INCLUSIVE CLUBS PROGRAM

The Victorian Fisheries Authority is committed to supporting strong and healthy fishing and boating clubs across Victoria. We want to support thriving clubs into the future that are welcoming to all and are at the heart of local communities.

In 2027, we're excited to deliver the Inclusive Clubs Program to support clubs looking for new ways to attract new members and foster an inclusive culture.

This program will be designed to help fishing and boating clubs grow and diversify their membership through participation in a series of inclusive club development workshops led by an experienced facilitator. Diversity may include attracting more women or young people, or a greater variety of people across age, gender, cultural background, sexuality and ability.

Participating clubs will gain practical ideas, tools and strategies to create a more inclusive environment, attract new members and strengthen club participation. Ongoing support will also be available to help clubs implement what they have learnt.

Who can participate?

- Any fishing or boating club in Victoria can participate and choose to opt into the program. Participation will be limited to a maximum of 30 clubs.
- Each club may nominate up to 3 representatives to attend.
- Representatives may include committee members, emerging leaders, respected club members and women within the club.

Program format and content

- Five interactive sessions delivered between February and June 2027.
- Sessions will be a mixture of online and in-person, however this may be negotiable especially for rural or remote clubs.
- The dates for each session and locations for all in-person sessions will be determined once all applications are received. As this is a state-wide program, we will endeavour to choose locations that suit the majority of participants as best as possible.
- Each session will include practical learning opportunities, facilitated discussions and collaborative workshop activities. Each session will involve multiple clubs, enabling clubs to share and brainstorm ideas with each other.
- Selected sessions will feature guest speakers and panellists who will share their experiences and insights on building inclusive sporting and recreation clubs.
- The content of the program will build on a similar initiative run by the VFA in 2020. This round of the program will incorporate the latest feedback on the challenges that fishing and boating clubs are facing in attracting and retaining diverse members.

Outcomes for clubs

Throughout the program, each club will be supported to develop a tailored one-page action plan that includes practical steps to increase diversity and inclusion within their membership and club activities. Clubs will also be supported to develop a club charter to help promote the club's mission and values, to further attract and retain members and will be encouraged to display their club charter around the club.

Following the program, clubs will have the opportunity to reconnect with the program facilitators to review progress, discuss challenges and identify solutions to support ongoing implementation.

Every club that completes the program will receive a certificate, digital badge and social media tile to promote their club's completion of the training, amongst their local communities and to prospective members. The VFA will also help promote the clubs' participation and achievements through our social media and website.

How can I sign up

Any club can apply to be a part of the program, with places limited to 30 clubs. Nominations must be submitted by a member of the club's committee, general members cannot apply. Please note, submitting an EOI does not guarantee selection into the program.
Apply using the link below.
EOI Form
Applications close 4 December 2026.

Further Information

Any questions about the program can be directed to Belinda Yim, Manager Events and Education in the VFA by email: belinda.yim@vfa.vic.gov.au or phone: 0459 887 675.

Boating Industry Association of Victoria

WIRFAB Network

VRFISH VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY