

KEY ACTION AREA 2.2:

The importance of friendships is recognised and support from peers is encouraged, to help children and young people feel safe and be less isolated.

OVERVIEW

One of the benefits of being involved in sport is the often life-long friendships that are built. It is important that all children and young people involved in your SSA, regardless of their background, have this same opportunity.

To assist in enabling all children and young people to feel safe and included within your activities, it is important to collect relevant demographic information about them (such as but not limited to, cultural diversity, neurodiversity and accessibility needs). This includes children and young people involved in your sport in any way, whether as a participant, coach, official or volunteer. This information will help you to create an inclusive environment and support them to build relationships they need. You can do this in various ways, including through:

- registration forms
- interview and selection processes
- induction processes
- icebreaker activities
- buddy systems
- having open and regular communication with children and young people and their families (noting the importance of ensuring all communication is appropriate and child safe. For example, if online communication is required, a [two-deep model](#) is implemented at all times).

If volunteers or employees within your SSA feel that they need additional support to enable a child or young person to be involved (such as through an individualised support plan), it is important that the SSA seeks external advice and guidance from agencies or organisations. **Your SSA is not expected to be an expert** or have sufficient resources to have individualised support programs, but it is important to do as much as you can to fully include all children and young people. This can mean seeking support and guidance from families and carers of children and young people, as well as external organisations.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 2.2	When a child becomes a member of the SSA, information about their needs are collected and they are supported to build relationships.
	The SSA facilitates connections between children and young people.
	If a child or young person requires an individual support plan, the SSA seeks guidance, advice and support from a relevant agency or agencies to firstly develop such a plan and to support the implementation of the plan.

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If you need support:

- > [Mental health community links](#)
- > [Reporting flowchart](#)

