



# PARACANOE PROGRAM

6A Figtree Drive, Level 2, Sports House  
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127  
PO Box 6805 Silverwater NSW 2128  
T +61 2 8116 9727 F +61 2 8732 1610

# Resource Plan

# National Level



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



AUSTRALIAN  
PARALYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Resource Baseline – Equipment	4
Resource Baseline – Engagement	6
Resource Baseline – Coaching	7
Key Stakeholder – State / Territory	7
Extent of Responsibility	8

# Introduction

As the *'Paracanoe Structure and Pathways Plan – National'* points out, fundamental to increasing the number of participants that are involved in the sport of paracanoe is the development and provision of more suitable and regular opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in.

Whilst identifying and developing these opportunities (structures), and the way in which they interact (pathways), is a significant part of the long term plan for developing the sport of paracanoe, it is imperative we acknowledge that in order for these structures to survive the early stages of starting-up and progress through to establishing themselves as a consistent and reliable provider of paracanoe programs, training and competition opportunities, a framework for identifying, securing and providing critical resources must be established.

***(For the purposes of this plan, critical resources are considered to be tangible pieces of equipment and / or learning and knowledge based documents).***

The goal of this *'Paracanoe Resource Plan – National'* is to achieve the following:

1. Identify a baseline level of resources / equipment that each canoe club / program has or should have access to in order to:
  - a. Deliver high quality experiences and impressions of the sport;
  - b. Ensure overall consistency with the image that Australian Canoeing wishes to project for the sport;
  - c. Support standardised procedures for resourcing creditable paracanoe clubs / programs;
  - d. Manage stakeholder expectations.
2. Identify the parties responsible for supporting the provision of the identified resources.

Once this has been completed, a '*Paracanoe Resource Plan*' for each state / territory will be developed which will identify the peak organisations / services (preferably located in each state / territory) that will assume responsibility for sourcing / providing the required funding to support the provision of the identified equipment and resources during the establishment phase.

## **Resource Baseline – Equipment**

### **Grass Roots**

At the 'Paracanoe Recreational' level it is expected that the majority of existing canoe clubs will be able to provide access to grass roots level Paracanoe opportunities through the use of basic / standard equipment.

At this introductory level, it is likely that the most suitable boats will be either 'touring kayaks' (TK1) or 'touring canoes' (TC1), which should be available either at the club or through the relevant state / territory association. Various paddles are suitable for the beginning paddler and can include flat paddles, old carbon paddles, plastic paddles for both kayaks and canoe, and old wooden or carbon outrigger paddles and aluminium and plastic canoe paddles. A PFD is recommended for all grass roots paddlers until a demonstrated ability to capsize without panic and an ability to manoeuvre the craft to safety and either re-enter the boat or await assistance to re-enter the boat safely. Type 2 PFD's are the most suitable PFD for almost all participants but if a participant is not able to turn themselves over and float face up then a type 1 PFD is highly recommended. Clubs should have some PFD's available and if participants are attending regularly then they should be encouraged to purchase their own PFD which usually retails for approximately \$100.

It is imperative that potential participant's are provided with a positive first experience in the sport, and consequently the use of these boats is beneficial in that they not only provide a high quality experience of the sport, but also a good indication of what it is like to participate / compete in both the K1 (kayak) and V1 (outrigger) classes.

As is the case with most sports, it is impossible for anyone to develop a clear understanding of a sport unless they have been exposed to it in its proper form. This process is not about trying to convince people to like paracanoe, rather ensuring they have the chance to make an informed decision (based on accurate information and experiences) about their future participation in the sport of paracanoe.

## **Development**

For those athletes who wish to participate in paracanoe at the competitive level, it is important that we strive to ensure that they have access to a higher standard of equipment that is better suited to their ability and chosen discipline (K1, V1). Kayak and outrigger paddles should be of a high quality and individual athletes should be encouraged to purchase their own paddle at a cost between \$400 and \$700. Secondhand carbon paddles may be available from time to time, however it is important that this next level of equipment has the capacity to support their continued development and progression in the sport.

Given the costs associated with purchasing this level of equipment (approximately \$3,000 - \$5,000 per boat), it is expected that the local canoe clubs are unlikely to be in a position to fund the purchase independently (possibly not at all). Therefore it will be necessary for both the APC and Australian Canoeing to work closely with the clubs, relevant local governments, state / territory governments and SSO's to prepare and submit grant applications wherever possible / applicable.

# Resource Baseline – Engagement

## Introduction to Paracanoe – Club Engagement

The 'Introduction to Paracanoe – Club Engagement' module will be presented to canoe clubs who express an interest in providing participation opportunities and, ideally, developing and implementing an ongoing paracanoe program.

This is essentially the first step in developing the sport as we must have clubs who are willing to support and contribute to the development of the sport.

## Introduction to Paracanoe – Community Engagement

The 'Introduction to Paracanoe – Community Engagement' module is primarily focused on ensuring that the broader community has a basic understanding of the sport, who it is most suitable to, and the opportunities and pathways that it provides.

Ideally, the people who are involved in these sessions will be able to assist in identifying and engaging with potential participants, due largely to their increased knowledge of the sport and pathways available.

## Resource Baseline – Coaching

It is assumed that the majority of canoe clubs will have qualified coaches already involved within their existing structures. Realistically, there is no reason that these coaches could not utilise these qualifications and experiences to coach AWD and provide advice to paracanoe programs.

The differences between coaching requirements for canoe and paracanoe should be fairly minimal given that the requirements of the sport are essentially the same, with only the level of functional ability of the participant being different.

However, in an effort to support coaches to better understand and embrace AWD in the sport of paracanoe, it is anticipated that Australian Canoeing will develop coaching manual specific to paracanoe and provide to clubs and coaches involved in the delivery of the programs.

## Key Stakeholder – State/Territory

Where possible, key stakeholders will be identified in each state / territory with a view to playing a lead role in coordinating the successful implementation of the 'Paracanoe Development Program' as well as the provision of funds to be used in procuring the various resources required to support the introduction and establishment of the various Paracanoe programs.

If funding is required, it would be beneficial to source it via one all-encompassing application (covering the needs of all paracanoe clubs / programs in the state / territory) as opposed to several applications to different funding bodies. If this is to be achieved, we must begin working with these key stakeholders as early as possible as grants / funding opportunities of this nature and magnitude are often annual or bi-annual. In the larger states, networking with the local councils and funding bodies may also be required.

## Extent of Responsibility

The goal of the *'Paracanoe Resource Plan – National'* is to ensure paracanoe clubs / programs have access to the right equipment to get started and positively contribute to their ongoing development and establishment of the sport. However, we must be careful that we do not develop and foster a mentality of financial reliance upon peak services / organisations, and therefore take steps to ensure that this initial injection of resources is in fact a one-off for each program, beyond which the respective canoe clubs / programs will be expected to develop and implement their own systems and processes for ensuring the long term sustainability of paracanoe.

Clearly, for this to happen there needs to be a significant amount of time invested (in an ongoing capacity) by key stakeholder groups into areas such as:

- Recruitment and talent identification (to be discussed further in *'Recruitment Plan - National'*);
- Sourcing and assisting with grant applications;
- Volunteer recruitment (to be discussed further in *'Recruitment Plan - National'*);
- Volunteer training and accreditation;
- Integration into competition pathways;
- Access to participant development opportunities;
- Classification.

In the longer term it is envisaged that many canoe clubs / programs will develop their capacity to a point whereby much of this work can be handled 'in-house'. However, in the initial stages, it is likely that the responsibility for supporting this work and ensuring it is completed will fall to a range of organisations, which will be further discussed in the state / territory specific *'Resource Plan'*.

