



16 February 2017

District Governor Michael Milston
Rotary International District 9700
Email: governor9700milston@bigpond.com

Dear District Governor Milston

Re: Application for financial support - Wheelchair Sports NSW

I am writing to District Governors to request your support, financial or otherwise, in the upcoming year of 2017/18. Would you consider encouraging your clubs and their members to make us your charity of choice in 2017/2018? I will also be writing to individual Clubs that have listed their address on the web.

WHY? As you may be aware, the programs and services offered by Wheelchair Sports NSW make a massive difference to the lives of people with physical disabilities living in NSW.

Disability can happen to anyone at any time. Many Members of Wheelchair Sports NSW became disabled through motor vehicle accidents. In Australia

- ❖ one person a day is permanently disabled in a road accident
- ❖ one in five people (20%) has a disability
- ❖ 179,000 people with a disability use a wheelchair or scooter for mobility
- ❖ 24,000 school students have a disability.

Disability sport provides motivation, increased self-esteem and most importantly, it acts as a powerful rehabilitation tool following catastrophic injury and/or illness. As well, exercise reduces the sense of isolation and loneliness, increases community networks, improves safety in the community and significantly reduces the risk of health related diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

WHO WE ARE

Wheelchair Sports NSW, founded in 1961, is responsible for the development, promotion and delivery of wheelchair sport in NSW. Our Vision is to enrich the lives of people with a physical disability through participation in sport. Our programs aim to enhance lives using sport for rehabilitation, integration and health.

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WHAT WE DO

We provide facilities, specialised sports wheelchairs, sports programs, financial assistance and professional support staff to over 400 members with a disability living in NSW.

Programs are designed to cater to people with physical disabilities such as spinal cord injury, spina bifida, amputation, paraplegia and quadriplegia. Members are aged from 8-80 years and they participate in sport from a grassroots level to elite competitions across 13 different sports. Programs and services include regular sports programs throughout metropolitan and regional NSW, Member Grants, Roadshow, Sports Wheelchair Loans, Come 'n' Try days, Junior Wheelies Christmas Camp, training camps, coaching, competitions and tournaments. Programs benefit not only individual athletes but their families, sports coaches, officials and the wider community.

Sports programs offered or supported by Wheelchair Sports NSW are:

- Archery
- Track and Road
- Hand cycling
- Lawn bowls
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Tennis
- Cue Sports
- Fencing
- Power lifting
- Table Tennis

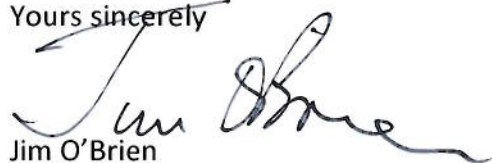
FUNDING REQUEST

If each Rotary Club in NSW is able to make a gift of between \$1,000 and \$2,000, Wheelchair Sports NSW could support wheelchair Members with fee membership, sports wheelchairs on loan, coaching, travel assistance to training/competitions, sports related expenses, carer support and much more for up to 6 months. It costs more than \$5,000 p.a. to provide each wheelchair Member with services and programs. Financial assistance from Rotary District 9700 would make an enormous difference to our Members and our organisation in the delivery of programs and services.

I am happy to support your conference by arranging an inspirational guest speaker. Our speakers appreciate the capacity of Rotary to provide tangible support to organisations like Wheelchair Sports NSW. In partnership we can deliver programs that make a demonstrable difference to the lives of people with physical disabilities.

I look forward to hearing from you. I thank you and your members for the wonderful work Rotary does locally and internationally.

Yours sincerely



Jim O'Brien
CEO