



2025 Annual Report



**Blind
Sports
Australia**

Covering the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Blind Sports Australia

A.B.N. 68 008 621 252

Foundation member of the Australian Paralympic Committee

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Acknowledgement

Blind Sports Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We pay respect to their cultures, Elders past, present and emerging, and we commit to working together for our shared future.



AIS



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

DILOGENICS
INVESTING



Front cover: Back view of two top ranked BLV tennis players, Ross Patterson (left) and Mick Leigh (right) on court playing doubles inside at an International tournament. They are wearing green and gold uniforms and exchanging a fist bump, with racquets held in their other hands.

Inside front cover: Two young participants playing blind football (soccer), one player in a yellow bib trying to kick the ball past the opponent in black.

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Image: Group photo of National Goalball Mens team - six players standing and kneeling flanked by Head Coach Andrew and Assistant Coach Craig.

Message from Chair & CEO

Our 2024/2025 financial year has been a landmark one for Blind Sports Australia as we enter our 45th year of operation and a new era defined by national growth, new pathways, strengthened partnerships, and historic achievements across multiple sports. Our collective progress this year demonstrates the impact of a sustained, collaborative effort to increase system support and work with our members, partners and stakeholders to maximise programs and opportunities for people to participate in blind sport.

The Paris Paralympics in September 2024 focused the Nation on the importance of inclusive sport and what is possible by our talented para-athletes. We congratulate the nine Paralympians who are blind or vision impaired that competed in the Games across five sports (some with their supportive guides) on their well-deserved medals and achievements.

Historic para-uplift funding

Following many months of hard work during 2024 in collaboration with Goalball Australia and Australian Blind Football, we were successful in securing high performance Win Well funding from the Australian Sports Commission for the very first time for these Paralympic sports. This funding is part of a record \$385m investment by the Federal Government in high performance sport - the most significant investment in Australian blind sport history.



Image: During an AFL Blind match a Port Melbourne player runs with a bright yellow football in one arm while a Hawthorn opponent reaches across to tackle them, with other players close behind.

This is a real game changer for blind sport in Australia, not only supporting our high-performance athletes on their Paralympic journeys, but in providing opportunity to uplift participation entry pathways and unlock greater support across the National sporting system. Blind Sports Australia has been working this year in collaboration with Goalball Australia and Australian Blind Football to implement a shared services model and governance structure to create the high-performance environments required to best support our teams and athletes as they strive to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

As a result, we have built a high-performance business unit within Blind Sports Australia welcoming three staff to our high-performance



team including our High-Performance Director, Pathways Manager and Blind Football development manager (combined role) and an Operations and Logistics Administrator.

Throughout the year, Blind Sports Australia has also continued its focus on expanding participation to ensure more blind sport opportunities are accessible from grassroots community level through to elite representation. We have launched new online resources, delivered regional programs, successfully applied for grants, and grown our education programs.

We are immensely proud of our hard-working membership who collectively drive grassroots participation right across Australia - and with whom we support to amplify and promote the sporting opportunities wherever possible. Congratulations to Jason Stubbs from Blind Sports NSW who was awarded Sports NSW Administrator the Year in 2024.

This year also marked significant progress in regional access. With our support, Tennis NT has been able to continue the Darwin Blind & Low Vision Tennis Program - creating a sustainable participation pathway in the Northern Territory where none existed previously - growing the program from two to twelve participants on a regular basis.

One of the most exciting aspects of the year has been the continued expansion of grassroots and community participation initiatives. The release



of the Active Play Toolkit for BLV Kids, our first resource dedicated to early-years physical literacy, supports teachers, parents, and community groups to create more inclusive and engaging environments for children beginning their sporting journey. The launch of our Blind and Low Vision Lawn Bowls Coaching Guide in partnership with Bowls Australia and Australian Blind Bowls Association, has further strengthened accessibility at the club level, ensuring

Images top to bottom: Blind and low vision athletes participation in multiple sports. First image is an athlete playing BLV Tennis, second is a blind Golf player being instructed by the caddy and third is a blind Cricket player batting during a match.

coaches feel confident and equipped to deliver safe and inclusive sessions.

We have also seen growth and great achievements by Australians on the international stage. Our first women's blind football team, the Bilbies, made their debut at the 2024 IBSA Grand Prix. In November 2024, at the first Blind and Low Vision Ashes series since 2016 against England, Australia comprehensively took home the Ashes, with Steffan Nero being named Player of the Series scoring over 400 runs in the four innings. In April 2025, Courtney Lewis became the first Australian woman to score a century in international women's blind cricket, and the Australian women's blind cricket team also made history, hosting and winning the first ever International T20 series against Pakistan. In BLV Tennis, one of our fastest growing blind sports, several players now hold World No. 1 rankings. The Aussie Storm men's goalball team secured two bronze medals at the Nations Cup in Berlin, an outstanding achievement that reflects the strength of our national talent pathway.

Over the past two years, we have been progressively building our inclusive sports education program with the Australian Catholic University and Griffith University. Our unique program equips future educators with the inclusive knowledge and skills to help ensure no child sits on the sideline during physical education at school. With over 1,000 students involved to date, we are excited to expand our education program into additional Universities



in 2026, with the assistance of grant funding from Perpetual Trustees.

We are very thankful for the assistance of such grants, in addition to several private donations received at the end of this financial year. This funding makes a big impact, enabling us to resource and continue to expand and build our programs across Australia and is much appreciated.

As we prepare to celebrate 45 years of Blind Sports Australia in this coming year, we extend our sincere thanks to our member organisations, our Board directors and staff, sponsors, partners, and volunteers for your commitment and support. Your ongoing efforts and willingness to work with us

Image: University students working in pairs as part of our inclusive sports education activities, practicing guiding using blindfolds, and navigating drills using tactile markers and audible balls.

collaboratively have strengthened our pathways and continue to create new opportunities for athletes across the country.

To the many organisations that we partner with, including Paralympics Australia, the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport we thank you for your continued support and investment in blind sport. Our thanks also to Vision

Australia for providing our office space and valued relationship.

We look forward to delivering more programs and environments that further enhance opportunities for the blind and vision impaired community, including our National Participation Plan in the coming year.



Sam Theodore
Chairman



Felicity Wilkeson
CEO (Acting)

Images from L to R: Headshots of Sam Theodore Chair, wearing a suit and tie with gray short hair and brown eyes . Felicity Wilkeson on right, Acting CEO is wearing a striped top and necklace with her hair pulled back, she has blue eyes and is smiling.

Message from ASC



Continuing to drive Australian sport forward is at the heart of everything we do at the Australian Sports Commission.

We want to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport because that’s how we will become the world’s best – by working together and bound by a common purpose.

We encourage and help Australians of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to get involved in sport and we advocate for sport and the positive influence it has on the nation.

As we look towards next year’s Milano Cortina Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032, our vision is for sport to be safe, fair, accessible and inclusive.

Every athlete will be supported to reach their full potential with the Australian Government’s record \$385 million investment package for sport ensuring Australians have world class pathways and support at all levels of sport from participation to high performance.

This includes a record \$54.9 million for Para sport – doubling previous funding – ahead of Brisbane 2032.

Our grant programs support athletes, coaches, officials and organisations, while our Sporting Schools program is helping more children access free and fun sporting activities than ever before.

Work is also underway to upgrade the AIS Campus in Canberra, so it is once again modern and world-leading.

The AIS Podium Project will deliver three new facilities, including a new multi-storey and para-accessible accommodation, a Testing and Training Centre and indoor Sport Dome.

Construction will commence later this year with the AIS Podium Project being the first stage in delivery of the broader AIS Campus Masterplan – the ASC’s long term vision to ensure the AIS Campus continue to evolve as Australia’s world leading high performance sport precinct.

As Australian high performance sport continues to win well and build sustainable success towards Brisbane 2032 and beyond, we’re also addressing the barriers people tell us they face participating in sport so all Australians that want to be involved can be involved in sport. This is how we will play well.

I know success will be greatest when every part of the system is able to perform their role at their best and I’m confident that the actions we take now will create a lasting legacy for Australian sport that will benefit us all for years to come.



Kate Jenkins AO
Chair of the Australian Sports Commission

Image: Portrait of Kate Jenkins AO, Chair of the Australian Sports Commission, smiling outdoors and wearing a dark green blazer, presented in a circular frame with decorative graphic elements.

About Blind Sports Australia

Blind Sports Australia (BSA) is a national sporting organisation for blind and vision impaired sport. BSA helps create pathways and opportunities for people to participate in blind sport from grassroots community level, right up to elite competition at national and international level.

We work with our members and other disability sporting organisations across Australia to grow blind sporting opportunities for people who are blind or have low vision and raise awareness of blind sports across the community.

BSA is a not-for-profit organisation. We are a founding member of Paralympics Australia, the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability, and are Australia’s representative to the International Blind Sports Federation.



Image: Images show inclusive blind sport training sessions supported by coaches, alongside a diagram outlining Blind Sports Australia’s organisational values.



Board

Role	Name
Chair	Sam Theodore
Deputy Chair	Tim Harradine
Director	Michael Sheppard
Director	Lance Willie
Director & Secretary	Kate Ingber

Staff and Volunteers

Role	Name
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)	Felicity Wilkeson
Participation Coordinator	Krista Woodroffe
Special Projects Lead	Matthew Clayton
Finance Support	Hui-Cheng Wee
Member Protection Information Officer	Ross Ashcroft

High Performance business unit

Role	Name
High Performance Director	Kyle Burns
Australian Blind Football Development Manager & Pathways Manager	Conor McAteer
Operations and Logistics Administrator	Jess Lovett (commencing Jan 2026)

Image: Group photo of BSA members, staff and board members facing the camera smiling with BSA logo banner behind.

Members



Goalball Australia is the governing body for the sport of Goalball in Australia and works with state Goalball associations, Blind Sports Australia and the Paralympics Australia to develop and grow the sport. Goalball Australia aims to provide development and elite pathways for its athletes, coaches and referees.

goalballaustralia.org



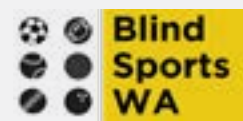
Blind Cricket has been played in Australia since 1922. Its early origins were in Prahran, Victoria where a group of blind and vision impaired people came up with the idea of putting some rocks in a can and using it as a ball. Today, Blind Cricket Australia oversees competitions in all mainland states and is developing the game in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

blindcricketaustralia.com.au



The Australian Blind Bowls Association (ABBA) is the peak body for State Associations, and was formed in 1977 to provide a sport for blind & vision impaired people.

blindbowlsaustralia.com



Blind Sports WA (BSWA) facilitates connections between vision-impaired people and sport. We actively encourage and nurture affiliated organisations. We work to build capacity, provide support for participation in accessible sports, increase people’s inclusion in the community to promote health and wellbeing for people with blind and visual impairments. We value relationships and believe that every vision-impaired person in WA should have the opportunity to choose a sport that is right for them.

blindsportswa.com.au



Blind Sports South Australia is the peak sporting body for people who are blind or vision impaired. Supporting over 10 different sports, Blind Sports South Australia provides a link between the athlete, other sporting community & agencies in South Australia & the national body, Blind Sports Australia.

blindsportssa.org.au



Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association has been helping Queenslanders with a disability lead active, healthy lives and achieve their dreams since 1977. We are Queensland's peak body for sport, recreation and fitness for people with a physical disability or vision impairment.

sportingwheelies.org.au



Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria is a state-wide organisation established in 1977 to promote health and wellbeing for people of all ages who are blind or vision impaired. Our objective is to increase participation and develop competitive and recreational sporting opportunities for people who are blind or vision impaired.

blindsports.org.au



Blind Sports and Recreation NSW/ACT is the peak organisational body for community members with blindness and low vision in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, providing sport and social recreation activities.

We are recognised by the State Government as well as multiple peak vision agencies including Vision Australia, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT, Save Sight Institute and Blind Citizens Australia.

blindsportsnsw.com.au



Inclusive Innovations Tasmania's aim is to promote innovative approaches to the inclusion of people living with a disability, disadvantage or disruption across key sectors, drawing on best practice from informed partners and utilising accessible technologies and innovative ideas to position Tasmania as a leader on the national and international stage.

inclusiveinnovationtasmania.com.au

phillip@inclusiveinnovationtasmania.com.au

Australian Sports Commission PlayWell Investment Impact

The Australian Sports Commission PlayWell investment supports Blind Sports Australia to expand participation, strengthen pathways, champion athlete wellbeing, and drive innovation in accessible sport. Through new resources, partnerships, technology, and targeted programs, the investment enables us to create inclusive environments, build community-level and high-performance pathways, and deliver meaningful opportunities for Australians who are blind or have low vision. Our PlayWell funding directly underpins initiatives that enhance national reach, increase coaching capability, elevate athlete outcomes, and ensure sport is welcoming and safe for all. We thank the Australian Sports Commission for their ongoing support and funding of blind sport nationally.

Communications & Digital Reach

Between April and August 2025, our PlayWell investment enabled us to partner with digital marketing agency FEED Digital to deliver a targeted national communications campaign designed to raise awareness of blind sport, drive participation, and strengthen community engagement. This was the first time we have engaged a digital agency, to run a campaign of paid advertising, storytelling, and pathway-focused content to make blind sport more visible and accessible to Australians of all ages and abilities. We are very pleased with the success of this inaugural campaign.



Image: Campaign imagery and an infographic summarise the national reach and impact of Blind Sports Australia's PlayWell investment, highlighting inclusive sport participation, education, equipment access and community engagement.



Campaign visibility

The campaign generated more than one million total impressions, reaching approximately 467,000 unique individuals across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. Video was the strongest-performing content format, receiving over 301,000 views and significantly improving message retention and awareness of blind sport.

Audience engagement

Audience response remained high throughout the campaign period, with a combined 28,500 interactions, (including reactions, comments, shares and saves). The campaign also contributed to steady online community growth, resulting in 1,480 new followers across our social platforms. Content featuring player stories, national-team achievements, awareness-week activations and program launch announcements generated the highest levels of positive audience engagement.

Website traffic and conversions

Digital advertising and organic content collectively produced 9,320 link clicks, directing audiences to key participation, volunteer and program pages on our Blind Sports Australia website. This resulted in:

- **467,000** unique individual reach
- **4,050** program-page visits
- **1,180** volunteer interest click-throughs
- **860** expressions of interest page visits

We received 395 measurable conversions, including sign-ups, expressions of interest and contact-form submissions.

Overall impact

Our PlayWell-funded digital strategy played a central role in elevating the national profile of blind and vision-impaired sport during 2025. By amplifying athlete stories, promoting inclusive-sport initiatives, and supporting participation pathways, the campaign not only strengthened our digital presence, but resulted in direct connections to our members and sports. These outcomes reflect the increasing reach and relevance of blind sport within the broader Australian sporting landscape and reinforce the value of continued investment in digital engagement initiatives.

Images from top left: An illustrated Blind Sports Australia graphic showing people standing together in support, highlighting that blind sport is more than a game, it's a welcoming community built on inclusion, courage and connection.

Expanding access, participation & inclusion

Active Play Toolkit for Blind and Low Vision Kids (October 2024)

On World Sight Day 2024, we launched a free Active Play Toolkit to help children who are blind or have low vision participate in sport and physical play. The resource gives teachers, parents, and community groups practical activities and inclusion strategies. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to building early engagement, accessible participation and creating lifelong pathways in sport for young Australians with vision impairment.

BLV Lawn Bowls Coaching Guide (December 2024)

To mark the 2024 International Day of People with Disability together with Bowls Australia and the Australian Blind Bowls Association we released our Blind and Low Vision Lawn Bowls: Beginners' Guide to Coaching & Directing. The online guide helps clubs and coaches deliver safe, welcoming,



and inclusive sessions for participants with vision impairment. It expands grassroots participation and supports local clubs in becoming truly vision-impaired-friendly environments.

BLV Tennis Coaching Guide Launch (January 2025)

At the 2025 Australian Open All Abilities Day, Blind Sports Australia and Tennis Australia unveiled our Blind and Low Vision Tennis – Beginner's Guide to Coaching. The interactive online guide details game formats, adaptations, and inclusion tips for coaches and clubs. As Australia's fastest-growing blind sport, this resource supports quality coaching and ensures accessibility from community to competitive levels.

Equipment Distribution: Expanding Access and Participation

During this year, our Blind Sports Australia online store saw increased traffic with more than 2,000

Images from top right: Audible and adapted blind sports balls, eyeshades and tethers representing the 2,000 items sold in our online store this year to support blind sport.

units of audible sports equipment distributed nationally. By providing modified equipment needed for inclusive sport, we are helping to significantly increase access to active play for people who are blind or have a vision impairment. Around 40% of this equipment went directly to schools, supporting students to participate confidently and safely in physical education. The remaining 60%

was supplied to community participants, enabling individuals of all ages to discover new sports and stay engaged in active lifestyles. Our equipment was also shipped outside Australia, with the United Blind Persons of Fiji purchasing equipment for their programs—strengthening international relationships and broadening the reach of inclusive sport across the Asia-Pacific region.

Building Pathways & Partnerships



Women's blind football debut - The Bilbies (May 2025)

Australia's women's blind football team, the Bilbies, made history at the 2024 IBSA Grand Prix in Umekita, Japan — competing in their first-ever international match to win the bronze medal. We continue to advocate for women's blind football to be added as a Paralympic event - although this opportunity was denied for the LA 2028 Paralympics, we are committed towards making this a reality at our home games in Brisbane 2032. We are thankful for our growing, supportive partnership with the Japan Blind Football Association, whose collaboration and support continues to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and competition - helping strengthen our international development.

creating a sustainable pathway for players in the Northern Territory. The free community program provides an inclusive entry point for people of all ages with vision impairment, helping make participation accessible in every region of Australia.

Empowering future educators through inclusive sport (2024-2025)

In 2024–2025, Blind Sports Australia continued our successful partnerships with both ACU and Griffith University to help shape the next generation of inclusive educators through practical, immersive learning experiences. Across both campuses, preservice teaching students were introduced to blind sports, trained in communication and guiding techniques, and engaged in simulations using blindfolds and vision-impairment glasses to build genuine understanding.

Northern Territory BLV Tennis pathway launch (May 2025)

In partnership with Tennis Australia, we supported the Darwin Blind & Low Vision Tennis Program,

Students participated in obstacle-course challenges, ball-tracking activities, and hands-on Goalball and



Images from L to R: Group photo of BLV Tennis players Mark Haskett, Ethan Cook and Tim Haggis smiling at the camera, followed by an action shot of Ollie Fanshawe performing a backhand shot.

Images from top right: Some of the Bilbies, Australia's womens blind football players competing on the pitch wearing eyeshades, and green and gold uniforms against the Japanese blind football players during a match at their debut in Umekita Japan.

Non-Bias Bowls sessions that brought inclusive practice to life. The workshops were delivered by our staff and proudly supported by Paralympians Tyan Taylor and Raissa Martin, providing students with expert insight into coaching and participation for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Over 500 future teachers took part across the year, bringing the total number of preservice educators engaged through the program to more than 1000 since 2023. Most importantly, students left with practical tools, meaningful experience, and a deeper appreciation for how to design and deliver safe, inclusive physical education for all learners.



Images from L to R: Blind Golf participant in a pink jacket being instructed by their caddie before teeing off, followed by Australian women’s blind football team goalkeeper in orange defending a goal.

Championing Excellence & Wellbeing



Win Well Pledge signed (December 2024)

We proudly joined our fellow national sporting organisations in taking the Win Well Pledge, committing to success that prioritises athlete wellbeing. The pledge embeds mental, physical, emotional, and cultural health at the heart of performance. It reinforces Blind Sports Australia’s leadership in safe-sport culture as we work towards ensuring every athlete and staff member can thrive both on and off the field.



“Blind Sports Australia fully supports the Win Well Pledge as we recognise wellbeing as the cornerstone in supporting blind and vision impaired athletes on their journey to win well. By working together with our member organisations, we strive to create clear athlete pathways, and ensure well-being is an integral part of our inclusive high performance culture where athletes thrive both on and off the playing field.”

Felicity Wilkeson – Blind Sports Australia CEO

Record high-performance funding (November 2024)

We welcomed the Australian Sports Commission’s landmark \$385 million investment in high-performance sport—including support for our para sports of Goalball and Blind Football. This unprecedented funding round represents the most significant investment in Australian blind sport history and will help build athlete pathways, coaching expertise, and competitive excellence through to the 2032 Brisbane Paralympics.

Images from top right: A goalball athlete wearing eye shades defends the goal during a high-performance match, demonstrating focus, strength and teamwork.

Paris Paralympic Games
(August 2024)

Nine Paralympians who are blind or vision impaired were members of the 2024 Australian Paralympic Team in Paris. Each of these athletes displayed remarkable determination, skill, and perseverance throughout the Games – and we congratulate them on their achievements.



Sport	Athletes	Results / Achievements
Cycling – Women	Jessica Gallagher & Pilot Caitlin Ward	SILVER Women’s B 1000m Time Trial, and 7th B 3000m individual pursuit
Cycling – Men	Kane Perris & Pilot Luke Zaccaria	4th Men’s B 1000m Time Trial Cycling
Athletics	Jaryd Clifford	4th T13 5000m & 1500m Track
	Chad Perris	4th T13 100m Sprint
	Jackson Hamilton	6th Javelin F13
Swimming	Jenna Jones	6th 100m Backstroke S12, 8th 100m Freestyle S12, 6th 100m Breaststroke SB12 (Oceania record)
	Katja Dedekind	4th 50m Freestyle S13
Para-Triathlon	Sam Harding and Guide Aaron Royle	5th
Judo	Taylor Gosens	7th 70kg J2

Sports Highlights

These achievements highlight the breadth of talent and dedication across Australia’s blind-sport community; and showcase just some of the many opportunities and pathways for athletes to take part in blind sport at every level.

Sport	Results / Achievements
Cricket – Men	The Australian men’s blind cricket team won the 2024 Blind and Low Vision Ashes in November 2024 - the first Ashes since 2016. Steffan Nero was named Player of the Series scoring over 400 runs in 4 innings cementing his well earned place in the blind cricket record books.
Cricket – Women	The Australian women’s blind cricket team also made history, hosting the first ever five match International T20 series against Pakistan, taking out their first ever international series win at home in Brisbane. Courtney Lewis posted a record breaking century becoming the first Australian woman to score an international hundred in women’s blind cricket, finishing unbeaten on 109 from 71 balls. Affected by inclement weather, the series resulted in a one-all draw.
Goalball	The Aussie Storm men’s team claimed two bronze medals at the Nations Cup in Berlin, showcasing their growing team strength on the world stage.
Australian Blind Football	The national mens and womens team travelled to Tokyo in December 2024 to play friendly matches against an international team to gain valuable experience, skills and knowledge with thanks to our partnership with the Japan Blind Football Association.
Australian Women’s Blind Football	The Australian Women’s Blind Football Team claimed bronze in their first-ever international tournament in Umekita Japan in May 2025, defeating England 1–0 in a third-place playoff where young multi-sport athlete Bo Buakhao kicked the winning goal for the win.

Sport	Results / Achievements
Tennis	<p>Tess Whelan made her international debut as Australia’s first B1 representative at the International Blind Tennis Federation World Tennis Championships in Italy, part of a fifteen strong Tennis Australia team.</p> <p>Australia now has several players ranked number one in the world, with more rapidly moving up the rankings as BLV tennis continues to accelerate at a rapid pace.</p>
Bowls	<p>Australian athletes delivered standout performances at both the World Championships and national competitions, reinforcing their global competitiveness.</p>
Blind Golf	<p>Seven of Australia’s best blind and vision impaired golfers took on the world at the 2025 IBGA World Championship in Canada . Jamie Hain led the charge, winning the Men’s B3 Flight by five shots and Michele Watts claimed 3rd in the Women’s B3 Flight, while Phil Giles finished 5th in the Men’s B1 Flight. Blind Golf Australia’s 2025 national championships celebrated a remarkable 35 years of Rosebud Golf and Country Club hosting blind golf competitions.</p>

Courtney Webeck, our Blind Sports Australia Ambassador, received the honour of Blind Australian of the Year 2024, and was also awarded the 2024 Sports Australia Hall Of Fame Scholarship, recognising her outstanding skill and contribution to blind sport in cricket and tennis.



“Representing my country is an incredible honour, but to do it on home soil makes it even more special. I feel privileged to lead and play alongside this amazing group of women and to showcase our sport to the Australian public. Playing at home adds that extra motivation, not just to perform well, but to inspire the next generation of blind and vision-impaired athletes, and to show what’s possible with belief and hard work.”

Australian Blind Cricket Captain Courtney Webeck



Case Studies

ACU pre-service teachers leading the way in inclusive sport

In 2024–25, Blind Sports Australia strengthened its collaboration with Australian Catholic University (ACU), creating one of the most impactful inclusive-sport education experiences for pre-service teachers in the country. Across multiple ACU campuses, more than 200 future educators took part in hands-on training designed to deepen their understanding of vision impairment, build confidence in adaptive coaching, and shift their mindset towards genuinely inclusive teaching practice.

The sessions formed part of ACU’s broader “community engagement” framework—an approach grounded in the university’s mission of human dignity, the common good and equitable learning access. For many students, this was their first time experiencing inclusive sport not as a theoretical concept, but as an embodied learning journey.

Throughout the workshops, participants rotated through immersive activities using simulation glasses and blindfolds, refining their communication, guiding and movement-support skills. They attempted sound-based tracking games, adapted ball-handling drills, and elements of Goalball and Non-Bias Bowls—quickly discovering how critical clear language, spatial awareness and athlete autonomy are when coaching someone with vision loss.

A standout moment for many pre-service teachers was the shift from “How do I help?” to “How do I enable?”. Instead of assuming limitations, they learned to create environments where blind and vision-impaired students can participate confidently and safely, just like their sighted peers. The presence of lived-experience presenters added authenticity, bringing personal stories, coaching tips and powerful reflections into the room.

By embedding inclusive sport directly into teacher education programs, this partnership ensures that adaptive PE and vision-impaired participation are not optional extras, but essential knowledge for every new educator entering the profession. It prepares preservice teachers to design lessons, modify games, and build classrooms that actively welcome students of all abilities.

Most importantly, students walked away inspired and equipped with practical tools, a new level of confidence, and a genuine commitment to making sport and physical education accessible for every learner they will one day teach.

Images from top left: Pre-service teachers participate in inclusive sport training activities, practising guiding, communication and movement support while wearing blindfolds.

Financial Summary

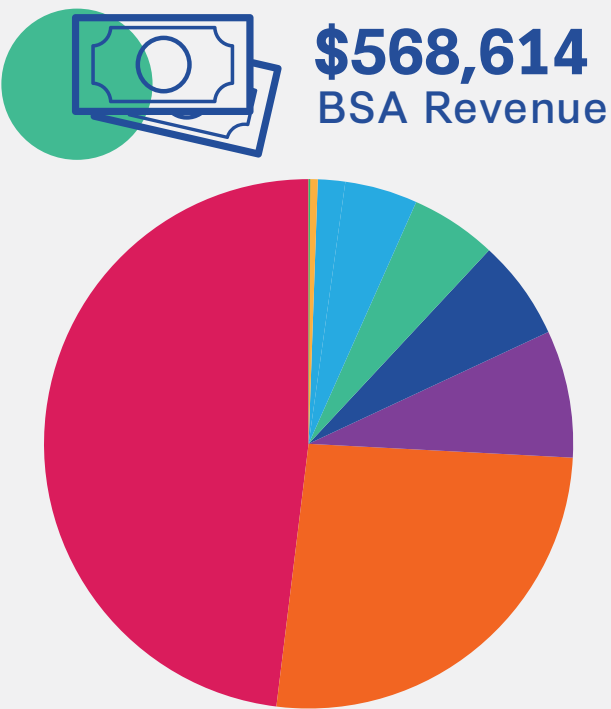
During this financial year, Blind Sports Australia has seen a doubling of revenue growth, largely driven by increased funding from the Australia Sports Commission for both our participation (PlayWell) and high performance (WinWell) grants; as a direct result of the Federal Government’s increased investment into Paralympic sport.

Our income was further bolstered by two successful grant applications, several private donations, and the support of our sponsor Diogenes Investment, for which we are very thankful. Australian Blind Football also received a grant funding from the Department of Foreign

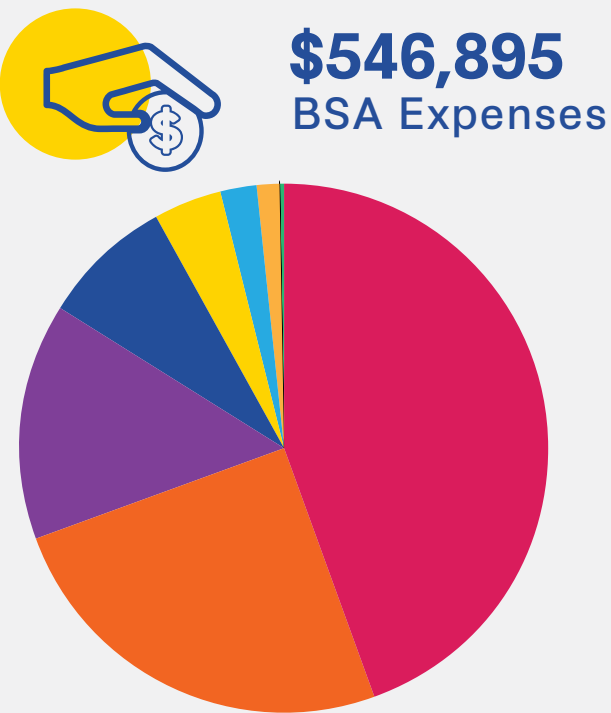
Affairs and Trade, and the Japan Blind Football Association, assisting our teams to travel to two major international competitions.

We are pleased to report a surplus for this year of \$21,718 – a strong turnaround from the previous years deficit of \$32,158. As our business grows, so too do our overheads and expenses such as wages and salaries. However, we believe we are well positioned for sustainable growth in future years, as we have introduced improved business systems and processes to support this increased investment and staffing levels.

- Membership Subscriptions
- Corporate sponsorships
- Other income
- Donation Income
- Camp Fees
- Net ABF Income
- Grants
- Government grants - Australian and Sports Commission



- Employee benefits expenses
- Australian Blind Football expenses
- Other expenses
- Administrative expenses
- Consulting fees
- Grant expenses for use in Australia
- Resources
- Function expenses
- Marketing expenses

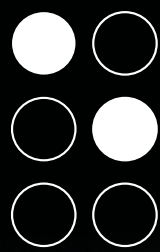


The full 2024/2025 Blind Sports Australia Financial Report can be downloaded from:
[BSA financial report](#)

Image: Two pie charts summarise Blind Sports Australia’s 2024–2025 finances, showing total revenue of \$568,614 and total expenses of \$546,895, with income and costs broken down by category.



Images from L to R: Two participants wearing blindfolds try a blind football drill inside at the BSA Member Forum, next image shows a presenter at the Forum with participants seated listening around tables.



2025 Annual Report



**Blind
Sports
Australia**

blindsportsaustralia.com.au

Image: An action shot of a Hawthorn and Port Melbourne AFL Blind football player contesting a mark during an indoor game with both hands grasping for a fluoro yellow audible.