

What Is Wheelienet?

The Wheelienet Disability Awareness Program is an innovative and interactive sports and education program run by the Wheelchair Sports Association of SA.

Aim:

Wheelienet aims to deliver its message across the State by educating students, corporate groups and the general community about the skills and abilities of athletes in wheelchairs, whilst highlighting care awareness factors, specifically targeting the age range of the relevant groups. The importance of Spinal Cord Injury prevention and the benefits of inclusion practices within the wider community are major awareness aims of the program.

Objectives:

- To provide a fun and interactive disability awareness program using wheelchairs and basketball to convey the messages.
- To raise awareness of wheelchair sports by visiting schools, kindergartens, corporate groups and the wider community across South Australia.
- To improve the image and understanding of athletes in wheelchairs to each individual at every talk.
- Educate children, teachers and the wider community about various types of disabilities and how they occur.
- Promote safety (accident prevention)
- Create an understanding of opportunities for people with disabilities to be involved in sport and recreation (disability specific and inclusion opportunities)
- Promote a proactive approach to the integration of people with and without disabilities and the right to freedom of choice.

Program Overview:

The curriculum of the Wheelienet Disability Awareness Program is designed to meet the needs of both schools, students, corporate groups and the wider community to improve their knowledge of disability and wheelchair athletes, whilst reinforcing the importance of being safety-conscious at whatever age level.

The Program differs slightly depending on the age range of the groups listed below, to best suit their relevant needs and requirements:

- Corporate Groups
- Community Groups
- Kindergarten
- Lower Primary, Reception to Year 4
- Upper Primary, Years 5-7
- High School, Years 8-12

Kindergarten

For students in kindergarten the major aim of visits is to provide basic knowledge to youngsters about people in wheelchairs in the community and things they can do to keep themselves safe indoors and outdoors.

Lower Primary, Reception to Year 4

For students in reception through to Year 4 the focus will be on the sports available to people in wheelchairs, the benefits of sport to everyone in the community, with some discussion on spinal cord injury prevention. A focus is on accident prevention at school and outside of school.

Upper Primary, Years 5-7

Students in Years 5 –7 will also cover similar topics, as well as further discussion on spinal cord injury prevention.

High School, Years 8-12

Years 8– 12 will deal with similar issues, but will spend half of the presentation discussing spinal cord injury, including what the spinal cord does, how this injury affects people who suffer one and how these injuries can be avoided.

Corporate Groups

Corporate Wheelienet aims to break down barriers, encourage team unity, promote understanding and awareness of disability and support a charity that makes a difference. The talk includes general awareness of the Wheelchair Sports Association of SA, sports played by wheelchair athletes, driver safety, outdoor safety... through to team building exercises for their company.

Community Groups

General awareness of the Wheelchair Sports Association of SA, sports played by wheelchair athletes, driver safety, outdoor safety... through to building awareness, connection and understanding with community groups.