

ACT LITTLE ATHLETICS

FACILITY PLAN 2010-2020

September 2009

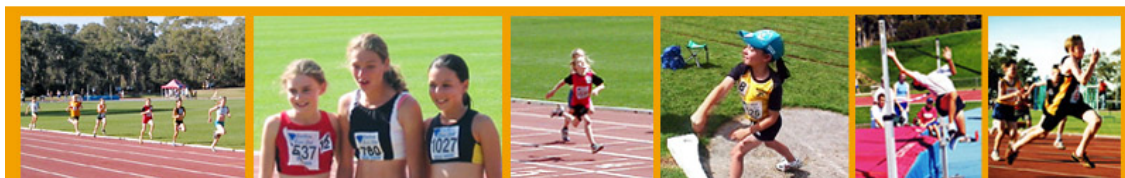


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1. Executive Summary

- The future demographics of the ACT and Region identify significant growth in the new residential areas of Gungahlin, Jerrabomberra/Tralee and the Molonglo Valley over the next 5-20 years. At the same time the number of children in the group aged 0-14 years will steadily increase from 2006 to 2021 across the region.
- Participation in Little Athletics has risen steadily since 2005 and the number of affiliated little athletics centres has increased. Demand for access to little athletics remains solid and with the projected population growth in the core age group of 0-14 years it is anticipated that centres will continue to increase their participation numbers.
- All little athletic centres use government owned facilities and are limited to the amenities available at each centre. Each centre has managed to negotiate with the Government for facility upgrades over time and most centres use their own resources to help improve and maintain facilities.
- The major priorities for ACT Little Athletics are:
 1. Secure an ACT dedicated synthetic athletics facility for use by all athletic organisations.
 2. Assist Little Athletic Centres to achieve identified minimum facility standards.
 3. Work with Government to identify land for little athletic facilities in new growth areas.
- The installation of lights at key identified centres would enable little athletics to conduct weeknight programs, competitions and events in addition to use of weekends and enable ACT Little Athletics to explore partnerships with other sports for use of the facilities on an annual basis.

2. Purpose of the Facility Plan

ACT Little Athletics is the peak body representing 17 Little Athletic centres and 3227 (in 2008-09) registered members in the ACT and region. On behalf of all its members, Little Athletics ACT is seeking to develop a long term facility plan to help guide and support the delivery and development of Little Athletics into the future.

There are a number of purposes for this Plan;

- To assist plan for the future facility needs of Little Athletics, particularly in new growth areas of Canberra and Queanbeyan.
- To assist Little Athletic centres with their facility development against recognised standards.
- To work with the ACT Government to ensure land provision and support for new and existing facilities.
- To provide a framework for future funding submissions to Government for facility provision.

This Facility Plan complements the Little Athletics Strategic Plan 2009-2013 that seeks to increase participation in Little Athletics in the ACT and region which will directly impact on facility provision to support any increased participation.

The Plan addresses the following areas:

- An assessment of the changing demographics of the ACT and Region and the implications for participation in Little Athletics into the future.
- An assessment of the distribution of current Little Athletic facilities in the ACT and region population areas to identify gaps and areas of need.
- The assessment and benchmarking of Little Athletic facilities against recognised standards.
- Identification of facility gaps and needs to establish some key recommendations and strategic directions/actions.

3. ACT and Region Demographics

3.1 Population

The demographics of the ACT population are changing significantly. Critical to ACT Little Athletics is the prediction that although the population aged 0-14 years will have decreased from 66,340 in 1998 to 62,714 in 2006, it will then steadily increase to 71,495 by 2021 indicating a growth in the key age group for Little Athletics. (Source: Australian Social Trends, Data Cube-Population, ACT Summary, 1998-2008)

The Queanbeyan area population has grown annually by 2.1% (4,100 people) every year since 2001 and represents one of largest growth areas in inland NSW. The population in 2006 was 37,885 and expected to increase to 57,864 by 2031. Queanbeyan has an age profile similar to that of the ACT and also expects a significant ageing of its population in future years although the Jerrabomberra area will have the greatest number of young people in proportion to the remainder of the Queanbeyan area.

Queanbeyan Population Age Groups 2006-2031

Age Group	2006	2016	2031
0 – 19 years	10,719	11,166	15,338
% of total	28.2%	26.1%	26.5%
20 – 54 years	20,285	22,366	28,808
% of total	53.6%	52.1%	49.8%
55+ years	6,878	9,357	13,731
% of total	18.2%	21.8%	23.7%

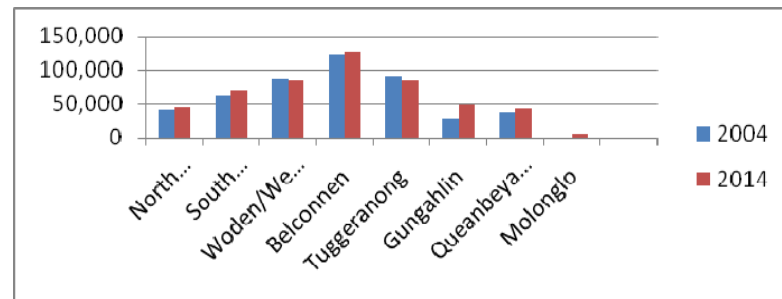
Source: Queanbeyan City Council Population Forecasts (forecast.id), 2006

3.2 Demographics of ACT Districts and Region

The demographics of the Canberra districts are also gradually changing. Population growth is expected to be greatest in the Gungahlin/Hall and West Belconnen regions to 2014 and in the new Molonglo region in the late 2020's. The greatest population growth will be in Gungahlin/Hall from 29,250 to 47,700 and in West Belconnen from 4,750 to 7,400 by 2014. Source: Population Projections for Canberra Suburbs and Districts 2004 to 2014, August 2004, Chief Minister's Department.

At the same time there will also be significant growth in the Queanbeyan area from 37,885 in 2006 to 57,864 in 2031, an increase of 65%.

Population growth by ACT and Region districts

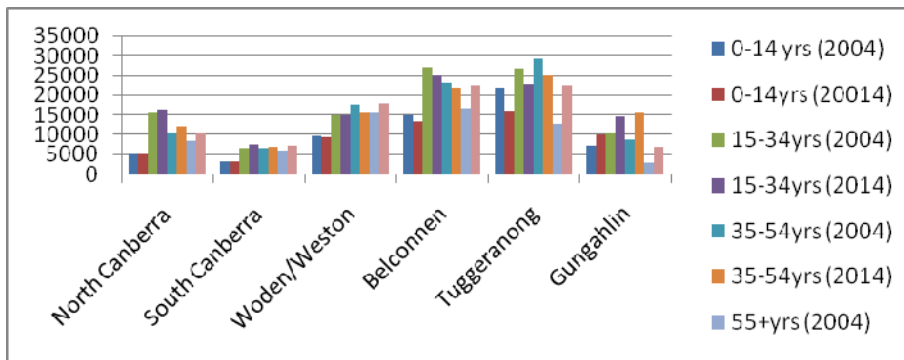


Source: Population Projections for Canberra Suburbs and Districts 2004 to 2014, August 2004, Chief Minister's Department
 Source: Queanbeyan City Council Population Forecasts (forecast.id), 2006

The age profile of districts will also change over time. Currently the largest numbers of people aged 0-34 years of age live in Tuggeranong and Belconnen but is set to decrease in 2014. Growth areas for this age group are in Gungahlin and Jerrabomberra. There is a forecast increase of 15-34 year olds in the inner north and south Canberra areas, primarily due to the increase of high density apartment developments in these inner city areas.

The 0-14 year age group represents the main demographic of Little Athletics. The aging trends in the ACT will decrease the population base from which to recruit participants and this will become very evident in aging districts such as Tuggeranong, Belconnen and Woden/Weston in the next 5-10 years. The only anticipated growth of the 0-14 year age group will be in Gungahlin and Jerrabomberra, however the greatest total of 0-14 year olds will remain in Tuggeranong and Belconnen.

Forecast population by age, by district 2004 to 2014



Source: Population Projections for Canberra Suburbs and Districts 2004 to 2014, August 2004, Chief Minister's Department

Conclusion:

- The ACT population is aging however there will still be growth in the 0-14 year age groups.
- The growth in 0-14 years of age populations is not uniform and will be in limited areas such as Gungahlin and Jerrabomberra and to a lesser extent in West Belconnen.
- It would be anticipated that with the new Molonglo development there will be a younger population in the area for the first 10-20 years.

4. Little Athletics Demographics and Trends

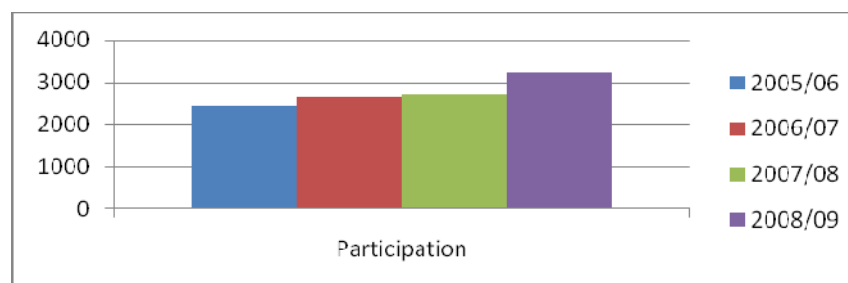
4.1 ACT Little Athletics consists of 17 centres and 3227 (2008-09) registered members. Seven of the Little Athletics centres are outside the ACT in regional NSW.

Distribution of centres and participants for 2008/09 is as follows;

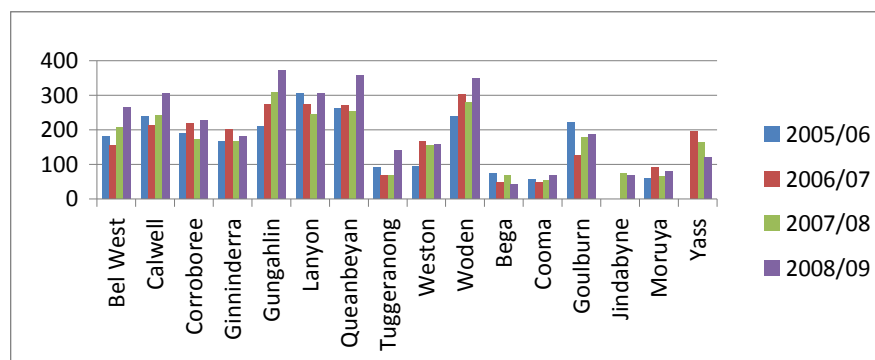
Centre	Participants
Braidwood*	N/A
Bel Wests (Cook)	264
Calwell	304
Corroboree (Dickson)	228
Ginninderra (Charnwood)	180
Gungahlin (Amaroo)	373
Lanyon (Banks)	304
Tuggeranong (Kambah)	140
Weston Creek (Chapman)	157
Woden (Phillip)	350
Bega	43
Cooma	70
Jindabyne	67
Moruya	80
Mulwaree (Goulburn)	188
Queanbeyan	358
Yass	121
Total	3227

* Braidwood commencing 2009/10

4.2 Participation trends for the period 2005/06 to 2008/09 show a steady increase in participation numbers as follows:






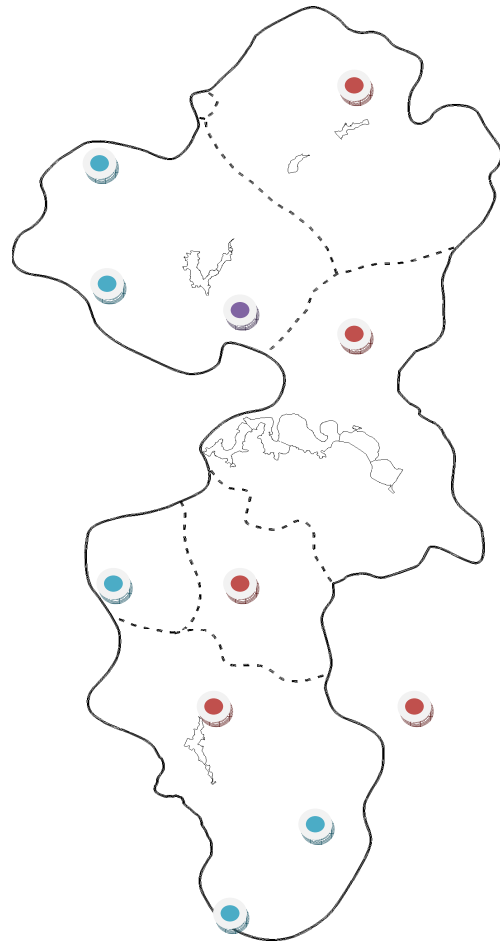
4.3 The participation numbers of centres over this period were:



5. Current Little Athletics Facility Distribution in the ACT and Region

5.1 ACT

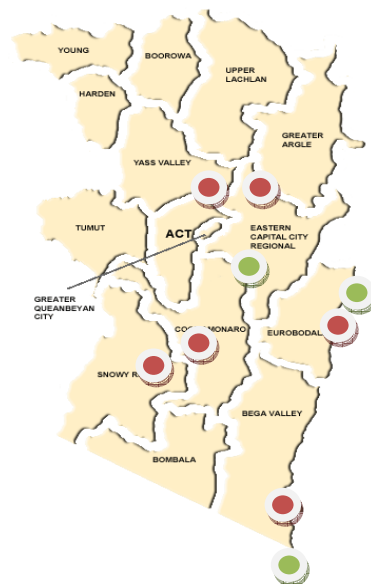
-  Stand alone Little Athletics facility, no lights
-  Little Athletics Facility on shared use facility
-  Major Athletic facility



5.2 Regional

Centres	
Bega	43
Cooma	70
Jindabyne	67
Moruya	80
Mulwaree	188
Yass	121
Total	569

Braidwood 2009/10
 Potential - Eden
 - Bateman's Bay



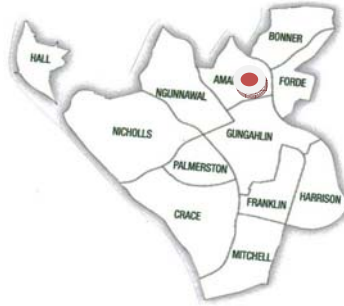
Gungahlin

Population 42,650 (June 2008)

Centres

Gungahlin 373

Total 373



South Canberra

Population 66,900 (June 2008)

Centres - Nil



Queanbeyan

Population 37,885 (June 2008)

Centres

Queanbeyan 358

Total 358



6. Little Athletic Facility Standards

Minimum Standards	
Track	400m, 8 lanes, 10 lane straight * or 8 lane track and separate 100m track
Throwing circles	2 discus with concrete circle and cages 2 shot put with concrete circles
Javelin	70m x 25m separate area with 20m runway and 50m throw area
Jump pits	3 jump pits with concrete edges, 2 with 20m synthetic surface runways and 1 with 40m synthetic surface runway
Sand quality	Not coarse
Storage	320 cubic metres (20x8x2m)
Canteen/kiosk	
Change rooms	Male and female
Toilets	Male, female and disabled access

7. Benchmarking of Little Athletic Facilities against Standards

The following table aims to benchmark existing facilities to the desired facility standards.

	Track	Throw circles	Javelin	Jump pits	Sand quality	Storage	Canteen/kiosk	Change rooms	Toilets
Bega	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Bel Wests	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Calwell	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corroboree	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Ginninderra	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Gungahlin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lanyon	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Tuggeranong	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weston Creek	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Woden	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bega									
Cooma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jindabyne	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moruya	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Mulwarree	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Queanbeyan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yass	Yes	No	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No

Comments

- Bega do not have a full 400m eight lane track. there is one discus with no cage. Storage is a shipping container and the toilets are located 500m away across a road.
- Bel Wests track is only 300m and there is no access to toilets.
- Calwell's throwing circles do not have cages.
- Corroboree's throwing circles do not have cages and canteen is at far end of oval so operate a stand-alone bbq.
- Ginninderra's discuss circles do not have cages and javelin area is general turf area. Canteen is at the far end of oval and not hired and toilets are open for competition only.
- Gungahlin does not have cages in discus circles.

- Lanyon does not have cages around throws circles, (installing with Government assistance) is putting in a synthetic run up to second jump pit and have purchased additional storage. There are no change rooms.
- Tuggeranong has discus circles without cages, no concrete edges or synthetic run-ups on the three jump pits and the track is deeply rutted and incorrectly marked. Canteen and change rooms are available but not used due to additional hiring costs.
- Weston Creek has two throws circles not caged and has insufficient storage available.
- Woden does not have a 10 lane straight or separate track.
- Moruya uses local high school oval and has only a 300m x 6 lane track and only one throws circle with cage.
- Mulwaree (Goulburn) uses the change rooms for storage and does not have disabled toilet access.
- Queanbeyan needs the jump runways to be replaced.
- Yass uses a general multi-purpose oval with access to toilets and changer rooms if needed. Two jump pits do not have concrete edges or synthetic run ups.

8. Future Facility Needs

The review has identified a number of facility needs for Little Athletics to conduct quality programs and competition in the ACT and region over the next 5-10 years. These needs are:

8.1 An ACT dedicated synthetic track

The ACT does not have a dedicated synthetic athletics track for the primary athletic organisations in the ACT. The ACT athletic community is reliant on access to the Australian Institute of Sport athletics track and whilst access is available the needs of the AIS always comes first which often means the track is unavailable for training and competition on a regular basis. Often athletic carnivals, community and school are scheduled on the track but then are cancelled due to the requirements of the AIS. Scheduling Little Athletic events at the AIS and getting more regular access is problematic. The ACT requires its own synthetic track so that competitions, events and training access can be planned over the season.

There are some preliminary plans for the inclusion of a synthetic athletic track at Stromlo Park and this would be considered a high priority by ACT Little Athletics. This would also provide a synthetic track on both the north and south side of the city and enable greater use by clubs and the association for training, events and competitions, including night competitions if the track is supported with lights.

8.2 Little Athletic Facilities in new growth areas

The new growth areas of Gungahlin, Molonglo and Jerrabomberra/Tralee may need additional centres in the short to medium term. Gungahlin is already the largest little athletic centre in the ACT and with additional growth will need to access another centre, preferably in the south-east corner of Gungahlin as Amaroo will continue to accommodate the needs of the north-west part of Gungahlin.

Jerrabomberra and Tralee will see significant growth in the Queanbeyan area and provision may need to be made by the Queanbeyan Council for a little athletics centre in this area within the next 3-5 years.

As the Molonglo Valley opens up to residential development provision for a little athletics centres will need to be considered, although Weston Creek can accommodate some growth in the short term.

8.3 Little Athletic Centres achieving minimum standards

The benchmarking of little athletic centres indicates that a number of centres require assistance to help them comply with the minimum standards identified. The majority of centres require cages for their throwing circles and concrete edging and synthetic run ups for their jump pits.

8.4 Lights

Little athletic centres with lights would enable many centres to operate on weeknights in addition or in preference to weekends. This would enable training and competitions to be conducted mid week, which is increasingly the preference of many parents, and would also ensure that activities are not always in the heat of the day helping to reduce heat stress and sun exposure. Access to lit facilities would provide greater flexibility in the conduct of little athletic activities.

9. Facility Priorities

The priorities identified in this review of facilities are:

1. The establishment of an ACT synthetic track for local athletic programs on a more regular and guaranteed basis.
2. Assistance for existing little athletic centres to achieve compliance with the minimum standards established by ACT Little Athletics.
3. Identification and provision of land for future little athletic centres in Gungahlin, Molonglo and Jerrabomberra/Tralee

10. Partnerships with other sports

Little Athletics and AFL

ACT Little Athletics in conjunction with AFL Canberra has been exploring a partnership to help cross promote each other's sport over the summer and winter periods. There has also been some discussion about the potential to share facilities in each other's off season.

The key issue for Little Athletics is the need to have reasonably permanent track markings during their season. It is not feasible for volunteers to mark a full athletics track on a regular basis using washable paint and most Little Athletic tracks are marked with diesel or a similar fluid to burn the lines into the grass. This however leaves permanent ruts over time and makes the surface less than ideal for other sport users. Sport and Recreation Services who manage the facilities appreciate this issue and where possible provide stand alone facilities for Little Athletics. The inside of the athletics track however could be suitable for junior AFL as the ground size required is smaller than a full AFL oval. It may be possible for junior competition AFL to be played at these venues although training would be limited as most of these facilities do not have lights.

The concept of cross promotion and recruiting from each other's junior participants has some merit and could be more formalised between little athletic centres and junior AFL.

Addition of lights to little athletic centres would enable this partnership to further develop as AFL junior clubs could use the smaller fields for training in addition to use for competition. The installation of lights would benefit both little athletics and AFL.

Other User Groups

A number of other groups utilise the little athletic facilities including Athletics ACT, Veterans Athletics, and Triathlon. Schools are also a major user of facilities for school athletic training and carnivals.

11. Strategic Way Forward for Little Athletic Facilities in the ACT

Facility Strategic Timeframe 2010-2020

Based on the findings of this review the following strategic direction in respect to Little Athletic facilities is recommended.

Objective	Strategy	Timeframe
Secure an ACT synthetic athletics facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in association with ACT Athletics to support a new athletics facility in the ACT. • Respond to the proposed Stromlo Park Master Plan and the inclusion of a synthetic athletics facility. 	Ongoing October 09
Achieving minimum standards for all little athletic centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present and discuss the ACT Little Athletics Facility Plan to the ACT Government and discuss the assistance required for individual clubs to achieve the minimum standards. • Assist the non-ACT Centres to present the Facility Plan to their respective Councils to seek assistance to achieve the standards. • Recommend and assist Centres develop grant applications to assist in their resourcing for facility upgrades. 	November 09 Ongoing Annually
Ensuring new centres are planned for in growth areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the need for new Centres with the respective ACT and Local Governments to ensure land provision and forward planning includes the needs of little athletics in these areas. 	November 09
Building partnerships with other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss cross promotion initiatives with AFL Canberra. • Identify the potential for joint funding applications to install lights at several key facilities on the north and south side of the city. 	February 10 2010/11