

Leading - *Objectives as per contract.*

A1- Advocate on key strategic issues relating to play, active recreation, and sport.

A2- Utilise and support research to inform strategy and programme development to ADC staff.

A3- Maintain and develop working relationships with key stakeholders and community groups to enhance play, active recreation and sport.

A4- Ensure spaces and places meet the needs of the community to increase/improve participation in play, active recreation and sport.

A5- Celebrate success.

Progress against performance measures as per contract.

Sport Canterbury continues to advocate for and provide expertise in the areas of play, active recreation, and sport across a wide range of community settings. We remain committed to strengthening and maintaining collaborative relationships with key stakeholders and community groups to ensure that the role and value of play, active recreation, and sport are consistently championed throughout the Mid Canterbury region. During the reporting period, several key outcomes have been achieved as a result of this engagement

- Our commitment is demonstrated through our active participation and membership in a variety of local community groups and forums and contributing to other working groups and advisory panels on an as-needed basis, some of these groups include:
 - Safer Mid Canterbury
 - Mid Canterbury Funders Forum
 - Bike Skills Park Steering Group
 - Youth Advisory Group
 - Domain User Group
 - Refugee Settlement Support Services
 - Falls Prevention Group

- Sport Canterbury remains an active member of the Bike Skills Park Steering Group. The Trust, which includes a number of key community representatives, has met regularly over the past two years to progress this initiative. Through these efforts, the group to date has secured significant funding through a mixture of grants and donations totalling \$226,266. The trust has partnered with local contractor Tarbotton Civil Services to ensure the project reaches its full potential. The Bike Skills Park, now officially named Tarbotton's Ride Smart Park, is scheduled to commence construction in March 2026. Once completed, it will serve as a valuable community asset, encouraging wheel-based physical activity and providing a safe, engaging environment, particularly for children to develop essential cycling and road safety skills.
- Sport Canterbury continues to maintain a positive and collaborative working relationship with the Ashburton District Council through ongoing engagement with the EA Networks Centre, as required. During the current reporting period, this partnership enabled the delivery of our first Holiday Programme Staff Training for EANC staff. The training was designed to build the confidence and capability of holiday programme staff, supporting the delivery of high-quality, safe, and inclusive activities for tamariki participating in holiday programmes at the facility. Initial feedback from the training indicated positive outcomes, with participants reporting increased confidence and providing an overall satisfaction rating of 4.43/5. Sport Canterbury intends to continue working alongside the EA Networks Centre to further develop and deliver this training in 2026. Currently, we are exploring options to refine the format and delivery model to ensure it best meets the needs of holiday programme staff and achieves the greatest possible impact for tamariki attending the holiday programme.
- Within the reporting period, Sport Canterbury has continued to support the health and wellbeing of older adults across the Mid Canterbury region through a range of education, engagement, and provider-support initiatives. This support has included facilitating access to webinars and workshops, delivering education through presentations and community expos, and working closely with providers to support ACC Community Strength & Balance approvals and re-approvals. As at the end of 2025, there are seven ACC Community Strength & Balance approved providers operating across the Mid Canterbury region, collectively delivering 32 approved classes each week. During this reporting period, one new provider gained ACC approval in October and now delivers four weekly classes. These include three women's-only classes and a Blue Brothers class, specifically designed for men who have or have had cancer, expanding inclusive and targeted opportunities for participation. Sport Canterbury delivered four education opportunities during the reporting period, comprising two webinars delivered in collaboration with ACC and two practical, in-person workshops. Education topics included podiatry, chair-based exercises, partner exercises, and physical activity considerations for people with respiratory conditions. All education sessions were well attended and received positive feedback from participants. In addition, Sport Canterbury delivered three presentations within the Mid Canterbury community—two at the Ashburton Day Clinic and one at the Ashburton Men's Shed—reaching a total of 80 participants. On 1 October, International Day of Older Persons, Sport Canterbury played a key role in the delivery of the Move Well, Age Well Expo in Ashburton. The event was well attended, with approximately 150 participants, many of whom actively engaged in exercise class demonstrations throughout the day. Sport Canterbury participated as a stallholder and coordinated a series of exercise taster sessions, showcasing four different class types: Steady As You Go, Aqua Move, Evolve, and Tai Chi. To further highlight accessible

and enjoyable sporting opportunities for older adults, Sport Canterbury also coordinated with local pickleball players to deliver live demonstrations at the expo. This included showcasing the sport and its locally run competition, with the club providing information to attendees on how to get involved. Pickleball continues to grow rapidly and offers an inclusive, social, and low-impact sporting option for older adults who wish to remain active and engaged in organised sport.

- During the reporting period, Sport Canterbury continued to work closely within the community to maintain and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and community groups, enhancing opportunities and championing for play, active recreation, and sport across the region. Sport Canterbury partnered with the CACTUS programme (Combined Adolescent Challenge Training Unit & Support) a youth development initiative that supports young people aged 10–18. This programme is supported by the Police, Hato Hone St John and other community organisations. We were pleased to be invited to deliver a hands-on session for participants, using games and sport to develop leadership and teamwork skills. The rangatahi responded positively and requested further sessions, reflecting the value and impact of this engagement. Sport Canterbury was also pleased to attend Ashburton College's Health Day, alongside other health providers, where we engaged with students about the importance of participating in physical activity and highlighted the range of active recreation and sport opportunities available across Mid Canterbury. Additionally, Sport Canterbury supported He Waka Tapu's annual Whānau Day, a free, community-wide event offering kai and entertainment. Sport Canterbury attended and provided our PLAY trailer, enabling tamariki and rangatahi to access free play opportunities throughout the day. We also attended other community events, including a Rotary Club evening and a target shooting prize-giving, Sport Canterbury utilised these events to explain the work we do and champion the value of play, active recreation, and sport within the region.
- During the reporting period, Sport Canterbury progressed the development of a Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) project in Hampstead. The NPS approach, developed by Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa, acknowledges that children's play occurs across a broad community network, extending beyond traditional playgrounds to include streets, driveways, parks, reserves, green spaces, and laneways. The model is designed to strengthen understanding of how informal play environments are planned, designed, and activated, while supporting positive play experiences within local communities. A strong emphasis on collaboration has underpinned this project. Sport Canterbury has worked alongside Hampstead School kaimahi, ākonga, and whānau, as well as a range of local stakeholders including Mid Canterbury Basketball/Oxford Street Stadium, Hampstead Preschool, New Zealand Police, and The Y. Community engagement has informed the identification of opportunities to support play across the neighbourhood. Engagement activities have now been completed, and the Neighbourhood Play System report is currently in draft form and scheduled for review with project partners in the new year. The report outlines a series of community-informed actions that encourage ongoing collaboration and shared responsibility for enabling play and physical activity. Through these actions, the project aims to improve independent mobility and play opportunities for tamariki and their whānau, contributing to a more connected, vibrant, and safe neighbourhood in Hampstead.
- Sport Canterbury has continued to progress the review of the 'Our Places Community Spaces and Places Strategy' in partnership with local councils and Sport NZ, with delivery support from Recreation, Sport, Leisure Consultancy (RSL). This phase is focused on developing a refreshed Greater Canterbury Spaces and Places Strategy to provide consistent, region-wide guidance while remaining

responsive to local context and needs. The strategy provides high-level direction for the future planning and provision of spaces and facilities for play, active recreation, and sport. Including guidance on regional facility priorities, decision-making principles, and planning processes, alongside opportunities for region-specific project recommendations. During 2025, engagement through a survey and workshop with councils, sport and recreation providers, and community funders built on earlier confirmation of facility data and analysis of participation trends, challenges, and opportunities. A draft strategy is scheduled for release in February 2026, marking a key milestone in establishing a coordinated, future-focused framework to support sustainable investment and decision-making across the Greater Canterbury region.

- Sport Canterbury continues to leverage digital and local media channels to connect with the Mid Canterbury community and promote opportunities across play, active recreation, and sport. The Sport Canterbury – Mid Canterbury Facebook page remains a key communication tool, with a current audience of 764 followers. This platform is used to share local stories, celebrate successes, promote upcoming opportunities, and increase awareness of initiatives happening across the region. Alongside our online communications, Sport Canterbury maintains a weekly presence on Hokonui FM through the Sports Chat segment. This regular slot provides an opportunity to highlight the achievements of local athletes, teams, clubs, schools, and community sport groups, while also sharing updates on events, programmes, and developments across the sector. The ongoing partnership with Hokonui FM continues to be an effective way to keep the community informed and connected, with positive feedback regularly received from listeners and community members regarding the value of the weekly sports feature.
- During the reporting period, Sport Canterbury celebrated the success of youth athletes across the Mid Canterbury and South Canterbury regions. The Aoraki Secondary School Sports Awards Night celebrated the outstanding achievements of student athletes, recognising commitment, hard work, and success across a wide range of sporting codes. This event provided an opportunity to acknowledge both individual and school-wide excellence. Ashburton College and Mount Hutt College collectively received 12 awards, reflecting the strength and depth of sporting participation and performance within the Mid Canterbury region. Special recognition was given to Anna Johnson (Mount Hutt College), who was presented with the Community Good Sport Award, and to Nate Woods (Ashburton College), who was named Male Sportsperson of the Year. The evening served as a meaningful platform to highlight the dedication, passion, and positive impact of secondary school sport within Aoraki.

Enabling - Objectives as per contract.

B1- Grow and develop the capability of individuals and organisations to improve play, active recreation and sports participation and make healthier choices for their communities.

Progress against performance measures as per contract.

Sport Canterbury continues to support individuals and organisations in enhancing participation across play, active recreation, and sport, while encouraging the creation of inclusive and accessible opportunities for the wider community. By facilitating opportunities that connect and strengthen the sector, we are able to provide targeted capability-building support on key topics such as sideline behaviour, Balance is Better, youth development, and inclusive practice. In addition, we regularly share updated insights and highlight emerging trends to ensure the sector remains informed, responsive, and aligned with best practice. During the reporting period several sector connects have taken place to support and build capability within the play, active recreation and sport space.

- Sport Canterbury, in collaboration with key partner, Tatai Whetu Waitaha, delivered a three-part Empowering Young Athletes series designed to create meaningful learning opportunities for young Mid Canterbury athletes and the coaches who support them. The series focused on critical elements that influence youth participation, performance, and wellbeing. The three sessions featured expert guest speakers who provided high-quality, evidence-based education. The first session was by Jessica Moulds, NZ Dietitian specialising in Sports Nutrition. The session explored how to effectively fuel a young athlete's body and highlighting the importance of correct nutrition in supporting performance, reducing fatigue and burnout and increasing long-term enjoyment and retention in sport. This session was in high demand and attracted strong attendance from athletes, parents, and coaches. Participants were also provided with printed resources to support ongoing application of the information shared. The second session was facilitated by Ilia Lindsay, specialist sport and performance psychologist, centred on mental skills for young people in sport and was delivered by an experienced practitioner who works with high-performance athletes. The session generated strong engagement, with participants actively involved and asking a high volume of questions, reflecting the relevance and value of the content. The final session concluded the series with local physiotherapist Caroline Polson, the session focused on injury prevention, management, and strategies to keep young people safe, well, and confidently participating in sport. The session reinforced the importance of supporting athletes to not only perform at their best, but to enjoy sport and remain engaged long term. The series achieved an overall attendance of 28 individuals and satisfaction rating of 4.65/5 and has been identified for continuation and expansion in 2026.
- During the reporting period, Sport Canterbury delivered a Sector Connect event for leaders across the Sport and Active Recreation sector in Mid Canterbury. The session was attended by 25 participants and focused on strengthening sector capability by enhancing understanding of community needs and participation trends, supporting more informed data analysis and stronger funding applications. It also introduced the student coaching and leadership pilot and provided an overview of the Sport NZ Pathways Framework, with a focus on creating inclusive participation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Key outcomes from the session included increased understanding of how to strengthen funding applications and navigate grant processes, improved awareness of Sport Canterbury tools to support planning and delivery, and practical application of the Sport NZ Pathways Framework to identify gaps across foundational, social, and participant levels. Participants also explored the value of cross-code collaboration, particularly in coach development and the

sharing of best practice to build stronger, more sustainable sporting environments. Feedback highlighted the importance of networking and cross-code conversations in addressing shared challenges and uncovering new opportunities within the sporting community.

- Sport Canterbury facilitated a Coach and Game Developers working group, formed through connections established at our Sector Connect event. Bringing together individuals working in this space who share a common vision to support and strengthen their respective sport codes through collaboration. The group provides a valuable platform for sharing ideas, learning from one another, and fostering sector-wide collaboration. Through these sessions, emerging needs are identified and opportunities for Sport Canterbury to offer targeted support are highlighted, including coaching workshops and broader sector development initiatives. To maintain momentum and strengthen relationships, the group will continue to collaborate under the leadership of Sport Canterbury, with quarterly gatherings ensuring ongoing knowledge exchange and collective improvement.
- Healthy Active Learning (HAL) continues to be delivered across Mid Canterbury schools, providing facilitation and targeted support to enhance quality physical activity, play, and inclusion within school environments. During the reporting period, Sport Canterbury worked closely with eight HAL schools to respond to identified needs and priorities through targeted kaiako support and professional learning. This included classroom observations at Rakaia School, focusing on inclusive practice to support an autistic student through quality physical education that met the needs of the whole class, and Halberg Inclusion Training for all staff at Fairton School to strengthen inclusive approaches to physical activity. At Hampstead School, PE and play activations were delivered for the Puāwai Learning Support Unit, engaging six students and three kaiako in tailored, supportive activity sessions. Direct delivery also continued through a four-week ‘Sports Club’ block at Wakanui School, PLAY Week activations in four schools, and the installation of semi-permanent Sport Canterbury PLAY stencils at Ashburton Borough School to encourage ongoing active play.
- Ongoing evaluation, tamariki voice, and sector connection remained a strong focus for Sport Canterbury. PALs insights and evaluations were completed across Ashburton Intermediate School and Allenton School over two terms, contributing data to inform the long-term sustainability of PALs. Regular check-ins were undertaken with all PALs schools across Terms 3 and 4. Kaiako surveys were completed across all eight HAL schools, with findings shared with senior leadership teams and staff and key focus areas identified to inform planning for 2026. Voice of the Tamariki surveys were completed across all eight schools and reported back through full staff meetings, supporting school-led goal setting for 2026. Programme reflection was captured through end-of-year HAL one-page summaries for each participating school, and a HAL case study was progressed in collaboration with a lead teacher and students to strengthen workforce capability and sector connection.
- Sport Canterbury delivered a Taonga Tākaro for Mid Canterbury Kaiako during the Hakatere Kahui Ako connect week. The session saw 34 participants upskilled in traditional Māori games. The opportunity to attend was offered to all schools across the Hakatere Kāhui Ako, with both Healthy Active Learning schools and non-Healthy Active Learning schools in attendance. A post-event survey received 21 responses,

with participants giving a five out of five-satisfaction rating. Due to the success of the event and feedback from other kaiako who were unable to attend but recognised its benefits, a follow-up session for 2026 is currently in planning.

Providing - Objectives as per contract.

C1- Work and partner with play, active recreation, sports providers and other community organisations to support initiatives that increase physical activity to tamariki, rangatahi, inactive adults and priority populations.

C2- Funding and Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa.

Progress against performance measures as per contract.

Sport Canterbury continues to provide opportunities to participate and engage in/with play, active recreation and sport. Over the past 6 months, the following progress has been made against the performance measures:

- Sport Canterbury's 'Keep It Positive' initiative continues to gain momentum, with sports actively engaging through online resources, bibs, sidewalk banners, and other visual materials at events and game days. The project remains dynamic and ever-evolving, with ongoing content development to ensure cohesion across all sporting codes. A significant milestone has been the expansion into new sports, including Equestrian, which successfully implemented signage at their A&P Show. Feedback from this event was overwhelmingly positive, particularly noting noticeable behaviour changes among spectators, demonstrating the initiative's growing influence and adaptability across diverse sporting environments. In partnership with Primary Sports Canterbury, Sport Canterbury further promoted the Keep It Positive campaign during the Primary School Winter Tournament Day. Teachers, parents, and coaches across rugby, hockey, football, and netball wore 'Keep It Positive' vests, reinforcing positive sideline behaviour and visibly sharing the campaign message with participants and spectators. This approach supports a consistent, values-based sporting environment across Mid Canterbury schools and strengthens the initiative's impact on young people, families, and the wider sporting community.
- Sport Canterbury continued to support the delivery and facilitation of Aoraki Secondary School sport events held within the Mid Canterbury region during the reporting period. These events provided a range of competitive and inclusive sporting opportunities for secondary school students across the Aoraki region. Aoraki Netball was delivered at the EA Networks Centre on Sunday 20 July, with 18 teams and approximately 180 players participating. The event provided a well-supported competitive environment and continued to strengthen inter-school connections across the region. Aoraki Mountain Biking was held at Mt Hutt on Saturday 18 October, with a total of 67 competitors taking part across both downhill (36 competitors) and cross-country (31 competitors) disciplines. The event offered students the opportunity to compete in a challenging outdoor environment while representing their schools at a regional level. In addition to traditional competitive events, Sport Canterbury supported the delivery of the inaugural No Limits Day at the EA Networks Centre on Friday 21 November. This pilot event marked the first initiative of its kind for Aoraki Secondary Schools and focused on inclusive participation. Approximately 50 students, including students with disabilities, neurodiverse learners, and able-bodied peers, took part in a

wide range of activities designed to promote inclusion, enjoyment, and connection. Activities included wheelchair basketball, blind cricket, pickleball, skipping, obstacle courses, seated volleyball, and music-based activities. The event was characterised by high levels of engagement, positive participation, and a strong sense of inclusion, with students encouraged to try new activities in a supportive environment. Planning is currently underway to establish No Limits Day as a regular feature on the Aoraki Secondary Schools sporting calendar.

- During the reporting period, Sport Canterbury continued its collaboration with the Mid Canterbury Kāhui Ako to deliver the termly COSARS (Connecting Our Small and Rural Schools) events. These events bring together Year 7 and 8 students from small and rural schools across Mid Canterbury, creating opportunities to connect with peers, build relationships, and support a positive transition into larger secondary school environments. The COSARS initiative recognises the unique experiences of students from smaller school communities and uses sport and active recreation as a powerful tool to support social connection, confidence, and a sense of belonging. During this reporting period, Sport Canterbury facilitated two COSARS events, providing inclusive, engaging experiences that supported both social and physical development for participating students.
- Term Three's COSARS event brought together three sports in one day: Kī-o-Rahi, Pickleball, and Handball. A total of 106 Year 7 and 8 students from small and rural Mid Canterbury schools took part, many experiencing these sports for the first time. Their enthusiasm and engagement reflected the success of the day. Kī-o-Rahi provided a meaningful doorway into Te Ao Māori, supporting students to discover hidden talents, build confidence, and build connections. Pickleball and Handball were delivered by local providers and were hugely popular with participants, with Pickleball emerging as a particular favourite from the youth participants despite being a sport more commonly played by older adults in the community.
- Term Four's COSARS event focused on Orienteering, engaging the Year 7 COSARS group while Year 8 students participated in their Ashburton College induction. Sport Canterbury provided the PLAY trailer, offering free play and sport-based active recreation opportunities that enabled young people to lead and self-direct their activities alongside students from their own and other schools once they completed their Orientation course. During the Orienteering component, teams were intentionally pre-formed to optimise connections between students from different schools and worked towards building positive relationships through shared problem-solving and physical activity.
- Sport Canterbury has continued to support Ashburton College's Active As programme, which received significant funding to operate over multiple years. During this reporting period, Sport Canterbury was invited to attended a Ashburton College Board meeting to present alongside Deputy Principal, Angela Mitchell and Active As Lead Kaiako, Cheyenne Paris. Presenting on the programme, highlighting its impact, successes and advocating for ongoing opportunities for student physical activity. Sport Canterbury continues to work closely with the college to help sustain the programme beyond the funded period, while also strengthening connections between the lead teacher and local sport and recreation providers through initiatives such as Sector Connect events, ensuring students have access to inclusive, engaging, and community-based activity opportunities.

- Sport Canterbury continues to administer and distribute Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding across the Mid Canterbury region, supporting initiatives that create more equitable access to play, active recreation, and sport, particularly for tamariki and rangatahi who are less active or face participation barriers. For the Fast Fund round, Sport Canterbury introduced a new element to the decision-making process by including a youth panel. The Mid Canterbury Youth Advisory Group (YAG) participated, providing feedback and insights on youth-relevant initiatives and applications. Their perspectives were collated and considered by the final panel when allocating funds, ensuring the voice of rangatahi informed funding decisions. Feedback from the YAG on their experience was highly positive, students involved were provided with letters of service acknowledging their contribution, which many were eager to include in their university applications. During this reporting period, a range of local projects were successful in securing funding through both the Tū Manawa Mid-Year Major Round and the November Fast Fund Round, with the following organisations benefiting
 - Ashburton Borough School secured \$2,500 to establish a play pod, based on tamariki-identified needs and preferences within their play spaces, supporting more inclusive play opportunities and increased physical activity during school break times.
 - Mt Hutt College secured \$10,000 to support the installation of a Disc Golf course. A class of Year 8 students led the Tū Manawa application as their class project. Working both during lunch breaks, to gauge interest by running ‘Disc Golf Have a Go’ sessions and in-class, creating surveys and analyse their collected data. This information was then used to support their Tu Manawa application. The course will be an exciting attribute to the college, adjoining primary schools, and the wider community.
 - Ashburton Youth Health Trust secured \$4,203 to support its Youth Health Navigator Programme. This service provides one-on-one, holistic wellbeing support for rangatahi aged 12–24 in Mid Canterbury. Funding secured will assist those within the programme to access physical activity opportunities. This includes removing the cost for participants to access EANC gym and pool services and other expenses that may otherwise present barriers to participation in being active.
 - Mid Canterbury Netball secured \$1,000 to contribute to their youth specific ‘No Limits’ netball initiative. This programme provides inclusive participation opportunities for young people of all abilities, helping to break down barriers to sport and encouraging confidence, skill development, and social connection through netball.
 - Primary Sports Canterbury secured \$10,000 towards a trailer to transport and store 10 sports wheelchairs. This investment will improve access to wheelchair basketball and other adaptive sports by making equipment more easily available to sports groups, schools, and individual participants across Mid and South Canterbury, supporting greater participation and enabling more people to engage in these experiences.