**Tips to increase community engagement with inclusive pool programs in Australia**

**A group of people in a pool

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Promoting community engagement with inclusive pool programs across our beautiful country requires a strategic and thoughtful approach. By fostering a welcoming and accessible environment, you can encourage individuals of all abilities to participate. Here are a few handy tips to increase community engagement with inclusive pool programs:

**Connect with Local Organisations:** Establish partnerships with local disability advocacy groups, community centers, and organisations that focus on inclusion. Collaborative efforts can help not only in developing your inclusive pool programs but to spread the word and reach a broader audience.

**Host Inclusive Events:** Organise special events or themed days that highlight the inclusivity of your pool programs. This could include open days, specialist programs, or fun activities designed to showcase the accessible features of your swimming pool centre.

**Offer Free or Discounted Sessions:** To encourage trial participation, consider offering free or discounted sessions for individuals with disabilities and their families. This can help remove budget barriers and provides an opportunity for the community to experience the benefits of your inclusive programs.

**Train Staff on Inclusivity:** Provide training for your staff on inclusivity and disability awareness. Staff members should be knowledgeable about the needs of individuals with disabilities and be equipped to offer assistance when necessary. Friendly and trained team members can contribute to a positive and safe experience for all users.

**Ask for Feedback:** Actively seek feedback from participants and the community. Use surveys, focus groups, or community forums to gather insights into their experiences. This can untap the power of evolution and help build further momentum.

**Highlight Success Stories:** Share success stories from individuals who have benefited from your inclusive pool programs. Personal narratives can inspire others to participate and demonstrate the positive impact of your initiatives. Share on your website and via social media channels for a broader reach.

**Accessible Transportation Options:** Consider transportation challenges that some individuals with disabilities may face. Collaborate with local transport services to provide accessible transportation options, making it easier for community members to access your pool programs.

Creating and fostering a more inclusive and engaging environment for your swimming pool centre changes lives.

Source: [Para Mobility](https://www.paramobility.com.au/)

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