

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA

An analysis conducted by PwC Australia for Special Olympics Australia



Special Olympics provides benefits of **\$13.8 million** every year



What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics began in Australia in 1976 to provide people with an intellectual disability the opportunity to play sport and open the door to personal achievement, pride and inclusion for participants, their carers and families.

Through regular sports programs and competitions, Special Olympics brings joy, pride, fun and friendship to over 3,000 participants who are people with an intellectual disability while at the same time improving their health and life outcomes.

The Special Olympics community



Special Olympics Australia offers the potential for participants to gain economic benefits of up to **\$1,400** each year through a reduction in health costs, improved work opportunities and a strong social network



Parents, carers and siblings of participants receive benefits estimated at **\$3,200** worth of activities each year



There are a number of benefits that are not easily quantified, such as improvements to carer and family wellbeing



"The look on parent's faces when their kids achieve their goals is **priceless.**"

"It gives me a sense of purpose and a sense of **accomplishment.**"

"I love it. I have fun. I have made **great friends.**"

Special Olympics enables a healthier and more active lifestyle for participants.



Participants of the program on average engage in an additional 4.5 hours of physical activity each week. This has an associated reduction in costs connected with health service use, medical fees and pain treatment, which are commonly experienced by people with an intellectual disability. As a result, **\$4.5 million** in better health outcomes are generated each year by the program.

Special Olympics improves independence, self confidence and behaviours in participants, who have an increased chance of securing employment.



Special Olympics provides a safe environment for participants to strengthen their communication and leadership skills. These skills enable an increased likelihood of securing employment. Special Olympics participants have a 51% employment rate. The increased employment opportunities generated by the program are valued at **\$1.8 million** each year.

Special Olympics enables a reduction in carer time due to participation in supervised sporting and social activities and independence.



Over the course of a year, an average athlete would have reduced carer needs. Time spent participating with Special Olympics not only frees carer time, but also reduces carer needs as a result of greater independence and health outcomes. The estimated value of the reduction in carer time is **\$5.3 million** each year.

Social outings and events enabled by Special Olympics build lasting connections for not only participants but also their parents, carers and siblings.



Special Olympics builds friendships and creates a social network through which participants and their families can undertake in a variety of activities and build lasting friendship groups. The benefits of these social outings provide **\$2.2 million** for athletes, participants and their families.

By meeting its program growth targets, Special Olympics Australia could generate

\$122 million

of benefits in the community each year and reach 20,000 participants in their programs by 2028

