

TA Advisory Groups





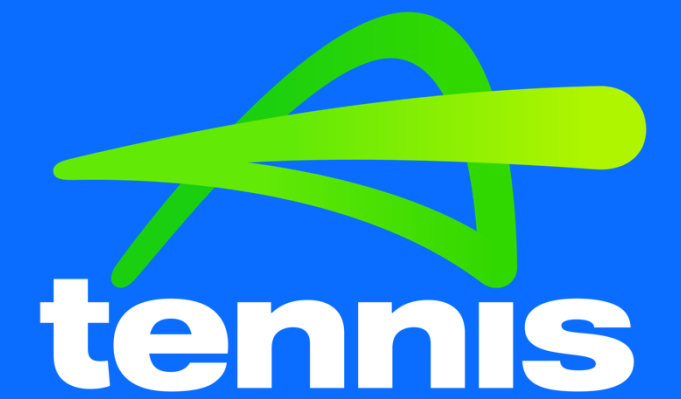
**HONOURING
COUNTRY**

**Tennis acknowledges the
Traditional Custodians of
the land on which we
work, rest and play, and
we pay our respect to
Elders past and present.**



Purpose

The aim of the All Abilities, First Nations and LGBTQIA+ Advisory Groups is to provide Australian Tennis advice on strengthening the representation and inclusion of people from diverse communities within the tennis community across Australia, and to contribute to ongoing development and implementation of policies, initiatives and events.



All Abilities Advisory Group Members



Rob Fletcher

Rob Fletcher lost 96% of vision due to genetic illness in 2009. He is lovingly supported by his wife Felicity and Guide Dog Hamish.

Rob participated in the first All Abilities Day at AO23, which was also the first time this event has taken place at any Grand Slam in the world.

Rob has assisted in updating coaches resources to include accessibility content and is a qualified TA coach and current Blind/Low Vision tennis player. Rob additionally serves as president of Blind Sports Victoria



Johanna Garvin

Johanna Garvin is an advocate for authentic disability representation in Australian media, serving on multiple boards and advisory groups.

She is an award-recognised filmmaker and director with credits across Screen Australia, ABC, and documentary series, and works in communications within government.

Johanna is committed to strengthening disability representation across film, television, and the broader media sector.



Dean Barton Smith

Dean Barton-Smith AM OLY is an Olympian, executive leader, and advocate for inclusive sport and systems transformation. Profoundly deaf since birth, he combines lived experience with senior leadership across government, disability, and sport sectors.

As National Director of Accessible Communications at the National Disability Insurance Agency, he drives inclusive participation, representation, and leadership through strategic collaboration, innovation, and improved pathways across community and elite sport settings.



Ross Patterson

Ross Patterson is a world number one ranked Blind Low Vision (BLV) tennis player in both singles (B4) and doubles (B2 - B4) and the recipient of the 2025 Newcombe Award for Most Outstanding Athlete with a Disability.

Competing at an elite international level, he is a passionate advocate for the growth and accessibility of BLV Tennis.

Ross is Principal of Scotch Oakburn College, bringing a strong leadership perspective and deep commitment to inclusion across both education and sport.



Francy Kyriacou

Francy Kyriacou is an experienced Club Coach, specialising in grassroots participation, schools, inclusion, female programs, and high-performance pathways.

An Australian Open-winning coach in the Intellectual Disability Championships (singles and doubles) and four-time state coach, Francy is recognised for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, increasing female participation, and delivering accessible programs that support athletes of all abilities across participation and elite levels.

All Abilities Advisory Group Members



Nathan Kirby

Nathan Kirby is a former Board Advisor for The Field, an AI-driven disability recruitment platform that matches people with disability with accessible and inclusive employers.

He became involved with The Field following negative experiences while initially interviewing for roles after being medically retired from the Air Force in his early 30s.

He is a confident, collaborative voice who challenges thinking, expands access, and drives inclusive, impactful tennis participation outcomes.



Thomas Collins

Tom Collins is a passionate advocate for accessibility and inclusion in sport, bringing a combination of lived experience, player insight, and hands-on involvement across tennis and the wider sporting sector.

Having played tennis from a young age, he offers practical perspectives on program development, engagement, and participation.

Tom recently supported a successful SASMA grant application for an autism and ADHD sports program and remains committed to building partnerships, strengthening pathways, and driving meaningful change for people with disability across sport.



Marita Morgan

Marita Morgan is the Adaptive Tennis and Inclusion Manager, as well as the Facility Manager at City Community Tennis. Marita coordinates both the Adaptive Tennis program and the broader community programs run at City Community Tennis.

Marita has been instrumental in the establishment of Para Standing Tennis within Australia & the larger Oceania Region.



Nicole Paramanis

Nicole Paramanis is a governance and community leader with experience across disability, sport, education and emergency services sectors.

A long-standing Defence family member, Nicole brings both professional expertise and lived experience to advisory, reform and stakeholder engagement environments.

She currently serves as a Founding Non-Executive Director and Board Secretary of Freedom Sports Foundation and is passionate about strengthening inclusive participation, community connection and accessible sporting pathways for people with disability and their families.

First Nations Advisory Group Members



Donna Coady

A proud Biripi woman, living and working on the lands of the Awabakal people.

Donna Coady is deeply committed to her culture and community, and wholeheartedly dedicated to advancing the interests of First Nations people in sports and recreation.

Donna has experience spanning over 25 years within the NSW Government sporting industry.



Kyle Vander Kuyp

Kyle Vander Kuyp is a passionate leader with over 30 years of experience across professional sport and Indigenous affairs.

He is committed to advancing strengths-based initiatives in employment, health, housing and talent development. Grounded in strong governance, he builds meaningful community connections and fosters collaboration.

With a positive outlook, Kyle motivates others and supports growth for individuals and communities alike.



Nathan Appo

Nathan Appo is a proud Mamu man from Innisfail, Far North Queensland, with connection to Goreng Goreng and Bundjalung Nations.

Nathan worked with First Contact Youth Corporation and The Sports & Cultural Festival at Whites Hill, Brisbane. He is now the Manager of the Partnerships team of Deadly Choices, through The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Ltd.



Jaynaya Winmar

Jaynaya Winmar is a proud First Nations leader, businesswoman and advocate advancing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through sport, business, leadership and cultural empowerment.

With experience across sport, community engagement, youth development and business, she creates inclusive spaces, elevates First Nations voices and drives meaningful ongoing impact.

She contributes strong cultural leadership, collaboration and representation to Tennis Australia's First Nations Advisory Group.

First Nations Advisory Group Members



Cleveland McGhie

As an Aboriginal executive, Cleveland operates at the intersection of cultural governance, enterprise strategy and systems reform. His work focuses on strengthening institutional legitimacy while advancing self-determination through structural accountability not symbolism.

Cleveland is comfortable operating where community authority, political complexity and enterprise responsibility intersect. He believes empowerment and self-determination are not the same: self-determination requires shared authority, disciplined governance and embedded accountability. Cleveland's focus is not positional leadership, rather in structural impact.

Lilly Stanton

Lilly Stanton is a proud Gunnaikurnai woman from Victoria and a single mum.

Her connection to tennis is personal, with her son finding his passion for the sport in remote Western Australia, later playing in the Autism National Squad and now wheelchair tennis.

She is committed to inclusive, accessible and culturally safe tennis pathways for First Nations children, young people and families.

Tyrone Glenbar

Tyrone Glenbar is a proud Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner and Director of the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation, with connections to Wakka Wakka, Nughi and Wulugurukaba/Bindal Nations.

Holding an MBA, Master of Teaching and Arts degree, he has worked at McKinsey & Co. and in First Nations leadership roles. He is now Director of Economic Empowerment at Indigenous Energy Australia, driving sustainable economic outcomes.

Leeonee Thompson

A proud Mamu-Waribarra, Ngadjon-Jii and Tagalaka woman from Far North Queensland living in Meanjin (Brisbane). Leeonee Thompson is passionate about mob having access to all opportunities and creating safe spaces.

Currently Leeonee works with the Olympic and Paralympic Games Office as First Nations Manager, shaping a meaningful legacy for the 2032 Games while championing sport and community connection through major events like tennis.

Shayne Rodgers

Shayne Rodgers is a Koori man from Victoria. He is passionate about community, leadership and better outcomes for First Nations people. He brings experience in project delivery, housing, infrastructure and governance, alongside a strong love for tennis.

As part of Tennis Australia's First Nations Advisory Group, Shayne supports inclusive, welcoming pathways so more First Nations people, families and communities can connect with and enjoy the game.

LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group Members



Nikki Ayers OAM

Nikki Ayers OAM PLY is a Paralympic gold medallist, winning Australia's first Para rowing gold at the Paris 2024 Games in the PR3 Mixed Double Scull.

A registered nurse, midwife and proud LGBTQIA+ athlete, Nikki uses her platform to drive inclusion in sport and beyond. She organised an international Pride Regatta in Italy, advocates for athlete visibility, volunteers with Share the Dignity, and inspires young people particularly girls, people with disability, and LGBTQIA+ youth to belong in sport as they are.

Adam Bourne

Adam Bourne is Professor of Public Health and Director of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University.

He leads a large program of research relating to health and wellbeing among LGBTQIA+ communities, including studies of mental wellbeing, community connection, intersex health and human rights, and alcohol and other drug use. He is Co-Chair of the Victorian Whole of Government LGBTQIA+ Taskforce.

Victor Dobo

Victor Dobo is a Melbourne-based tennis player and community advocate, passionate about inclusion and participation in sport.

Originally from Brazil, Victor has been actively involved in LGBTQIA+ sporting communities across Australia, including serving as Treasurer of Tennis Sydney and competing with the Sydney Stingers water polo club and VicTennis.

As an Advisor, he brings a player-focused perspective shaped by experiences across social, grassroots and competitive tennis environments.

Yvonne Fantin

Yvonne Fantin is a Tennis Australia Level 3 Master Club Professional qualified coach with over 20 years of coaching experience and 35 years of playing experience.

Yvonne has established Topseed Tennis as one of Australia's leading tennis academies. Topseed Tennis operates from three locations in the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne and has a strong focus on growing our sport from a grassroots level and providing playing opportunities for people all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group Members



Scott Green

Scott Green is a Senior Manager at Accenture Australia in Melbourne, leading large-scale transformation programs spanning technology and people.

He is passionate about building inclusive, high-performing teams and strengthening organisational capability to deliver measurable outcomes for both employees and the business.

Scott also co-leads Accenture Melbourne's Pride Employee Resource Group of 500+ members and serves as Social Tennis Co-Lead, promoting participation, connection and wellbeing through sport and community engagement across initiatives.



Alastair Lawrie

Alastair Lawrie is the Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in Sydney. He lives on Dharawal land in Wollongong with his partner Steve.

He is a Board Member of LGBTQIA+ Health Australia, Board Member of Twenty10, and Board adviser to Just Equal Australia.

Alastair has been a long-term advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights in Australia, as well as a long-term tennis fan.



Felicity McIntosh

Felicity McIntosh (she/they) is a Melbourne-based leader working across major events, community engagement and the arts.

As Head of Marketing, Communications and Fundraising and Deputy CEO at Midsumma, she brings extensive experience in LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Skilled in strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement, fundraising and program delivery, Felicity has led impactful initiatives that strengthen community connection and visibility.

She is passionate about creating safer, inclusive spaces and supporting organisations to reflect and celebrate diverse communities.



Michelle Sheppard

Michelle Sheppard ("Mama Mish") is a DEI advocate, speaker and executive advisor who bridges community advocacy with corporate leadership.

She partners with organisations to advance gender equity, inclusion and cultural change through practical, people-focused strategies.

A 2023 Victorian Honour Roll of Women Change Agent, Michelle is recognised for amplifying LGBTQIA+ voices through advocacy, storytelling and radio. She also co-hosts JOY 94.9's Breakfast program, engaging audiences across Australia's leading LGBTQIA+ platform.