

QSport Member Quarterly Pulse Report

Quarter 1 Sector Insights, Finance & Sustainability Survey

The survey highlights that participation growth is increasingly constrained by workforce capacity, organisational sustainability, rising costs and access challenges. Sustainable growth will require continued investment in the people, places and organisational capability that enable sport to thrive across Queensland, supporting the delivery of the Queensland Spirit: The Road to 2032 Strategy and the Brisbane 2032 legacy.

Context: Queensland Government funding announcement

The recent announcement of the Queensland Government's Sport Partnership Funding Program and four-year funding cycle is a significant and welcome commitment to the future of Queensland sport. The announcement addresses a key issue identified through member feedback collected in Q1: the need for greater funding certainty across the sector. Greater funding certainty will assist organisations to strengthen workforce capability, support volunteer sustainability, improve long-term planning and continue delivering participation opportunities across the state.

Executive Summary

Fourteen QSport member organisations participated in the inaugural Quarter 1 Pulse, Finance and Sustainability Survey, representing approximately 20% of QSport's membership. While participation was modest, the survey identified several clear themes that consistently emerged across organisations, providing valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges currently shaping Queensland sport.

Key sector challenges include workforce and volunteer capacity, funding uncertainty, rising operating costs, and increasing compliance obligations. Participation growth remains the leading priority for organisations; however, growth is increasingly constrained by workforce availability, affordability and access challenges. Members also highlighted the importance of stronger collaboration, leadership development and practical support to help build organisational capability.

These findings will directly inform QSport's advocacy, member support initiatives and engagement with government. In response, QSport will focus on advocating for greater funding certainty, workforce and volunteer sustainability, increased regional investment, and improved participation outcomes. QSport will also expand opportunities for member collaboration and continue strengthening the sector evidence base through regular pulse reporting to ensure member voices help shape the future of sport in Queensland as the state progresses towards Brisbane 2032 and delivery of the Queensland Spirit: The Road to 2032 Strategy.

Survey Snapshot

Measure	Result
QSport Members	71
Survey Responses	14
Response Rate	20%
Survey Period	June-July 2026
Organisation Types	State Sporting Organisations and Sport Sector Leaders

While the response rate provides only a snapshot of the sector, the consistency of themes across respondents highlights several issues requiring ongoing attention and monitoring.

Key Findings at a Glance

Workforce capacity is the sector's biggest challenge

Nearly 79% of respondents identified coaches, officials and volunteers as a key factor impacting participation and organisational performance. Workforce sustainability emerged as the strongest and most consistent challenge across the survey.

Participation growth remains a priority

Participation growth was identified as the leading organisational priority for the coming quarter, demonstrating continued ambition to grow sport participation across Queensland.

Funding uncertainty remains a significant concern

Almost two-thirds of respondents identified funding uncertainty as a key external pressure affecting their organisation.

Cost-of-living pressures are affecting sport

More than half of respondents reported cost-of-living impacts on members, highlighting ongoing affordability pressures facing Queensland communities.

Facilities access remains a participation challenge

Facility access and quality were identified by respondents as a key barrier to participation growth and program delivery.

Sector collaboration is highly valued

Members consistently expressed interest in opportunities for networking, workforce development, leadership forums and cross-sport collaboration.

Workforce and Volunteer Sustainability

The strongest message from this quarter's survey is that workforce capacity has become a critical constraint on growth.

Organisations reported challenges relating to:

- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer retention
- Succession planning
- Coach and official development
- Organisational capability
- Leadership continuity

Several respondents noted that increasing governance, reporting and integrity requirements continue to place strain on volunteer-led organisations that have limited staffing resources.

Sector Implication

Without targeted investment in workforce development and volunteer support, participation growth ambitions may be difficult to achieve.

Participation and Growth

Participation growth remains the sector's primary focus. Despite economic pressures, organisations generally reported stable or improving participation levels.

However, growth is being influenced by:

- Workforce limitations
- Cost of participation
- Facility access
- Travel requirements
- Compliance obligations

These findings reinforce the importance of supporting organisations not only to attract participants, but also to build the workforce and infrastructure required to sustain growth.

Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability remains a key issue for many organisations.

Respondents highlighted:

- Funding uncertainty



- Increasing operating costs
- Volunteer expense reimbursement
- Rising travel costs
- Cost-of-living impacts on members

These findings suggest that while many organisations remain stable in the short term, concerns remain around long-term sustainability and financial resilience.

Regional Queensland and Travel Costs

Queensland's geography continues to create unique challenges for sport delivery.

Members reported concerns regarding:

- Fuel costs
- Volunteer travel
- Competition travel requirements
- Regional service delivery
- Access to facilities

Respondents suggested additional investment in regional sport development, decentralised service delivery and travel assistance initiatives.

Technology and Digital Capability

Survey responses indicate digital capability is improving across the sector, particularly in financial management and event administration systems.

However, some organisations highlighted challenges including:

- Inefficient national platforms
- Limited technical support
- Technology costs
- Volunteer capability requirements

These findings suggest there remains opportunity to improve digital maturity and operational efficiency across the sector.

Alignment with the Queensland Sport Strategy

The themes identified through this survey are strongly aligned with the objectives of the Queensland Sport Strategy.

Strategy Objective	Survey Insight
Increased participation	Participation growth remains the leading priority.
Stronger sporting organisations	Workforce capability and volunteer sustainability emerged as major challenges.
Inclusive access to sport	Cost-of-living and travel impacts are affecting participation.
Sustainable sector development	Funding certainty and financial sustainability remain key concerns.
Strong communities through sport	Members are seeking greater collaboration and shared learning opportunities.

The quarterly pulse survey provides an important mechanism for monitoring how strategic priorities are being experienced by organisations across Queensland and identifying emerging challenges requiring policy attention.

Why Survey Participation Matters

QSport uses member insights to inform:

- Advocacy with government
- Policy submissions
- Funding discussions
- Sector development initiatives
- Professional development programs
- Future member services

This quarter, 14 organisations contributed valuable insights. While the findings identified clear and consistent themes, broader participation will strengthen the evidence available to support future advocacy and investment discussions.

As governments increasingly rely on evidence-based decision-making, data directly from sporting organisations becomes essential in demonstrating sector needs and opportunities.

What QSport Will Do Next

Based on member feedback, QSport will focus on:

Advocacy

- Funding sustainability and certainty



- Volunteer and workforce support
- Regional sport investment
- Facility and infrastructure needs

Member Support

- Governance and compliance resources
- Workforce and succession planning initiatives
- Volunteer development support
- Leadership and networking opportunities

Sector Intelligence

- Continue quarterly pulse reporting
- Monitor emerging trends
- Track sector confidence and sustainability indicators
- Support evidence-informed decision-making

Closing Message

Queensland sport is preparing for a transformational decade as momentum builds towards Brisbane 2032. The insights shared through this survey reinforce that while the sector remains resilient and optimistic, ongoing investment in people, participation, capability and sustainability will be essential to maximise this opportunity.

QSport thanks all participating organisations and encourages all members to contribute to future Pulse surveys.

Every response strengthens the voice for Queensland sport.