





Scouting for All

A Partnership in Inclusion between Therapy Focus and Scouts Australia WA Branch

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www.therapyfocus.org.au therapy and professional services





Therapy Focus

- 2,600 families, aged 0-18 years
- Annual reviews of goals for children with disabilities
- Community sport and recreation participation is in constant demand
- Few mainstream sport and recreation groups have knowledge or resources



PASCAD



- Physical Activity Study of Children and Adolescents with a Disability in Perth, WA
- Packer et al; joint agency project
- 379 families surveyed
- 50% of children with disability performed enough physical activity, compared to 90% participation rate of children without disability



PASCAD



Perceived barriers included:

1. Lack of organisational preparedness
2. Social acceptance
3. "My child has a disability"



Why Scouting?

- The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens, and as a member of their local, national and international communities.
- Our founder Baden Powell said 100 years ago that Scouting is "for all"



What do we do?

- Provide challenging accredited programs to the youth of Australia
- It is Non-competitive
- Youth work to best of ability
- Carefully select and train adult leaders on the basis of standards that are recognisable and measurable
- Ongoing training and awareness

Currently in Western Australia

- 5000 youth members by 2009
- Minimal numbers with disabilities
- Newly formed partnerships



**The Challenge
Breaking Down the Barriers**

1. Training and development for Scout leaders in the area of special needs
2. Supported inclusion
3. Social acceptance - Improve understanding amongst peers
4. Promotion of opportunity to families
5. Feedback and further development

**Scout Leader Training:
Scouting For All Workshop**

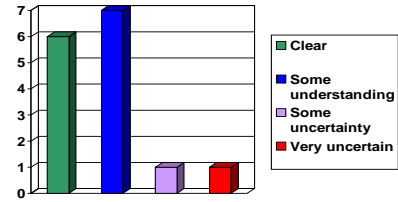
- One day workshop July 2008
- 60 Scout leaders
- Specialist presenters
- Feedback to guide further training needs



**Scout Leader Training:
Survey of Leaders**

Responses = 15

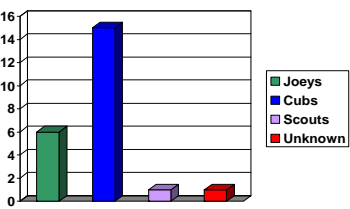
1. Leader's understanding of "special needs"



Understanding Level	Count
Clear	6
Some understanding	7
Some uncertainty	1
Very uncertain	1

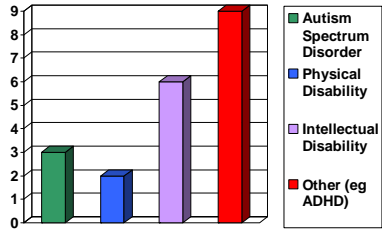
2. Youth with special needs in group

2a. Sections



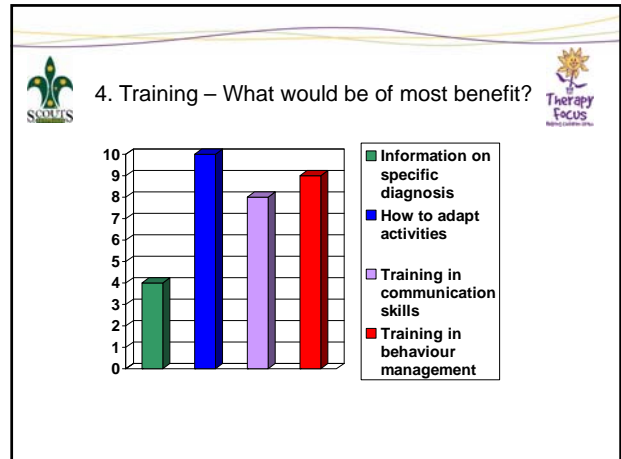
Section	Count
Joey's	6
Cubs	15
Scouts	1
Unknown	1

2b. Category:



Category	Count
Autism Spectrum Disorder	3
Physical Disability	2
Intellectual Disability	6
Other (eg ADHD)	9

3.	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Unsure	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I understand meaning of "special needs"	0	2	2	3	8
I would feel comfortable with a youth with special needs in group	1	2	1	5	6
I have adequate training in special needs	1	5	3	3	2
I can adapt activities to include a youth with special needs	0	3	3	4	5
I feel there are currently enough training opportunities	0	1	8	3	3
I know where to go for support and information	2	2	3	6	2



Supported Inclusion Grants

- DSR – Funding for Therapy Focus Project Officer to assist in the development of a training package to support inclusive practices → for consideration by Scouts Australia, WA Branch
- Volunteering WA – Funding to assist the development of youth awareness program
- Ongoing support needed –
Financial – Project Officers, equipment, facilities, promotions
Volunteers - Scout leaders, assistants

Supported Inclusion An Essential Element: Voluntary Assistance



- New Scout Leaders
- ECU Teaching students
- Volunteering WA
- WA Rovers
- Community Vision

Supported Inclusion



- Communication
- Education
- Training
- Support
- Feedback

Social Acceptance A Sense of Belonging


Social Acceptance Peer Awareness Program

Physical disability

Autism and intellectual disability





Vision impairment



Hearing impairment





Promotion to Families




- Therapy Focus newsletters
- Therapy Focus therapists – discussion at annual reviews
- Scouts Australia – Australian Scout magazine
- World Scout Association policy of inclusiveness, not segregation
- Royal Show
- Sunny Sunflower Carnival



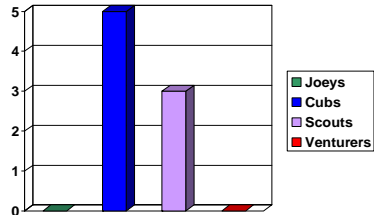
Questionnaire Results
Family Perceptions on the Inclusiveness of Scouting in Western Australia

- Scouting enquiries through Therapy Focus: 12
- Families who have attempted Scouting: 8
- Families due to start term 4 or 2009: 4
- Surveys sent out in September 2008
- Response rate: 8 / 8

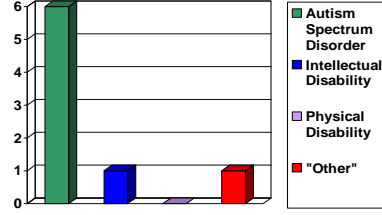
Demographics:

- Age groups:

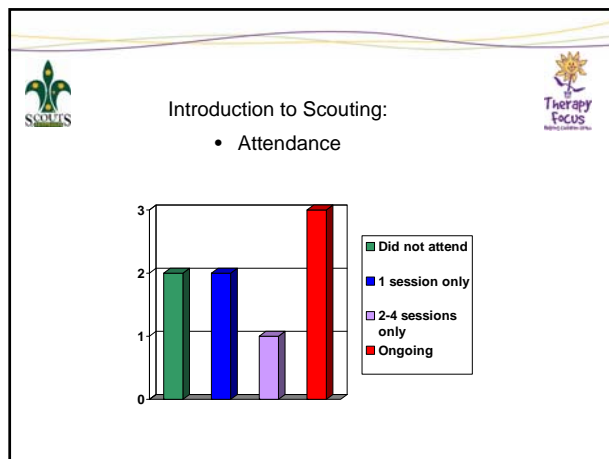
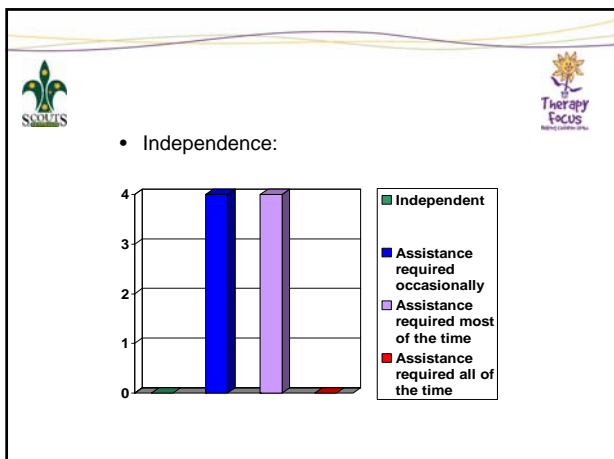


Age Group	Count
Joeys	0
Cubs	5
Scouts	3
Venturers	0

- Disability:



Disability Type	Count
Autism Spectrum Disorder	6
Intellectual Disability	1
Physical Disability	0
Other	1





Comments / Reasons Given

- Did not attend:
 - No response from Scout Group enquiry
 - Waiting for volunteer support to be available

- 1 session only
 - "S" tried, and did not want to return again – the change in routine was difficult... "S" went with his dad and we feel if he had support from someone else on a regular basis he may benefit from this as he behaves differently for other people."
 - "Our child did not enjoy the activities, and we did not feel the leader had adequate skills for including our child in the group."


- 2-4 sessions only (not continuing)
 - "Our son said he was too tired for the 7pm meeting time, but he enjoyed the activities thoroughly and the scout leader showed compassion and care for my son... We will try again next year when he is older, and not so tired."



- Ongoing
 - "My son and I found Scouts very welcoming and inclusive, "J" was very excited about Scouts for the next week."
 - "Only problem is people seeing what she's not capable of and not seeing what she is capable of. The leader is very nervous about being able to look after her."
 - "B" looks forward to going every week. I am so proud of him and he looks so handsome in his uniform. He simply loves it and I think it will be a very positive life journey for him with Scouts."

Areas of Success


- World Scout Association policy of inclusion
- Evidence of general acceptance and understanding amongst Scouting adult and youth members
- Raised awareness amongst Scouting adult and youth members
- Scouts supporting community events for people with disability
- Learning opportunity for ECU teaching students
- Sense of pride and social acceptance
- Opportunities for social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development



Areas for Development

- Scouts Association response to initial enquiries
- Recruitment of more leaders to provide more opportunities
- Adequate leader training / support
- Voluntary assistance



Hanging in there, despite the challenges!



“Thank You”

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