



Online coaching course ups sporting game for people with an intellectual disability

19 June 2018 | Special Olympics Australia is excited to launch a new online coaching course to provide a greater sporting experience for people with an intellectual disability.

The course is designed to equip coaches with the skills to be able to deliver practical coaching sessions to people with an intellectual disability across a variety of sports in a welcoming and inclusive space. It also aims to contribute to knowledge in the wider sectors of sport, disability and education.

This course has been designed by Special Olympics Australia using current research and methodology from world leading sporting bodies and forms the foundation for a new learning platform that will position Special Olympics Australia as a subject matter support for the sport and education communities.

Special Olympics Australia CEO Corene Strauss emphasised the importance of the course in contributing to more inclusive communities.

“There are over 600,000 Australians with an intellectual disability, forming the largest disability population.”

“This course is an important step in equipping coaches with the appropriate knowledge and skills to be able to provide a quality sporting experience for people with an intellectual disability, both within Special Olympics Australia and the wider sporting community.”

Through a variety of videos, case studies and questions from Special Olympics Australia athletes, volunteers and ambassadors, including Nine News anchor Peter Overton, the course builds a knowledge bank of appropriate coaching practice when working with athletes with an intellectual disability.

Special Olympics Australia engaged passionate educators Leaders of Evolution on the project, who have extensive experience designing blended, online and face to face learning opportunities in the education, sport and business sectors.

“Working with the wider Special Olympics Australia team has been a truly rewarding professional experience and an incredible learning opportunity,” said Jon Shepherd, Director of Business Operations and Development at Leaders of Evolution.

“Taking this knowledge and applying it with our own in regards to coaching methodology and online learning best practice has helped us deliver a course we are both extremely proud of.”

The course is available at <https://soalearn.com.au/>.

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About Special Olympics Australia

Special Olympics Australia is part of a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Our volunteers create accessible sports training, coaching and competition opportunities which are offered week-in and week-out in local communities throughout Australia. www.specialolympics.com.au

About Leaders of Evolution

Leaders of Evolution are passionate educators designing blended, online and face to face learning opportunities in the education, sport and business sectors. Since being founded in 2015 the team have collaborated with thousands of learners of all ages with a specific focus on leadership, coaching and culture and the aim of spreading the Leaders of Evolution 'Why' – 'to provide an environment for our people that is inspiring, safe, fun and inclusive and sharing this mantra with the people we work with.' www.leadersofevolution.com