provision particularly at the local level
- more environmentally sustainable development and operations
- a participant-centred approach and co-designing facilities with key user groups, stakeholders, and operators (including the recreational and/or non-user)
- avoiding pitfalls of underfunding, design concepts and incorrect specifications that lead to facilities not being fit for their intended purposes.

2.11 Key shifts - how we get there

- a. Take a network approach to detailed regional/local analysis using the current supply and demand indicators to provide a minimum of one active sport and recreation court space per 7,800 population. Specific geographic and climatic conditions are a key local issue to address any imbalances in provision.
- b. Develop partnerships or collaborate with other providers to increase access to indoor facilities with capacity for more community use, or open up access to suitable facilities with no current community access.
- c. Focus indoor active recreation and sport facility planning on meeting the local community need and access to existing provision first, before redeveloping or building new indoor facilities. There is no identified need for additional national or international indoor sport events facilities.
- d. Apply the New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework guiding planning principles when undertaking indoor active recreation and sport network or project planning of:
 - a Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed approach
 - meeting an identified need
 - inclusive and accessible
 - co-design
 - partnering/collaboration
 - environmental and financial sustainability
 - connected and future proofed facilities.

- e. Consider having Sport NZ or Recreation Aotearoa conduct a peer review of the planning outcomes.
- f. Improve management approaches to maximise the use of existing facilities.
- g. Continue to improve planning and facility audit data:
 - identifying community access levels
 - expand the facility audit data to capture a wider range of indoor recreation and sport spaces
 - monitor and record activity participation levels and demand.

2.12 Conclusion

The investment required to build new indoor active recreation and sport spaces in some regions across the country is significant. With TAs coming under increasing financial constraints a more flexible/lateral approach is required. We have a large network of indoor spaces in our communities, districts, cities and regions, and these are mostly located at schools. If we can increase the availability of suitable school courts and explore more cost-effective ways of providing spaces such as covered outdoor courts or converted buildings, we could reduce the shortfall to meet demand cost effectively.

The priority and focus over the 15 years this strategy covers will be on increasing the supply at the community level through facilities that are more participant centred, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, affordable, and, critically, more accessible for play, active recreation and community sport.

3. Introduction

Having access to a network of community, school, and privately run indoor recreation and sport facilities gives people the opportunity to be active, get fit, play sport socially or competitively, meet people, and have fun. This leads to wider social, health and well-being benefits.

This strategy sets the direction of change to inform investment into our indoor active recreation and sport facility network. It provides guidance on what is required to transition and transform our current infrastructure to best meet community need.

Through detailed data analysis and demand modelling using a range of validated data sources, a demand benchmark is established that identifies the number of indoor courts against the population as the starting point for determining provision levels.

With the current indoor court space state (2023) known and demand profile determined, future planning decisions can be made on how the network should evolve to meet the demand of our diverse communities.

Whilst much progress has been made to make better decisions on investing in indoor active recreation and sport facilities over the past ten years by better upfront planning and demonstrating evidence of need, further guidance is required to ensure the network can address current and future challenges and respond to emerging trends.

This document is not a complete facility network plan for the country. Regional and city/district planning is still required with this strategy providing the guidance for those completing the localised planning.

This version of the strategy and supporting document takes a step forward in addressing the need for up-to-date guidance.

3.1 Scope

The first National Indoor Sports Facility Strategy was developed in 2013 and was recognised as a single point of reference for indoor court facility planning in Aotearoa New Zealand. This strategy builds on the 2013 strategy, to consider play and active recreation activities as well as sport at all levels when looking at participation and demand for access to different types of indoor facilities and covered outdoor areas. It has analysed the network of active recreation and sport indoor facilities including council, school, tertiary, community, commercial and sport code facilities.

While the scope has widened it does **exclude** bespoke, standalone community or commercial facilities such as gymsports facilities, indoor cricket training facilities, boxing gyms, squash courts, climbing centres, fitness gyms, martial arts and dance studios. Also excluded are outdoor uncovered courts/half courts and smaller multi-purpose facilities such as community and school halls, community centres and sport club social areas.

Analysis has centred on indoor court provision as the basis for analysing supply. We recognise there is a vast array of other facilities offering play and active recreation opportunities indoors and under outdoor covered structures and most indoor court facilities and stadia have other spaces that are used for a variety of play, recreation, fitness and wider community activity. The available data on these facilities is incomplete and inconsistent across the country at this point in time to reliably analyse this broader supply.



3.2 Why is this strategy needed?

The active recreation and sport sector is facing ever increasing challenges in maintaining existing provision and meeting population growth generated demand and the changing activity preferences within the community. There has been an evident change in the past 10 years in what people do and how they are physically active. It has seen the range of activity grow and the growth of more casually and socially based play, active recreation and sport and a decline in competitive sport overall. Climate impacts are increasing the desire to moving more activities indoors or under cover.

It is more important than ever with the challenges the sector is facing that there is updated guidance to assist developing a network of active recreation and sport facilities that are appropriately scaled, financially and environmentally sustainable, universally accessible and best located to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

A strategy is crucial to ensure we prioritise future investment to maximise the wellbeing, play, recreational and sport value from indoor and outdoor covered facilities to meet the greatest areas of need.

Challenge

The indoor active recreation and sport facility provision challenges Aotearoa New Zealand is facing are:

Growing population

As populations grow and change, there is generally increasing demand for indoor and covered recreation and sport provision for a wider breadth of activities, particularly in urban centres and new settlements.

Latent demand

In some parts of the country there is significant latent demand where provision of facilities has not met the increase in population growth and demand for indoor participation. This is especially acute in the Auckland region. Since 2013 the population has increased by 21%, however, only a few additional indoor facilities have been developed.

Aging and outdated network

Many indoor recreation and sport facilities are aging. Details of year built is limited in the Sport NZ Facilities Planning Tool (FPT) however of those that provide details 50% are over 40 years old. Many facilities in the network are not truly accessible or inclusive or meet the varied indoor play, active recreation or sport needs of their community. Many have less-than-ideal sustainability measures in place, are poorly maintained and limited or outdated use of technology.

Cost of provision (capital and operational)

Building new indoor active recreation and sport facilities is expensive and recovering operating costs is also increasingly challenging.

TAs and MoE as main providers of indoor court facilities are coming under increasing financial constraints, limiting investment.

Cost of access

The increasing cost of provision is flowing on to effect to the user, limiting the active recreation and sport opportunities for an increasing proportion of the population.

Increasing expectations

Increased expectation from sporting codes on the size of a facility and its specifications/amenities to meet sport code requirements can increase capital and operating cost. However, highly specified facilities are not required for provision of community level recreation and sport participation.

Access to appropriate facilities

Many sports codes find it challenging to secure access to event centres for regional competition due to management policies and cost recovery drivers.

New and emerging activities often identify difficulty in securing access to appropriate facilities as more established sports occupy the space available.

Impact of weather events and climate changes

Weather events are threatening the viability of poorly located and designed facilities. There is a drive to have more activities catered for under shelter (indoor or under cover) from rain, sun and heat as climatic conditions change and to ensure continuity of, for example, sports competitions.

The push for greater environmental sustainability

Climate change and new building regulations mean there is a greater emphasis on reducing carbon emissions (embodied and operational) and greenhouse gases. There is increasing need to look at optimising and reusing first before redeveloping or building new facilities.

Approaches are required to ensure the efficient use of resources to improve environmental sustainability while also leading to long term cost savings.

Lack of cohesion in planning

Many indoor facilities have been developed by a specific interest group or code, while elsewhere there are identified needs but limited local capability or resources to successfully progress much needed projects. This development of facilities, without consideration of the wider network, can result in gaps in provision.

While the majority of projects can be community initiated, those that progress and are ultimately successful have a strong project lead with the council taking a lead role to support and enable delivery.

3.2.1 Impact of better planning

Better planning for active recreation and sport facilities has a wide-ranging impact on resource efficiency, operational effectiveness and ultimately supporting active, happier, healthier communities whose wellbeing is enhanced by participation in indoor activities.

What it could look like if we don't plan effectively:

Not enough multi-use indoor sport and active recreation provision.



What it could look like if we get it right:

An optimised, complementary and responsive network of active recreation and sport facilities meeting the community needs that are located within 80% of the catchment population's travel time expectation.

Too much of the same types of facilities, that are underutilised and expensive to operate because they serve the needs of decreasing traditional users and not responsive to community needs.



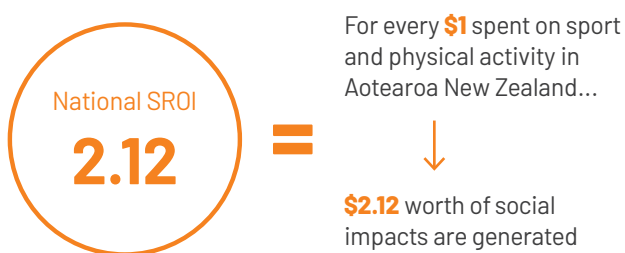
More sustainable, safe, well-used, fit-for-purpose facilities in the right location, operating efficiently, and taking account of whole of life impact on communities and the environment (taiao).

3.3 Why invest in indoor and outdoor covered active recreation and sport facilities

The central government adoption of a wellbeing approach has had very significant implications for the play, active recreation, and sport sector. Active recreation and sport facilities are wellness facilities – a crucial generator of wellbeing for local communities. Sport NZ estimates that overall for every \$1 spent on sport and physical activity \$2.12 of social return is generated and indoor facilities contributes to this.

Figure 1 – Social return on investment

Recreational physical activity generates significant value for society.



Investment in appropriate facilities in the right locations will enable improved physical activity levels and improve the quality of the participant experience which in turn will increase utilisation and income. This will deliver benefits to local communities¹:

- increased social connectedness
- improved health and social wellbeing
- increased cultural identity/ūkaipōtanga
- improved environmental quality
- improved financial sustainability of facilities.

Active recreation and sport make a particularly significant contribution to Māori wellbeing through strengthening intergenerational relationships and reinforcing cultural values, beliefs, social norms, and knowledge.

Added to the positive social outcomes, indoor active recreation and sport facilities contribute to the economy through employment of the workforce and purchasing of goods and services from ancillary industries to support the operations of facilities.

In 2017 research showed that the economic value of the wider sport and recreation sector is estimated at \$4.9 billion per annum, which equates to a 2.3% contribution to our GDP.

In most cases indoor recreation and sports facilities are not built as financial investments. It is common, for example, for council-owned facilities in New Zealand to operate at a financial loss with an operational contribution including programming grants. Therefore, **the return on investment for most facilities is not driven by financial returns, but on wellbeing returns.**

While the social and economic return on investment for sport and recreation is clear, a challenge facing local government investment decisions is that many of the benefits achieved flow onto central government in areas such as improved health outcomes.

For further information see the [supporting document](#).

¹ Sport New Zealand Outcomes Framework

3.4 Active recreation and sport facility planning

Changes in the planning approach since 2013

Since 2013 there has been a range of changes in the sector that are reinforced in this 2023 strategy. These include:

Improved facility information – supply

The FPT now holds significantly more facilities and improved level of information on each facility.

Layered levels of planning

Regional spaces and places or indoor active recreation and sport facility plans have become more common, which then in turn guide the city/district plans. There is also greater understanding of the value the user or potential user can add to the planning process.

Increased desire for improved planning guidance

Stakeholders wish to ensure appropriate investment decisions are made to avoid duplication and to meet the identified demand as established through good planning practice.

Evidence-based approach to prove need

Much more focus has been put on providing evidence to underpin the identified need. This has become more important as the cost of development and provision continues to increase, and available funding has reduced.

Diversity and inclusion

Increased awareness of community needs, and wider understanding of marginalised communities has raised the need for more inclusive facility design and operational practices.

Environmental sustainability

The environmental effects of the construction and operation of facilities is better understood leading to a shift in design and operations to reduce environmental impacts.



4. Trends: Looking to the Future

4.1 A changing population

The resident population in Aotearoa New Zealand is projected to continue to grow. This growth will drive additional demand, although of a differing nature.

4.1.1 Demographic trends

Table 1 – Demographic trends

	2013	2022	2038 forecast
NZ Total Population	4,442,100 ²	5,127,900	5,876,400
Rangatahi and Tamariki ³	846,190 ⁴ (19.0%)	915,840 (17.8%)	813,060 (13.8%)
Aged 65+	626,000 ⁵ (14.1%)	868,700 (16.9%)	1,302,000 (22.2%)
European or Other (including New Zealander)	75%	69%	65%
Māori	14%	17%	20%
Asian	9%	18%	24%
Pacific	9%	9%	10%

The most recent published statistics from the Statistics New Zealand 2013 Disability Survey⁶ identified that 1.1 million people identified as disabled (24%).

The most significant change since the last National Indoor Sports Facility Strategy in 2013 is the increase in the over 65 years old age group and increasing ethnic diversity. The 65+ years age group is projected to keep increasing over the 15-year period of this strategy as is the growing ethnic diversity within our population overall. This will drive a shift to cater more specifically to the aging population, Māori and those of Asian ethnicity in particular.



Age profile considerations

Older adults may increase demand for gyms, workout and group exercise, yoga and pilates spaces. The 2001 Census found 1 in 8 residents was 65+, in 2022 it was estimated at 1 in 6, and it is projected by 2028 to be 1 in 5. In some areas of the country, over the next 20–30 years, this will approach 1 in 3.

Young people are the highest participants in indoor sport activity. From 2023 to 2038 the number of young people will remain at a similar level.

Ethnic diversity considerations

Badminton NZ has seen increased diversity in the population driving demand for scarce court space. Chinese, Malaysian, Indian, Sri Lankan, Korean, Filipino, and Nepalese community groups, who have a tradition of playing badminton, are all striving to find courts for people to play badminton.

“This has changed what a badminton club looks like in New Zealand, which is exciting to see but has created challenges around providing enough opportunities to play.”

² NZ Statistics Estimated Resident Population 2013

³ Tamariki are aged between 5 and 11 years old, Rangitahi are aged between 12 and 17

⁴ NZ Statistics Estimated Resident Population 2013

⁵ NZ Statistics Estimated Resident Population 2013

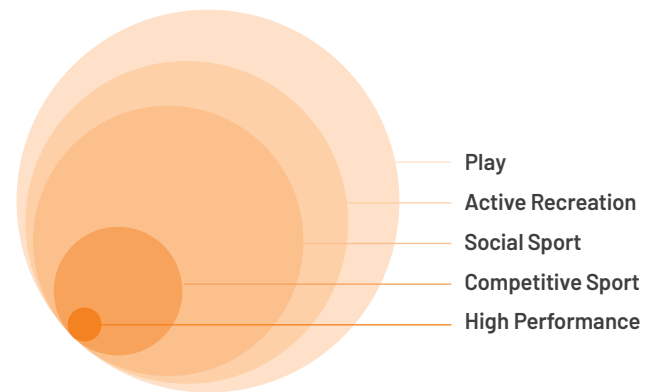
⁶ Results of the Statistics New Zealand 2023 Disability Survey were not available at the time of writing this strategy

4.2 Changing participation

Research⁷ tells us there has been a significant growth in active recreation type activity and a shift away from traditional competitive sport.

Figure 2 presents the nature of the motivations to participate in physical recreation and sport activities. The boundaries in the chart are not strictly defined with each of the activity areas merging into the next depending on the motivations and the participants involved. Increasingly there is a mismatch of what the participant wants versus the traditional offering from club-based sport, which has driven the design of many of our indoor facilities across Aotearoa New Zealand in the past.

Figure 2: Community activity based on the motivations of the participant



These changing participation trends are highlighted through the Active NZ survey data that indicates the different participation in competitive and non-competitive sports and activities. In 2022, over 60% of all participants were involved in non-competitive activities only.

Figure 3: Young People - Participation in competitive and non-competitive sports and activities in the last seven days

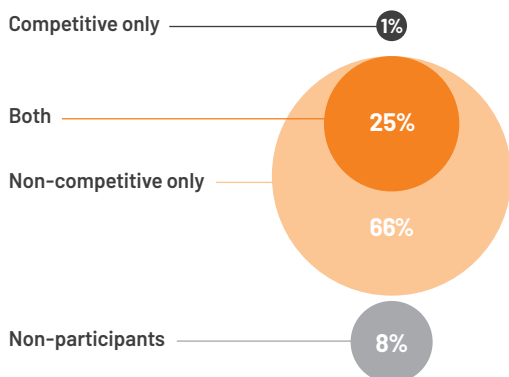
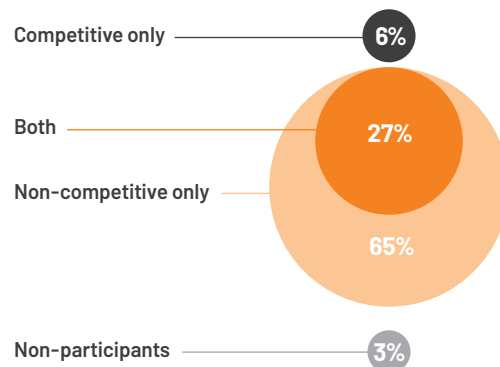


Figure 4: Adults - Participation in competitive and non-competitive sports and activities in the last twelve months



While the way in which we participate in sport and recreation is changing, it is important to recognise that sport is the cornerstone user of our facilities and includes high performance sport, organised leagues and competition, social and modified sport. The traditional structures and demand for sport remain strong; what is changing is the balance between competitive sport and social sport and the growth of casual and modified activities.

⁷ Sport NZ Futures Thinking <https://sportnz.org.nz/futures-thinking/ensuring-the-sector-is-fit-for-the-future/>

4.2.1 Sport participation trends

The Sport NZ Active NZ Survey provides a high-level indication of indoor sport activity trends. The six years prior to this strategy indicate that it is difficult to identify a clear trend for both adults and young people with activity levels remaining at a similar level within the population.

Table 2 – Sport participation (Active NZ – participated in past 7 days)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Basketball	Adult	9%	9%	9%	Data unavailable due to the Covid-19 disruption	8%	7%
	Young People	36%	35%	33%		29%	30%
Badminton	Adult	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%		0.9%	1.0%
	Young People	4.1%	3.1%	3.6%		2.6%	3.8%
Volleyball	Adult	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%		0.8%	0.6%
	Young People	3.4%	2.8%	3.7%		5.4%	3.8%
Table Tennis	Adult	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%		1.6%	0.6%
	Young People	3.6%	3.4%	3.7%		3.4%	2.4%
Netball	Adult	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%		1.4%	1.4%
	Young People	11.3%	10.1%	10.5%		9.2%	8.4%
Handball	Adult	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a
	Young People	5.4%	4.6%	4.7%		4.4%	3.2%

4.2.2 School sport

School sport data sourced from the FPT however indicates an increasing participation trend in several indoor sporting activities.

Table 3 – Sport in schools

Insights data (Sport in Schools – % involve in most recent year)	2006	2014	2022
Basketball	6.8%	7.6%	8.9%
Badminton	3.1%	3.6%	3.6%
Volleyball	4.7%	6.4%	8.4%
Futsal	n/a	1.6%	2.1%
Table Tennis	0.9%	1.2%	0.8%
Indoor Netball	0.5%	0.4%	9.1%

4.2.3 Latent demand

There are many factors that need to be considered when analysing the population and participation changes to give an indication of latent demand for activities within a community.

Indicators of potential latent demand include:

- current facilities operating at or near capacity at peak times, constraining access
- participation levels remain at similar levels despite high levels of population growth
- higher levels of participation in school sport not reflected in the community
- new or emerging activities/codes unable to secure access to facilities
- venue bookings/programming based on historical patterns which do not reflect current demographics (for example, aging and diversifying population) or participation preferences.

There are indications of significant latent demand within the Auckland region. Between 2013 and 2023 the population of the Auckland region has increased by approximately 21%. Over the same period, the number of courts has only increased from 146 (community and schools courts) to 151 FTE courts and many school facilities still do not offer community access or only limited access. The 2013 strategy indicated that 24 additional courts were required to meet the demand at that time. This suggested that there was latent demand in 2013, it is considered that this has increased significantly over the last 10 years. This was reinforced by the Auckland Indoor Court Plan (2019).

Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, Wellington

The Ākau Tangi Sport Centre opened in 2011 with 12 indoor courts. The initial level of use by netball was not at the level originally projected which created significant additional indoor court capacity. While netball has been a core user of the facilities, the centre has enabled the development of social and competitive participation in futsal, handball, floorball and volleyball, meeting the demand for a previously unquantified level of latent demand within these codes.

Secondary School Sport

Badminton NZ outline an example of a secondary school in Auckland that has 400 students wanting to play badminton, but they only have capacity to select 60. This highlights a significant latent demand with 340 that don't get to play. Badminton NZ considers that this is just one school and similar unmet demand exists in many New Zealand secondary schools.

It is recognised there are challenges in meeting increasing latent demand in areas with high population growth such as Auckland. Decisions on how to respond to increasing demand generated within the population should be taken at a local level based on the numerous factors affecting provision.

4.3 Trend implications

Understanding the sport specific trends is important when predicting future participation and demand for facilities. There is increasing evidence that the historic participation patterns are being challenged by an increasing range of recreational activities, increasing demand for non-traditional sports and activities, the rise of the internet and online gaming and on-demand consumerism. The evidence is growing that more and more individuals are choosing non-traditional options for their physical activity, and many young people are turning away from organised sport or not undertaking physical activity at all. When combined with an aging and an increasingly diverse population, it is clear that recent trends⁸ highlight the need to consider:

- Significant population growth indicating a growth in demand for indoor active recreation and sport facilities.
- The number of rangatahi and tamariki, while decreasing as a percentage of the total population, is projected to remain at a similar level by 2038. As these age groups represent the majority of traditional club-based activity this potentially indicates limited growth in traditional sports membership.
- Significant impact of an aging population. By 2038 the 65+ age group is projected to have increased by over 100% since 2014. This age group does not have high participation in organised sport but more personalised fitness and group activity.
- Increasing ethnic diversity potentially indicates an increase in demand for different types of activities and programming requirements.
- Increasing range of activities demanded by young people. The Active NZ Survey 2022 highlighted a weakening relationship between rangatahi with sport and organised participation, and a downward trend in club membership alongside an increasing preference to be active in flexible ways.
- Season creep with main activities expanding pre- and post-season and expanding to year round.
- Climate impacts increasing demand for protection from sun and adverse weather with many traditional outdoor activities looking to transition indoors or under cover.
- Strong anecdotal evidence to support growth in emerging activities such as futsal, climbing and pickleball.
- Catering to 24% of the population identifying as disabled, across a range of impairments, requires consideration of accessible and appropriate indoor facilities and programmes to enable participation.

8 Sport New Zealand Balance is Better and Future of Play, Recreation and Sport <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/balance-is-better-philosophy/>

These trends have an impact on both the quantity and type of active recreation and sport space required which should be considered when planning future indoor and outdoor covered court and other active recreation indoor provision.

Understanding these changes at a regional/city/district level, and how they are projected to change in the future, should be considered as a base starting point for planning future provision at a more localised level. What is clear is that replicating the facilities that responded to the needs of 30 to 40 years ago is not appropriate as it does not fully reflect the current needs, and even less so the future needs.

While it is always difficult to predict the future trends, consideration of international activities supports the need for greater flexibility and adaptability in active recreation and sport spaces. Observations include:

- Increasing recognition of a wider range of activities. Skateboarding and 3x3 basketball are now Olympic sports yet have very few indoor or covered facilities availability or provision.
- Internationally we are seeing the rise in several new activities and sports, skateboarding, scooter, inline skate, pickle ball, indoor climbing, futsal.
- Recreation and wellness centres in the United States are being developed to cater to the older population.
- Supporting social connections and a wide range of activities for young people are now central to some facility developments in Denmark.
- There is greater diversity in the reasons for participating (that is, not just competitive) so there needs to be spaces to meet social and wellbeing needs as well as sporting activities.

Streetmekka in Viborg Modern Sport and Activities Centre Denmark

This new cultural centre includes facilities for a variety of self-organised sports like parkour, skate, bouldering, basketball and trail. It also contains a series of customised workshop areas for DJing and music production, an animation studio, fabrication lab and artist studios. Social spaces and designated hangout zones are strategically interwoven into the functional programme and distributed throughout the building.

<https://iaks.sport/en/news/streetmekka-street-sports-and-cultural-centre-viborg-effekt>



Photo: Rasmus Hjortshøj – COAST Studio

5. Guiding Principles for this Strategy

The [New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework](#) is being updated as an overarching framework to guide facility development. The principles have been developed and have relevance and application to the planning and development approaches promoted in this strategy and should be used as the guiding principles for future planning work.

These principles are further supported by Guidance: [A Te Tiriti o Waitangi-Informed Approach to Spaces and Places Provision for Physical Activity](#) and [Sport NZ Spaces and Places Environmental Sustainability Guidelines](#). For further information see the supporting document on the expanded principles and further guidance.

Principle	Intent
Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed approach	Recognise the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi when planning facilities through the principles of partnership, protection and participation.
Meeting an identified need	An evidenced based approach to identifying need ensures fit-for-purpose solutions.
Inclusive	Valuing diverse groups by developing safe welcoming and collaborative environments where everyone can participate and thrive.
Accessible	Truly accessible facilities (design, location and cost to use) are created that enable the entire community to access and use them with dignity.
Co-design	Communities and hapori (group, family or community) are involved in the planning and design of facilities and active environments so that their needs are met.
Partnering/collaboration	Partnerships and collaborations lead to well-used facilities that maximise the return on (social and financial) investment.
Environmental sustainability	Facilities are developed and operate more environmentally sustainably over their life-time.
Connected	Networks of connected and complementary facilities and active environments create physical activity opportunities and connected communities (rural and urban).
Future proofed	Facilities can easily adapt to accommodate changing circumstances and emerging trends over time.
Financially sustainable	Financially sustainable and viable facilities and active environments over the lifetime of the asset.

A decision-making framework has been developed for use along with an outline of organisations' roles and responsibilities to underpin and guide implementation of this strategy. For further information see the [supporting document](#).

6. Case Studies

The strategy has considered three facilities as case studies as examples of multi-use facilities incorporating the adaption or conversion of facilities to meet community need. These are briefly described below (these are captured in more detail in the supporting document).

6.1.1 Case Study 1 Motueka Recreation Centre Tasman District Council

The facility was developed as a community facility within a converted apple packhouse. It includes a roller skating rink, main indoor hall, second under-size basketball court, climbing wall, martial arts dojo and gym. The primary purpose is to accommodate a wide range of community active recreation and sport activities with a programming fund established to support the development of targeted activities to meet community needs.

It serves the Motueka township with a population of 8,320 and falls within within a district network of five community physical activity hubs in Takaka, Murchison, Upper Moutere and Richmond.

The annual operating cost in 2022 was approximately \$475,000 and the annual operational subsidy required from Tasman District Council is \$83,000. The Centre generates approximately 30% of income from a gym and is supported with Programming Funding (in addition to the operational subsidy) from Tasman District Council to activate the facility and increase utilisation.

See the full case study on page 17, [National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Supporting Document](#).



6.1.2 Case Study 2 Edgar Centre Dunedin

The Edgar Centre is a multi-use indoor community sports and events facility. It is primarily an indoor sports centre with 21 sports courts. These courts are used for a range of regional sport including netball, basketball, volleyball, futsal, tennis, and table tennis.

The Centre has a dual purpose as the Regional Indoor Centre and also the local community participation hub. It includes a mix of facilities including purpose-built show courts and 14 courts (two wooden sprung, 12 artificial turf) in a converted woolshed.

The Centre is operated by an independent Trust Board. Dunedin City Council (DCC) owns the building and the Trust pay the DCC rent for the building and receive a funding grant from Council's Parks and Recreation Department by meeting key agreed targets.

The Centre operates primarily as a venue for hire and attracts approximately 200,000 users a year and has over 700,000 visits a year including all entrants (events/spectators).

The annual operating cost in 2023 was approximately \$1.925m (including depreciation). Staffing is the largest cost centre at \$665,000 and rent of \$588,000. The annual income in 2023 was \$2.06m and the Centre generates approximately 29% of income from community sports activities, 8% from events and 7% café and catering. Other non-trading income includes 5% from sponsorship and 40% (\$840,000) annual operational subsidy from DCC.

See the full case study on page 20, [National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Supporting Document](#).

6.1.3 Case Study 3

Pukekohe Netball Centre

The Pukekohe Netball Centre is the largest centre within the Franklin district. The centre has 15 courts, four of which are covered. These are supported by a two-story building incorporating large meeting room, full kitchen, office areas, team lounge area, officials room, First Aid room and storage.

The Centre is used year round by netball and also utilised on most days of the week with other community use including Middlemore Hospital clinics and weekly Red Cross training courses.

Total revenue in 2022 was \$375,000 which included:

- \$190,000 from netball registration
- \$60,000 from complex hire
- \$40,000 sponsorship
- \$25,000 food/beverage.

Total expenditure was \$307,000 in 2022 which included:

- \$131,000 for operations (includes repairs and maintenance of \$30,000)
- \$90,000 administration (includes wages)
- \$60,000 in depreciation
- \$25,000 in insurances, rates, etc.
- \$6,000 services power and water.

Centre management indicated that ensuring the facility is well utilised by other community groups is a key focus area.

See the full case study on page 23, [National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Supporting Document](#).



7. Aotearoa New Zealand's Current Active Recreation and Sport Provision

The FPT is the most comprehensive database of all facilities in the country. This 2023 update of the FPT data by Sport NZ, RSTs and TAs has resulted in a vast improvement in the recorded knowledge of the indoor active recreation and sport facility network.

The FPT primarily identifies the type of indoor court (as the main component of the facility) with a focus on the full-size court or undersized basketball court. There are a wider variety of small courts and multi-use secondary spaces which are central to meeting the demand for play and a range of recreation and sport activities, however without the detailed audit of these facilities the analysis has been limited.

7.1 National active recreation and sport provision metrics

As was identified in the 2013 strategy, the full-sized indoor court is a key measure. For this strategy, this approach was considered limited and a more detailed understanding of the type of facility being measured includes type of court and its availability for community use.

7.1.1 Active recreation and sport space

Community expectations on the types of facilities which should be available have continued to increase. Sport code compliant facilities are required for regional, national and international competition, however there is sometimes an expectation that these facilities should be the standard provision level for all participation. This level of facility, while desirable, is often not required at a local level and can prove expensive to develop and to operate. Insistence that all facilities fully comply with regional standards increases the size of the build, cost of construction and the operational cost thereby impacting project achievability and reducing the overall affordability to the intended users.

Throughout the development of this strategy, it is clear that there is a need for greater flexibility at a local community level, to make the best use of the facilities available. Sometimes adapting the activity to fit the space is a more sustainable option and is completely appropriate for the type of experience being provided.

The 2013 definition of an indoor court is now considered quite restrictive as many indoor court spaces that do not fully meet the full-size court requirements (the standard netball/basketball court as the measurement unit, rectangular 36.6m x 21.35m = 780 sqm) were excluded from the calculation of provision levels. Many smaller spaces/school gymnasiums are now included in the 2023 analysis of supply as they are suitable for active recreation and community-based sport.

A more desirable future measurement of the quantity of provision to accommodate the growth in informal/social active recreation is one Active Recreation and Sport Court Space per X thousand residents. This would enable many facilities that are too small to accommodate a single netball compliant or basketball compliant court to be included in the consideration of the local active recreation and sport provision network.

Key planning points:

Indoor and covered active recreation and sport court space:

- All indoor courts/school gymnasiums/outdoor covered courts (regardless of sport code compliance) are considered as an indoor court, suitable for active recreation and sport.
- The recommended minimum size for new build single court or converted community court for active recreation and community sport is 34.5x 18.25 x 7.5m (court area and run off only). If the need is only for active recreation and local community sport, consideration could be given to providing undersized courts with lower ceilings.
- Sport code compliant indoor courts are required for premier senior leagues, regional, national and international competition only.

The total number of active recreation and sport courts spaces was calculated from the FPT to include all full-size courts and undersized basketball courts.

In total it is determined that there is 1,157 active recreation and sport court spaces in Aotearoa New Zealand.

7.1.2 Availability for the community

Identifying an indoor active sport and recreation space is important however not all spaces are available for community access. Determining the availability of a facility to the community is essential and a FTE approach has been used as a measure of the availability of the court for community access.

A full FTE court is a facility (a full or undersized court) that is available to the community for all of the practical peak hours (such as 4.00–9.00pm on school term days, 8.00am–5.00pm Saturday/Sunday). Table 4 provides the assumption rationale regarding FTE descriptions. For more detailed descriptions see the [supporting document](#).

Table 4 – FTE assumption based on court type

Indoor court facility type	Description	FTE Assumption
Council/community facility	A facility which is fully available for community recreation and multi-sport.	1
School court (with community availability)	A school-based court which has community access on a weekly basis. Note: this could range from 0.1 (some limited club access) to 0.75 (formal partnership as part of the community network) depending on the individual access arrangement.	0.25
School court (no community access)	A school-based facility where there is no community access.	0
Single code court	A venue that was developed primarily for a specific code to provide for community level sport (for example, a netball or badminton centre). These serve a community demand in that they would otherwise require public facility provision or would not occur at all. Note: 4 side-by-side badminton courts/10 table tennis table = 1 FTE court unit for calculation purposes.	1
Event centre	A venue that has a primary purpose as an events centre and can accommodate a wide range of sporting and non-sporting events. Note: this can range from 0.05 (events venue with occasional premier, regional and national sport competition events) to 0.75 (community sport uses the facility for 75% of the time/community sport can only be 'bumped' for events 25% of the time).	0.5

By applying the FTE factors to the facilities database to better reflect the availability of the facilities to meet community demand, the total available active recreation and sport court spaces across the country is **602**.

For the purposes of this strategy, these assumptions have been applied to the current network of facilities identified in the FPT. An essential first step in developing a regional/district/local assessment will be to review and update the FTE assumptions for each facility based on the current availability and access arrangements to ensure the FTE available courts accurately reflects the current court availability for community active recreation and sport.

7.1.3 Hierarchy and specification

Having a hierarchy of provision is essential to meet the range of active recreation and community sport needs. This includes:

Local/sub-district

A local active recreation and sport space that is available for community use which often facilitates people's introduction to play, active recreation and community sport. It primarily serves a town and its surrounding area, a large town or suburb or two of a city.

District/city/sub-regional (Auckland Local Board)

It is a destination facility with the ability to draw significant numbers of recreational users/whānau and sport participants/teams/competitors from a whole district, several Auckland Local Board areas or across adjacent TA boundaries for a variety of purposes including play and recreation, exercise, competition or training purposes.

Regional

A facility with the ability to draw significant numbers of recreational users/whānau, sport participants/teams/competitors from a whole region or across adjacent regional boundaries for a variety of purposes including play, exercise, competition or training purposes. It has the ability to host inter-regional and intra-regional sports code, club and school competitions/tournaments/spectator events and/or serves as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes.

National (International)

A facility with the ability to host national and inter-regional representative competitions and/or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes. It will meet the national standard specifications of the indoor sport code.

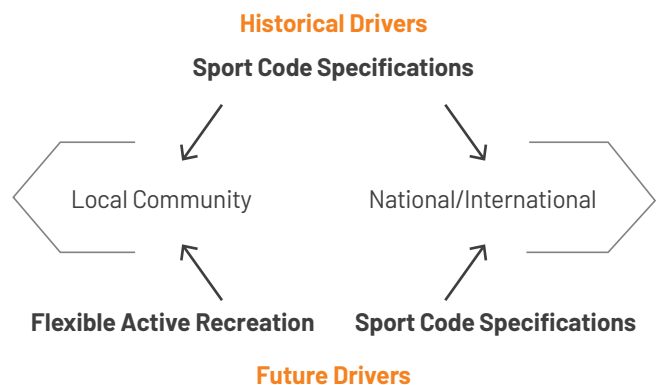
Current provision

The current provision of facilities is more focused on supporting the traditional sporting codes and often does not fit with the growth in active recreation demand and the current mix of use as illustrated in Figure 5. This considers both the design /specification/provision level of the facility and the predominant use the facility currently accommodates. Currently, the majority of facilities are both designed for and used by organised sporting/competition-based activities. Play, active recreation and causal sport are relatively minor users. Single code facilities are designed with a single code identified as a priority and may not be suitable to be used by a wide range of recreational activities.



The intent of this strategy is to better accommodate the growth in active recreation demand and would likely result in a change to the drivers of the specification and the mix of use as illustrated below.

Figure 5: Indoor facility design drivers



Indoor space descriptions

Table 5: Service requirement description of indoor space purpose/type – local level

Active recreation at local community level				
	Purpose	Description	Minimum context	Examples
Learn/education	To enable development of physical activity and skills development	Learning basic skills Introduction to active recreation and sport activity	Active recreation and sport space	Community halls School gyms Covered outdoor spaces Indoor recreation centres
Play	To accommodate casual activities, relaxation, and fun	Informal 'hangout' spaces Drop in and casual access and play areas	Active recreation and sport space	Community halls School gyms Covered outdoor spaces Indoor recreation centres
Active recreation	To accommodate non-traditional sport and active recreation activities	Community activities, programmes, classes/ instruction or module competitions	Active recreation and sport space	Community halls School gyms Covered outdoor spaces Indoor recreation centres
Social sport	Community sporting module competitions/ leagues	Community sporting module competitions/ leagues	Active recreation and sport space	School gyms Covered outdoor spaces Indoor recreation centres

Table 6: Additional service requirement description of indoor space purpose/type – sub-regional level

Competitive sport at sub-regional (city and district) level				
	Purpose	Description	Minimum context	Examples
Competitive sport	To accommodate club training and inter-club and district-wide competition	Sporting module competitions/leagues Sport training	Court area compliant with code specifications	Indoor multi-court code compliant venues Single code venues (for example, badminton halls)

Table 7: Additional service requirement description of indoor space purpose/type – regional level

Competitive sport at regional and above level				
	Purpose	Description	Minimum context	Examples
Competitive sport	To accommodate high performance competition training and regional and above based competition	Sporting module competitions/leagues Regional events/ tournaments HP sport training	Court area compliant with code specifications Event capability (spectator seating and ancillary services and amenities) compliant with NSO event facility requirements for the code	Indoor multi-court code compliant venues Event centres Single code venues (for example, badminton halls)

Key planning point:

Increased flexibility is required at a community level to provide an active recreation and sport court space and associated areas for social connection. This is a game capable space which is a multi-purpose and multi-code bookable space, for example, club competition/training, social competitions and leagues, exercise programmes, play and other physical activities.

The FPT analysis has identified the following:

- **1,157 active recreation and sport court facilities**
- **343 available** community active recreation and sport courts
- equivalent⁹ of **146 single code** indoor courts (badminton – 152, netball – 13, table tennis – 58, tennis – 31, cricket centre/nets – 14, roller skating – 7)
- **71** courts identified at event centres capable of hosting regional competitions and above
- **590 school** active recreation and sport court spaces of which 414 provide some community availability
- the network of facilities is aging with 65% of courts over 25 years old and 34% over 50 years old.

7.1.4 Active recreation and sport courts availability for the community analysis

As a high-level analysis, Table 8 demonstrates that all regions have a significant number of indoor courts, however once the FTE approach is applied court availability to the community is significantly reduced.

Table 8 – Active recreation and sport court provision (regional analysis 2023)

	Available community multisport courts	Available school multisport courts	Available event centre courts	Single code courts	Courts not available	Total courts	FTE available courts
Northland	12	22	0	4	13	51	21
Auckland	57	101	10	68	58	294	151
Waikato	16	74	9	10	13	122	47
Bay of Plenty	27	16	7	1	15	66	29
Gisborne Tairāwhiti	2	3	0	1	8	14	4
Hawke's Bay	14	14	5	1	12	46	21
Taranaki	13	12	3	4	5	37	18
Whanganui	7	9	0	0	6	22	9
Manawatū	10	10	14	0	18	52	24
Wellington	42	43	3	18	13	119	71
Tasman	20	18	4	3	7	52	30
Canterbury/West Coast	72	55	3	29	9	168	107
Otago	36	25	5	0	6	72	46
Southland	14	15	8	3	3	43	25
Aotearoa New Zealand	343	426	71	142	185	1157	602

⁹ Single code courts have been converted to equivalent indoor spaces, that is four badminton courts are the equivalent to 1 indoor court

7.1.5 Outdoor covered courts

There are a significant number of outdoor covered courts which have been developed, many of which are available for community active recreation and sport. Initially these were developed as sport specific courts, for example netball centres, however they have become more prominent at other facilities including schools.

Eastern Community Sport and Recreation, Christchurch

Two hard courts have been covered with the rebound ace surface – marked with lines for tennis, netball, basketball, handball, korfball, futsal, pickleball (three courts are marked on each hard court – six in total). There is also an astro turf area that has four cricket lanes or softball hitting spaces and can be used for indoor cricket and futsal.

<https://www.easterncommunity.co.nz/facilities/canopy/>



Outdoor covered courts provide a cost-effective solution to meeting the demand for active recreation and community sport and can be either stand alone or where combined with an indoor facility, provide the ability to allocate activities to the most appropriate space based on the level of need.

Unfortunately, at this point in time the FTP has limited data on the number, location and use of many of these courts and it has not been possible to include them within the FTE calculations of available active recreation and sport spaces. This can be addressed through regional and local level planning in the future.

7.1.6 Flexible social interaction areas

Increased flexibility in the size of the active recreation and sport space is essential at a community level however it is not the only factor to consider. Facilities need to be designed and equipped to create opportunities for social interaction and spaces for play. Often there are parents/grandparents/caregivers/whānau that want to stay and watch the activity who need comfortable/safe spaces to spectate. There are also siblings of the on-court participants that need spaces to be active and young people just wanting to hang out before or after an activity.

Designing for social interaction and play is often an afterthought or secondary in the facility or space planning process. However, it is something that can be addressed with relatively simple modifications typically through the addition of space for comfortable seating (for example, bean bags and couches) and spaces, with refreshments and/or tea and coffee making facilities and smaller activity spaces.

Unipol, Dunedin University

Unipol at Dunedin University Recreation Centre offers 'Drop-In and Play' gyms and has over 650,000 visits per year. Unipol has several non-court spaces to support social interaction through casual drop in and hangout, growing non-participant experience in a space they feel comfortable to participate. It is the culture/management philosophy that meshes with active recreation spaces primarily reserved for casual use and programmes, for example, fitness classes. Management actively aims to move sport leagues to other facilities in the active recreation network to achieve this (for example, Edgar Centre, and school gymnasiums).

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/recreation>



7.1.7 Ownership, governance and management Influences

There are many different approaches to ownership, governance and management of sports facilities. The commercial imperatives for each model differ and should be considered during the planning phase.

In most cases the land is in public ownership with TAs and the MoE. The ownership and management varies and these include:

- council owned and managed
- community trust owned and managed
- council/community trust owned with private sector contract management
- sports code/club owned and managed
- school-MoE-owned and management of community access.

Whichever model is considered, the traditional approach has been that TAs or the MoE has been the main funder for the development of indoor court projects. Given the increased pressures on council and MoE budgets, alternative funding and delivery models will be required if we are going to meet demand. Potential approaches could include:

- partnering with providers/codes to retrofit lease buildings (for example, rental support during refit, investing capital into leased buildings)
- enabling and supporting social enterprise and commercial income streams within community buildings (taking account of Reserves Act and Reserve Management Plans if located on a reserve)
- integration of indoor active recreation and sport facilities within other developments.

Under all of these approaches, it is considered that a radical rethink is required, with TAs needing to take a lead role to actively explore alternative funding and partnership arrangements.

The management approaches taken significantly impacts on the availability, accessibility and affordability of facilities for community sport and active recreation. If the management approaches do not support and enable the original intent of the facility it is unlikely that the initial needs identified will be met.

Cost recovery

For TA facilities there is a practice of setting a cost recovery policy (subsidy). The cost recovery policy can have a significant impact on the accessibility and affordability of facilities for active recreation and sport as the cost of operation increases, so usually does the programme, entry or hire fee which may result in some activities becoming unaffordable.

Activation

Many facilities are managed as a venue for hire and have regular bookings based on historical usage patterns and traditional activities. Adopting a pro-active policy to increase the range of activities on offer and activate the space can increase utilisation and meet a wider range of community needs.

Event interruption to recreation and community sport use

The active recreation and sport facilities that are regional, national, or international and host events will impact on community users to varying degrees, dependant on the exclusive space/s required, scale and duration of the events. Having multi-year booking arrangements for specific dates in the year is a way to manage community expectations while also allowing for event planning security.

Facility owners and operators should consider the impact and tolerance/degree of interruption of community participation/use to accommodate events. Accommodating a significant number of events reduces the availability for community participation, affecting the community's ability to recreate or play sport. This is particularly relevant for the large multi-use facilities that serve a large community and have high community visitation rates.

Securing access for training and events

While regional facilities may be provided, securing access at the required time can be difficult. There is often competition between codes for the same facilities due to competing/overlapping event schedules. Ensuring training and competition events can secure access to appropriate regional facilities enables the best use of the current network of facilities.

Staff capability

With the broadening user needs and operational requirements the capability of staff to engage with users and ensure efficient facility operation, the levels of staff training are also increasing. Staff capability is now required to include:

- cultural capability and diversity awareness
- activation and programming
- environmental sustainability practices.

8. Overall Active Recreation and Indoor Court Demand

8.1 Active recreation and indoor court demand

Recent improvements in the quantity and quality of data available have enabled a bespoke demand modelling approach to be developed. This utilises specific New Zealand active recreation and sport participation data and industry data science to develop a greater understanding of the demand for indoor active recreation and sport facilities.

The demand model approach included analysis of Sport NZ's Active NZ Sports and Activities 2021 data, NSOs' membership data, and visitation data from indoor court facilities (Aotearoa New Zealand data only). This data science driven approach provided an Aotearoa New Zealand demand profile. This was validated using international benchmarks (Australia, UK) to provide confidence in the demand profile.

Key planning point:

The minimum level of provision per 7,800 population is 1 FTE equivalent indoor active recreation and sport court.

8.2 Difference between the 2013 demand calculations

The 2013 strategy reviewed available international benchmark calculators and concluded that a suitable tool for translating a population profile into demand for facilities was the *Sport England Sports Facility Calculator*. It was identified that the *Sports Facility Calculator* was broadly in line with New Zealand participation rates however it under-estimated demand by approximately 15%. Demand was therefore calculated at a margin of 15% above the Sport England level at one court for every 9,000 people.

In 2013, this benchmark was applied to both school and council-provided facilities on the assumption that it provided a model which could be applied to smaller centres with a high proportion of school facilities used by the community. This approach, however, did not take into account the availability of school courts for community use.

Current analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand active recreation and sport demand and participation identified that this approach is no longer supported:

- based on improved New Zealand participation data, demand is underestimated
- it is incorrect to assume all school facilities are available for community use
- the 2013 audit of facilities was incomplete.

8.3 Indicators to support regional and local analysis

Current Sport NZ and other indoor sport and recreation participation data and data science from ActiveXchange¹⁰, clearly highlight there are only marginal differences in the demand profile for active recreation and sport activities between urban and rural areas. The ability to meet the FTE court area demand, while important, should not be considered in isolation. Consideration of the overall FTE courts is an essential starting point however there are many criteria to be considered when interpreting the regional demand and it is critical that a second level of analysis is undertaken.

In local planning the potential indicator, or a selection of those most relevant to the territory, should be used to inform judgements about the quantity of the different types of space to be provided in the future. This will also reflect the regional/city/district market demand, existing facility utilisation levels and the expressed needs.

This will provide a more nuanced approach to provision and enable more informed decisions about current and future provision in the network.

¹⁰ ActiveXchange is a data technology company using data intelligence to support evidence-based decisions in active recreation and sport.

A nationally standardised menu of indicators for regional and local analysis include:

- current supply (facility network) within catchment/drive time (could include neighbouring TA facilities)
 - community - 80% of population are within one-way travel times of 15–20 minutes in urban areas and 30–45 minutes in rural areas. Additional work may be required to determine the local catchment area based on individual facility utilisation
 - regional - 80% of population are within one way travel time of 2 hours of a regional facility
- local validation of FTE capacity and identification of local gaps
- total catchment population over time, and
 - proportion/total tamariki and rangatahi in catchment population
 - proportion/total 65+ in catchment population
 - deprivation level of catchment population
 - ethnicity of catchment population
- current diversity of offerings/opportunities present in market (for participating in active recreation and sport)
- current participation in active recreation and sport (penetration rates of core indoor sports)
- future participation in active recreation and sport (whānau, recreation, age appropriate, programmed activity)
- climate zone to consider local/regional variations.

For further information see the [supporting document](#).



8.4 Active recreation and sport provision surplus/shortfall (regional analysis 2023)

At a national level it is identified that there is a deficit in overall FTE courts to meet current demand. However, some areas, especially Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Waikato have a significant shortfall in community provision.

Table 9 – Active recreation and sport provision surplus/shortfall (regional analysis 2023)

	Demand benchmark FTE courts (1 per 7,800 population)	Supply FTE courts	Current surplus/shortfall FTE courts
Northland	24	21	-3
Auckland	224	151	-73
Waikato	62	47	-15
Bay of Plenty	42	29	-13
Gisborne Tairāwhiti	6	4	-2
Hawke's Bay	22	21	-1
Taranaki	16	18	2
Whanganui	9	9	0
Manawatū	22	24	2
Wellington	67	71	4
Tasman	22	30	8
Canterbury/West Coast	85	107	22
Otago	31	46	15
Southland	13	25	12
Aotearoa New Zealand	645	602	-42

8.5 Regional active recreation and sport supply versus demand (2038)

Table 10 presents the projected surplus/shortfall by 2038 if no additional capacity is delivered (and none is retired) based on the median population projections from Statistics NZ. Several regions have strong projected growth, and some have slower projected growth. The most acute shortfalls are seen in Auckland, Northland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty.

Table 10 - Active recreation and sport provision surplus/shortfall (regional analysis 2038)

	Demand benchmark FTE courts (1 per 7,800 population)	Supply FTE courts	Current surplus/shortfall FTE courts
Northland	26	21	-5
Auckland	268	151	-117
Waikato	69	47	-22
Bay of Plenty	46	29	-17
Gisborne Tairāwhiti	6	4	-2
Hawke's Bay	22	21	-1
Taranaki	16	18	2
Whanganui	9	9	0
Manawatū	23	24	1
Wellington	71	71	0
Tasman	23	30	7
Canterbury/West Coast	95	107	12
Otago	33	46	13
Southland	13	25	12
Aotearoa New Zealand	720	602	-117

8.6 Regional imbalance overview

This provides a high-level analysis of active recreation and sport spaces against the national demand measure to identify if the regions are under or over provided by using a blunt total population divided by the number of spaces. This does not consider whether a region is dominated by metro or a large city urban population or is a more sparsely populated rural region and how this impacts access.

8.6.1 Local planning – determination of provision solution

A significant barrier to increase participation in and wellbeing through play, active recreation and sport is not having the right quantity and quality of indoor active recreation and sport facilities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The challenge nationally is to improve:

- the variety of spaces provided and made available
- accessibility
- inclusivity
- network thinking and optimisation.

In almost all cases, large population centres and the proportion of school courts may mask localised surpluses/shortfalls resulting in the need to do regional/local authority level and sometimes more localised analysis (especially in geographically isolated areas).

To understand the local/regional situation in more detail:

- Review and update FTP data, consider actual community availability and apply a FTE at a local level.
- Undertake an assessment against the national demand metrics.
- Consider the character of the catchment territory and its resident population, market demand analysis (including latent demand), utilisation and any spare capacity at existing community available facilities, mana whenua involvement and expressed needs from community engagement.



Copyright: Michael Bradley Photography

8.6.2 National Sports Organisations facilities guidance

The NSOs and their regional bodies that are the primary sport event users of indoor court facilities have provided their events and tournament data at regional, national and international levels and the facilities they currently use to host these events.

Table 11 summarises information supplied by each indoor sport NSO on the current supply of event venues in Aotearoa New Zealand for their sport and demand for regional and higher-level events organised or endorsed by the NSO.

Note:

Facilities required for events and tournaments

The totals for venues are cumulative based on the logic that an international venue can accommodate the other lower-level events, that national venues can accommodate regional events and regional venues only accommodate regional events, tournaments and competitions. The number in brackets is the cumulative number of venues including those requiring a dispensation of some kind. For example, "10 (11)" indicates there are 10 compliant venues or a total of 11 venues if a dispensation is given. Many events facilities are suitable for multiple codes and are therefore counted separately under each code.

Events supply

The event totals identified at each level.

Table 11 - Summary of supply of NSO organised indoor events and indoor venue supply

Sport	Supply situation	International	National	NSO regional	Network overview from NSO feedback
Futsal	Facilities supply	10 (11)	16	29	
Futsal	Events supply	1 + 1x4 yrs.	12	13	
Futsal	Gap/over-supply				Over-supply
Badminton	Facilities supply	12 (4)	21 (5)	38 (12)	
Badminton	Events supply	2 + 1x2-3 yrs.	13	23	
Badminton	Gap/over-supply				Over-supply
Basketball	Facilities supply	8	25	50+	
Basketball	Events supply	4 - 8	10	16	
Basketball	Gap/over-supply				Over-supply
Netball	Facilities supply	16	21 (2)	31 (2)	TSB Stadium (New Plymouth) and Te Awamutu Events Centre have compliance issues
Netball	Events supply	8-9	50+	0	
Netball	Gap/over-supply				Adequate supply
Table Tennis	Facilities supply	3	14	19	
Table Tennis	Events supply	0	7	4	
Table Tennis	Gap/over-supply				Over-supply
Tennis	Facilities supply	3	4	6	8
Tennis	Events supply	2	5	6	6
Tennis	Gap/over-supply				Adequate supply
Volleyball	Facilities supply	13	13	13	Parakiore to be added
Volleyball	Events supply	1	4 + 1	6	National Volleyball League not currently operational but was annual
Volleyball	Gap/over-supply				Adequate supply



Image credit: Photosport

Additional considerations:

- The analysis presented above considers the built facility and does not comment on venue availability at the times the events occur or the cost of hire as these are management considerations.
- It is not a gap for this national strategy if some intra-regional competition events do not have a suitable facility in their region. This gap would be addressed in the relevant regional plan to address the intra-regional need.

Accessing venues for events and tournaments

Several codes identified that the main challenge with regional venues is the high level of demand from other activities and events making it difficult and expensive to secure access. Badminton NZ noted that there is massive demand for badminton from casual (active recreation and social players) participants which means badminton venues are now reluctant to “give up” their venue for regional events.

Key planning point:

As a whole the needs of international, national, and regional event and tournament facilities is met. Therefore, indoor and covered active recreation and sport facility planning can focus on meeting the local community demands.

For detailed active recreation and sport facility specifications see the [supporting document](#).

9. Potential Solutions to Meet Demand

There are many different solutions to meet the identified shortfall for indoor court and active recreation spaces which could be considered. Central to all of these is the importance of determining:

- What the primary purpose of the facility is, that is, community participation, and balance between play, active recreation and sport, junior, multi-code, and regional competition.
- Ensuring that the proposed solution is fit for purpose and addresses the identified needs.

Potential solutions at a local/district/sub-regional level could consider:

Increasing access to an existing school facility	Exploring options to expand a current partnership to increase availability (for example, from 0.25 to 0.5FTE) for the community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formalising an access agreement • investing in facilities to enable community use • support access to a community booking system.
Enabling community access to an education facility with no access	Identifying where an education facility is located within an area of need and increase availability from 0 to 0.25/0.5 FTE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an access agreement • investing in facilities to enable community use • support access to a community booking system.
Incorporate multi-use into a single code facility	Develop an access agreement to enable access to under-utilised capacity in for example a badminton or netball centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investing in facilities to enable multi-code community use, for example, multi-sport marking, improved access, updating and refurbishment • support access to a community booking system and access arrangements. Many single code facilities are run by volunteers and require support to enable wider community access.
Cover an outdoor court	Consider options to cover an existing outdoor space or develop a new covered court at an outdoor active recreation and sport space. The court surface needs to be fit-for purpose for the intended multi-uses. Note: Additional capacity is only provided if the new/covered facility is multi-use as part of the community network to avoid single code/club capture of the space.
Convert an existing building/warehouse	Explore options to convert existing buildings for community active recreation and sport. Existing buildings are unlikely to comply with code specific specifications for regional events and above, however may be cost effective in meeting community need and be a more sustainable development option, particularly if well located and connected.
New build facility in partnership with an education or other facility	Develop a new partnership facility in collaboration with an education or other facility (co-location).
Extend or improve an existing facility - new build community court(s)	Develop a new community court and/or recreation spaces alongside existing indoor infrastructure.
A new build	Develop a new active recreation and sport facility.

Note: The use and management of school assets is entirely the responsibility of individual school boards – this is a key feature of the New Zealand schooling system. From a property and planning perspective, it enables schools to have control over their physical environments (within available resourcing constraints) and the day-to-day policies and procedures that govern the use of those environments.

10. Strategic Approach – Where Do We Want To Be?

To transition the indoor active recreation and sport facility network to better meet the demands of the population, approaches are required to ensure there is a better balance between the supply of facilities and community demand. Fundamentally the approach is to get better use of existing built infrastructure, adapt the facilities for wider use, and build partnerships.

10.1 Grow authentic relationships and work in partnership with mana whenua

Sport NZ has made a commitment to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through the three principles of partnership, protection and participation. The guidance towards a Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed approach reflects this commitment and is encouraged in the planning and provision of recreation and sport facilities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Sport NZ recognises that each organisation may have different methods of applying Te Tiriti o Waitangi (for example, article based) and acknowledge their mana motuhake (authority) in doing so.

An overview of Sport NZ's approach to enacting the three principles of partnership, protection and participation through project planning, development and operation is outlined here:

Mana Ōrite – Partnership

- Grow enduring relationships with mana whenua (iwi, hapū, whānau) and relevant Māori organisations (Māori sport authorities, health organisations and commercial entities).
- Establish and agree to the kaupapa (challenge you are seeking to solve) or the 'why' at the beginning of any project or planning process with all partners.

Mana Māori – Protection

- Ensure appropriate use of mātauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge) and mahi toi (Māori artwork) within the development of the project or plan.
- Mana whenua will guide what appropriate use of their knowledge looks like.

Mana Taurite – Participation

- Ensure that space is allowed for mana whenua involvement throughout the entire process.
- Mana whenua involvement could include but is not limited to inclusion of cultural narrative, kaitiakitanga (environmental sustainability practices), commercial and employment opportunities, resource consent processes, spaces for Māori based activity, enabling by Māori for Māori.

For organisations other than TAs, seek advice from your local council if unsure when, who and how to engage with mana whenua (iwi, hapū and whānau).

10.2 Using what we already have

Optimising our current network of facilities should be the first step before considering other solutions. Critically, this negates the need for the capital and operating cost of adding additional space by accessing suitable facilities in networks, such as schools, that have spare capacity.

The benefits to schools in addition to creating greater community connections, is the potential for revenue generation, cost sharing, provision of operational expertise and investment in what may be outdated or deteriorating assets.

These facilities already sit within our local communities across Aotearoa New Zealand and so are easily accessible for residents to participate and have been built using public (government and/or community) funds. How to make this happen:

1. Secure long-term community access to school facilities through city/district/local partnerships with legally binding agreements (covering access rights, control of use, revenue and expense shares).
2. Invest to make fit-for-purpose where needed.

While better access to many existing facilities is possible, not all facilities will be suitable. New build projects will be required where there are no viable alternatives, but the capital cost means we need to be prudent in why, where and when they are built.

The Peak, Rototuna, Hamilton

The Peak is on the site of Rototuna High Schools and was funded by Hamilton City Council and the MoE. It operates under a shared use agreement between Rototuna High Schools, to meet their curriculum and school sport needs and Hamilton City Council, to provide a premier indoor facility for the community. The Peak has four netball courts, four basketball courts, sixteen badminton courts and six volleyball courts.

<https://thepeak.co.nz>

10.3 Shifting the demand (right size, right location, right mix)

Ensuring the right use for the right space (at the right standard) provides the opportunity to better manage demand. Accessing other facilities (school, tertiary, community, private) in the network for casual active recreation and competition training for sport clubs will free up time in other facilities needed to meet other demands such as competition sport (adult and secondary school leagues) which requires a full-size court space that meets the specifications of the sport code.

This might require the sector to think differently about how they deliver their code or recreation activity in a way that is not only responsive to participant needs but facility provision realities.

10.4 Sustainable development

There is a high level of embedded carbon within the existing indoor active recreation and sport facility network and ensuring a responsible approach to facility development is central to this strategy. The priority hierarchy is:

1. Access other facilities suitable for active recreation and sport (or a modified version).
2. Extend the life of an existing facility and make fit for purpose, upgrade amenities/access or add additional facilities needed by the community.
3. Re-purpose/convert a suitable existing building and make fit for purpose.
4. Build new, if no adequate solution under 1, 2 or 3 is practical/workable.

Paetara Aspiring Central, Wanaka

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) has turned an old Mitre10 building into a vibrant community space. The building features two multi-use indoor courts, a separate studio that could be used for dance, yoga and fitness classes, or as a meeting space, and dedicated areas for Kahu Youth and Aspiring Gymsports. QLDC has an initial 10-year lease with additional rights to renew commenced in 2022. The total budget is approximately \$4.2m. There was an increase of \$90,000 from the initial budget due to additional fire protection measures.

<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/recreation/paetara-aspiring-central/>

10.5 Participant-centred approach

A participant-centred approach requires a network approach, with opportunities for accessible play, recreation and community sport experiences throughout the network. This may be through lower cost provision such as covered outdoor spaces in local parks, or through partnerships and/or access agreements to existing school and community facilities. Providing for emerging or youth-oriented activity such as indoor/covered skate (skateboarding, scootering, inline) parks with social amenities could add to the network. This can complement the larger, central sports-oriented facilities that already exist. These larger facilities can also be more participant focused by ensuring that they are available for a wider range of activities that their communities want and not be tied up solely by historical hire groups or programme providers.

10.6 Co-design with key user groups and stakeholders

Ensuring that co-design is central to facility planning and development will ensure fit-for-purpose facilities are developed, reducing barriers to participation and saving time and cost during the development phase. Through a commitment to co-design the needs and primary purpose of the facility is central to the provision and development, with mana whenua and community members considered equal collaborators within the planning and design process. Of equal importance is to engage and value those with lived experience, and technical and operational expertise equally throughout. Key user groups and stakeholders could include:

- mana whenua
- rangatahi and tamariki
- disabled people and disability organisations
- older adults
- indoor sports/providers
- facility operators
- NSOs and RSOs when relevant.

Co-designing Spaces and Places with Rangatahi

11. Key Shifts – How We Get There

The primary actions this strategy determines for the future provision of indoor active recreation and sport facilities as of 2023 are:

11.1 A network approach

Take a network approach to active recreation and sport provision to ensure the right mix of facilities is provided in each community (based on the national benchmark of one active recreation and sport court space per 7,800 population as the minimum requirement) in a district, city or region:

- The distribution of facilities is a key factor for equity of access as is working together across TAs, Auckland local boards and district boundaries.
- Underpin this by gathering comprehensive information about the range of facilities used and potentially available for active recreation and sport and the diversity of use.
- Specific geographic and climatic conditions are a key local issue to address any imbalances in provision.

11.2 Partnering and collaboration

- Develop partnerships or collaborate with other providers to increase access to indoor facilities with capacity for more community use or open up access to suitable facilities with no current community access.
- One of the primary opportunities is to shift school facilities from an estimated national average of 0.25 FTE community use to at least 0.5 FTE or better by securing assured long-term access through legally binding agreements (covering access rights, control of use, revenue and expense shares and potentially investment to make more usable).
- Shifting demand and activities to the most appropriate school and other community, tertiary or other facilities in the network is a key aspect to release capacity and take up demand. Using active sport and recreation spaces within the network can shift both club and casual demand (junior, smaller sized games or codes and recreational activities requiring less space) away from fully code compliant indoor courts to suitable active recreation and sport spaces.
- Accessing the appropriate school facilities on a consistent basis has been a challenge. Sport NZ should continue to explore opportunities with the MoE on national policy changes to facilitate a consistent, enabling approach to maximise community use of school facilities.

11.3 Focus on local planning

Focus indoor active recreation and sport facility planning on meeting local community need and ensure access to existing local provision first, before redeveloping or building new indoor facilities. There is no identified need for additional regional or national level competition facilities.

11.4 Apply the guiding planning principles to network and project planning and delivery

Apply the principles identified in this strategy aligned to the National Spaces and Places Framework to the planning and development of district, city, region provision:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed approach
- meeting an identified need
- inclusive
- accessible
- co-design
- partnering/collaboration
- environmental and financial sustainability
- connected and future proofed facilities.

Consider having Sport NZ or Recreation Aotearoa peer review the planning outcomes.

11.5 Improved management approaches

Ensure management solutions are developed to maximise the use of existing facilities:

- develop a balanced programme to meet the needs of the whole community
- ensure a range of flexible activities to promote social interaction
- secure access to appropriate facilities for training and competition.

11.6 Continued improvement in planning and facility audit data

Ensure on going data collection is undertaken to enable greater clarity on the current network of facilities and a more nuanced approach to projecting current and future demand:

- identifying community access levels
- expand the facility audit data to capture a wider range of indoor recreation and sport spaces
- monitor and record activity participation levels and demand (code participation, facility utilisation/casual participation and latent demand).

12. Conclusion

Nationally, evidence indicates the critical gap/shortfall in supply is at the community level with the greatest priority being in the Auckland region. There is not enough fit-for-purpose indoor facilities to meet the needs of the participant now and in the foreseeable future, particularly if we use a traditional view of what is a suitable indoor space.

The investment required to fill these gaps in Aotearoa New Zealand, if we solely consider new indoor facilities, is well beyond our financial means especially with TAs coming under increasing financial constraints. These constraints are likely to continue for the foreseeable future, however, if we are more flexible/lateral, we have a much larger network of indoor spaces in our community/district/city/region sitting in plain sight than we think and more economic ways of providing spaces such as covered outdoor courts or converted buildings.

Indoor active recreation and sport facilities are critical enablers of physical activity, so by making our facilities more participant or customer centred will enable people to participate more easily, by bringing the activity closer to their homes and reducing the well-known barriers such as travel time and cost. The good news is there are many facilities capable of offering active recreation and sport opportunities located in our communities, some already do this to some extent.

Regional, national and international indoor sport provision is generally focused on competition sport and evidence indicates the supply is adequate due to the significant investment over the past 20-30 years in event centres around Aotearoa New Zealand. While there are considered sufficient facilities, securing access for the full calendar of events is a challenge for some sports codes. If we can identify management solutions, prioritising community access to suitable facilities and ensuring that they are affordable for codes, then no additional regional facilities may be required.

The foreseeable planning horizon for this strategy is 15 years and over this time the priority and focus will be on increasing the supply of community level spaces that are more participant centred, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, affordable, and critically, accessible for active recreation and community sport.



Image credit: The Peak and Rototuna High Schools



Level 1, Harbour City Centre
29 Brandon Street
Wellington 6011, New Zealand
PO Box 2251 Wellington 6140
Phone: +64 4 472 8058
sportnz.org.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government