

5.2a Sporting Schools in WA - 2017

Summary of Services provided

OWA provided services to 20 primary schools during 2017. Of these 8 were outside the Perth metropolitan area.

Services consisted of:

Mapping of school plus Teacher professional development (PD):	8
Mapping of school plus Coach delivered program:	7
Map update plus Coach delivered program:	2
Map update to enable Teacher delivered program:	1
Resources and support for Teacher delivered program:	2

Service providers:

Programs were delivered by OWA coaches and by 1 Level 0 certified coach and 3 teachers. Of the OWA coaches, 3 are retirees and 1 is a University student. The PD was provided by 3 Level 2 coaches 2 of whom are retirees. Mapping was carried out by 5 experienced OWA mappers and checked by the OWA Mapping Convenor.

Note: Given the hours when school programs or PD are required to be delivered these jobs fall to a handful of retirees and one student. We have been unsuccessful in recruiting other coaches from university physical education programs who might be available during school hours. Coaches involved have been feeling the strain. Fortunately, we have been more successful this year in persuading more schools to have staff trained to deliver services themselves. If this trend continues it will reduce the load for OWA coaches and increase the likelihood that orienteering will continue in schools in subsequent years.

Related services not funded by Sporting Schools Grants:

There has been a flow-on effect of advertising re sporting schools, with secondary schools and other groups not eligible in 2017 for funding requesting services they have paid for from their own funds. This has resulted in:

Mapping of secondary school: 8 schools

PD for group of parents who home school: 1 group of 10 participants

PD for PE teachers on processes for introducing orienteering in independent schools: 1 group of 6 participants.

Note: With the Sporting Schools program now funding secondary schools there is now a group of mapped schools likely to seek funds for resource materials. The demand for services such as program delivery, teacher PD and mapping is unknown. If large, it may exceed OWA's capacity to deliver.

Benefits to OWA and to the schools:

Direct benefit to OWA is negligible with few students from participating schools showing up to OWA events despite distribution of programs and free passes for families.

Students participating in programs have appeared very enthusiastic and expressed their appreciation, as have many of their teachers. Hence non-appearance at OWA events does not seem related to lack of interest in the sport but rather to the need for parents to be involved to provide transport for their children, and the distance, and hence time, involved for children to get to events – especially bush events. Distance from Perth to good map areas is greater than in most other states.

It should be noted, however, that the primary schools bringing the largest number of students to the WA Schools Orienteering championships have all been involved in school programs provided by OWA *and* have a teacher who is enthusiastic about orienteering.

If the goal of the SS grant system is to provide students with knowledge of an enjoyable sport/leisure activity they might not otherwise have experienced then it can be considered successful. However, for sports such as orienteering where this exposure does not lead to engagement in the sport on a regular basis, the decision has to be made as to whether this is the best way to attract school age children and their families.

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