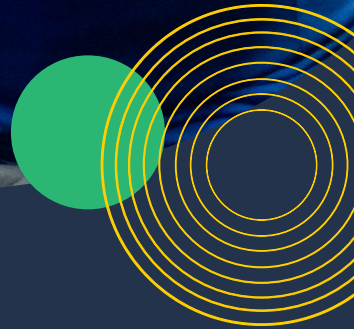




City of  
Newcastle



# Count **Us In** Sport

8 – 15 August 2024

Program Overview

1 in 5

20% of people in Australia live with a disability (1 in 6 in the Newcastle LGA)

75%

3 in 4 people with a disability feel excluded from sports and recreation

1 in 4

Only 25% of people with a disability currently participate in sport

Stats: Paralympics Australia



## Making sports and recreation activities accessible to everyone

In 2024, Count Us In is back for its fifth year. To celebrate this milestone, the City of Newcastle is partnering with sporting groups/clubs, disability organisations and others to recognise the important role of sports and recreation activities in our lives.

Aligning with the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, this year's Count Us In festival is about making sport more accessible by removing participation barriers for the estimated 1 in 6 Newcastle residents who live with a disability.

Former Newcastle Knight Alex McKinnon and Paralympian Rae Anderson will join forces with City of Newcastle in August to champion the importance of making sport accessible for all.

Count Us In 2024 includes:

- Display of Inclusive Sports Banners on Laman Street, Newcastle
- Inclusive Sports and Recreation Register
- Come and Try Inclusive Sports Day-9 August
- Inclusive Sports Forum-13 August
- Inclusive Sports Pitch Night-15 August
- Paralympics Watch Party

The Count Us In Sport program will kick on the following day with a Come and Try Inclusive Sports event at No.2 Sportsground and surrounds, where school students and community members will be invited to participate in a series of sporting activities.

Sports clubs, associations and recreational providers with ideas to enhance disability inclusion in Newcastle will have the chance to promote their plans at an Inclusive Sports Pitch night on 15 August, with four grants of up to \$2,500 each on offer from City of Newcastle.

The Count Us In Sport program will wrap up with a fun Paralympics Watch Party hosted by Community Disability Alliance Hunter on a date still to be confirmed.



The high-profile pair will headline the inaugural Inclusive Sports Forum, which is one of five free activities being delivered as part of City of Newcastle's Count Us In Sport program from 8-15 August.

*"City of Newcastle prides itself on being a liveable and welcoming community for all people, increasing social inclusion and community connections with events like Count Us In festival in line with our Disability Inclusion Action Plan,"* Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Cr Nuatali Nelmes.

Find out more about Count Us In Sport

[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/countusin2024](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/countusin2024)

### Festival Commencement & Inclusive Sports Banners

#### Thursday 8 August

In an Olympic and Paralympic Year banners with images that celebrate disability inclusion in sport will fly high in Laman Street, Newcastle. Novocastrians love sport and we want all our community to be able to access the benefits that sport brings, and celebrate the great achievements of athletes with disabilities.

### Inclusive Sports and Recreation Database-Register Now!

We're building a local data base of inclusive sport and recreation activities so we can share it with the whole community. Help us tell the story. You can promote your sport and recreation activity in Newcastle and encourage over 30,000 Novocastrians to get involved in your sport or activity. It all starts by registering on City of Newcastle's Community Directory.

[Register here](#)

### Come and Try Inclusive Sports Day

#### Friday 9 August No 2 Sports Ground Smith Street Newcastle

Join us for an inclusive sports day come try session! Whether you're a seasoned athlete or trying something new, everyone is welcome. Discover a variety of activities in a welcoming environment. Make connections and get started on a regular activity. Two sessions will be held on the day, a morning session for school aged children and afternoon general public session.

Register for the [general public session](#)

Register for the school student session via contact Issi Palmieri [issi@canvaseventsco.com.au](mailto:issi@canvaseventsco.com.au)

Sport and recreation providers are welcome to join us on the day to promote their activities, complete the Sport and Recreation Provider [Registration form](#) or contact [issi@canvaseventsco.com.au](mailto:issi@canvaseventsco.com.au)

## Inclusive Sports Forum

**Tuesday 13 August Mc Donald Jones Stadium  
5pm-8pm**

Former Newcastle Knight Alex McKinnon and Paralympian Rae Anderson headline our Inclusive Sports Forum. Each will share their stories and experiences in sport alongside local clubs and recreation providers working in the disability inclusion space. Anderson will also speak about her work with Disability Sports Australia and the Accessibility Champions Course freely available to clubs, associations and others to facilitate sports inclusion.

This free event is targeted at sports clubs, associations and others interested in inclusion in sport.

[Register here](#)

## Inclusive Sports Pitch

**Thursday 15 August Hunter Room, Newcastle City Hall  
5pm-8pm**

Join us for City of Newcastle's Inclusive Sports Pitch Night.

Ideas from Sports Clubs, Associations, Organisations and recreational providers that can enhance disability inclusion within Newcastle at their local level will be pitched to a panel of judges to potentially be awarded up to \$2500 to deliver the activity/improvement over the following 6 to 12 months, 4 opportunities available.

This fast-paced evening will discover, encourage and reward some great local ideas about how more people with disabilities can access sport and recreation.

[Register](#) to be in the audience.

What to pitch your idea  
email [communityadmin@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communityadmin@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
or call 4974 2863.

## Paralympics Watch Party (Between 29 Aug-9 Sept)

CN is also working with Community Disability Alliance Hunter (CDAH) to support a Paralympics Watch Party hosted by CDAH during the Paralympics.

Find out more about CDAH at [cdah.org.au](http://cdah.org.au) and join us for the watch party when details are posted.

