

# Keon Park Tennis Club



## Program Overview

The Keon Park Tennis Club deliver an after school program for student from the Reservoir East Primary School. The program is delivered by the club's professional coach and due to increasing numbers of participants an assistant coach also helps to deliver the sessions. Financial support from the ACE funding, the City of Darebin and donation of the bus from the local high school has been a great help in offsetting the transport and coaching costs.

## Aims

- Engage participants with the Keon Park Tennis Club
- Recruit new members into the club to play competition
- Provide an inclusive environment
- Develop healthy habits among participants
- Facilitate social interaction between diverse groups of children

## Key Program Elements for a welcoming environment

- Children accompanied by school sports coordinator and principal providing a trusted contact for students.
- Club supplies healthy snacks and drinks for participants
- Club representatives are present and consistent each week
- High level of professionalism from club coach and assistant coach
- Basic tennis information available in multiple languages from clubrooms (from Tennis Victoria)
- All tennis equipment supplied (from Tennis Victoria)



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## Participant Barriers

Participants are from various low socio-economic, Indigenous and multicultural backgrounds.

- Transport
- Participants moving away from the area
- Parents wanting their child to play a different sport
- Ongoing costs

## Results

- Increasing numbers of participants
- Participants show a passion for tennis and enjoy playing
- Participants developed further social skills
- Improved health of participants
- Improved hand-eye coordination, tennis skills and fitness

## Ongoing opportunities

Keon Park Tennis Club has been successful in transitioning participants into the club environment with two teams (and possibly a third) playing association competition as a direct result of this program. The club's keys to ongoing engagement include;

- Engaging the parents
- Individual barriers to participation need to be addressed
- Targeting participants who show interest and skill in tennis
- Offering sponsorship for club membership

