R&D NOW
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Geosequestration
If the cap fits, bury it

Biosciences
Just what the doctors ordered: a new research hub

Media culture
Dark looks of digital expression

SKA LOWDOWN
Radio astronomy pursues universal truths
Recreational clubs that proactively introduce social inclusion policies are supporting broader community inclusion and promoting the appreciation of diverse abilities. As such, clubs are increasingly welcoming people with disability to participate in their activities.

At the Centre for Sport and Recreation Research (CSRR), Professor Marian Tye is investigating how well recreation clubs and associations are accommodating people with physical and intellectual disabilities, and how they can better enable those people to participate.

“We’d like to understand the factors that inhibit and those that promote inclusion for people with disability, primarily intellectual disability, within sporting environments,” Tye says.

To accomplish this, the Disability Services Commission of Western Australia is funding the Curtin research, through Inclusion WA (IWA), a not-for-profit organisation that connects disadvantaged people with sporting and recreation opportunities in the mainstream community.

“IWA is highly successful at helping clubs integrate participants with disability into teams and competitions,” Tye says.

“Their staff have the unusual capability of gathering data from people with low and high-level needs, and from sporting clubs and associations, and then translating this into valuable knowledge for all stakeholders, including policymakers.”

The Curtin team – which includes researchers from the Centre for Human Rights Education and the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology – is providing IWA staff with research skills, including how to apply research methods and interview techniques, to ensure the organisation’s research capacity is utilised.

“We also have a digital media specialist who’ll teach IWA staff how to use ‘PhotoVoice’ – a highly commended communication resource involving participatory photography and digital ‘storytelling’ methods,” Tye says.

“This enables people with disability to represent themselves, which promotes advocacy and thus helps achieve positive social change.”

The CSRR was established at Curtin in 2009, in partnership with the Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation.

research.humanities.curtin.edu.au/ centres/csr
inclusionwa.org.au
photovoice.org
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR
Professor Kim Scott

ONE GIANT STEP
The colossal SKA telescope moves into pre-construction

ROAD SAFETY
Are young drivers and fast cars really responsible for serious crashes?
THE success of the 2012 Paralympic Games demonstrates that individuals are not necessarily disabled by physical or intellectual characteristics, but by societies that do not accommodate difference.

As a keen sportsperson and an experienced researcher, Professor Marian Tye is seeking to understand how sporting clubs and associations are including people with disability into the fabric of their clubs.

The Director of Curtin’s Centre for Sport and Recreation Research (CSRR) is working in partnership with Inclusion WA (IWA), a not-for-profit organisation that connects disadvantaged people with opportunities for recreational participation.

“We’d like to determine what factors and strategies are encouraging participation in mainstream sport and recreation environments, and what are the barriers to inclusion,” Tye says.

“Developing an inclusive club isn’t about being altruistic; it makes good sense. The question is often, how do you develop one?”

Established in 2009 by Curtin and the Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation, the CSRR draws together teams from multiple disciplines to undertake research to inform decision-making related to sport and recreation.

For this project the team includes Dr Karen Soldatic, from Curtin’s Centre for Human Rights Education, and Associate Professor Brian Bishop, Dr Peta Dzidic and two postgraduate students from the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology.

In addition to their own research, the Curtin team is transferring research skills to IWA, which has been assisting sporting clubs and associations to be more inclusive of people with diverse abilities.

“IWA staff are uniquely positioned to gather information from the people they assist, as well as from the clubs and associations,” Tye says.

“By building their research capacity, IWA can inform their practice through rigorous analysis of data and feedback.”

Education, is also working on the project, training IWA staff in the use of ‘PhotoVoice’.

“They capture photos and videos of participants’ experiences that can visually disclose either promotors or barriers to inclusion,” Tye explains.

“Visual communication is very empowering for the participants, and the images could be used in online media, for example.”

“We have a team of highly skilled community inclusion staff, and there’s already a depth of thinking and a frame of analysis that has begun to permeate through all of the staff,” Fleay says.

“As we work alongside individuals or the community, we’re better at asking the right questions and interpreting the responses. And the PhotoVoice techniques are very helpful to that.”

Sporting clubs that welcome participants with disability are promoting advocacy and helping to achieve positive social change.