What is the Active After-school Communities program?
Active After-school Communities (AASC) is a national program that is part of the Australian Government’s $116m Building a Healthy, Active Australia package. It provides primary school-aged children with access to free, structured physical activity programs in the after-school timeslot of 3.00pm to 5.30pm. The program is designed to engage traditionally non-active children in structured physical activities and to build pathways with local community organisations, including sporting clubs.

Who can be involved in the AASC program?
The program is open to all Australian primary schools and Childcare Benefit approved Out of School Hours Care Services (OSHCS).

What are the objectives of the AASC program?
• To enhance the physical activity of Australian primary school-aged children through a nationally coordinated program.
• To provide increased opportunities for inclusive participation in quality, safe and fun structured physical activities.
• To grow community capacity and stimulate local community involvement in sport and structured physical activity.

What are the benefits for deliverers?
• The opportunity to be involved with a national program of the Australian Sports Commission.
• The opportunity to increase awareness of participating sports or organisations.
• The opportunity to increase membership opportunities for participating sports or organisations.
• The opportunity to build local community partnerships.
• Free access to the Community Coach Training Program.
• Media exposure.

What is the emphasis of the AASC program?
• Encouraging local community partnerships.
• To promote a local community approach to increase participation in structured physical activity.
• To provide schools and OSHCS with support to determine programs that meet the needs of their community.
• To focus on mobility skills and motor-skill development.
• To structure the program on Playing for Life principles and resources.

What is Playing for Life?
Playing for Life is an approach to coaching that uses games as the focus of development. By concentrating on game-based activities, children are able to:
• develop skills within a realistic and enjoyable context, rather than practising them in isolation and from a technical perspective
• become maximally engaged in dynamic game-based activities that use a fun approach to developing a range of motor skills.
What are the parameters for delivery of the program in schools/OSHCS?
The program:
• will be delivered in the after-school timeslot of 3.00pm–5.30pm
• must offer 2–3 sessions per week
• will be delivered in eight-week blocks per term (except Tasmania, where there will be ten-week blocks over three terms).
• will require 15–50 participants per session (with the option of choosing to target different groups of children for each session).

It is important to note that these parameters may be modified where necessary to meet local needs (for example, remote/indigenous communities, enrolment numbers, etc.).

Who decides what programs will be delivered within the school/OSHCS?
The school/OSHCS, in consultation with their Regional Coordinator, determines what structured physical activity programs are delivered. These may include modified junior sport programs or multi-skill based activities.

The only requirement is that they use Australian Sports Commission registered deliverers. The choice will be determined by a number of factors, including environment, age/ability level of children, identified barriers to involvement in physical activity, inclusion principles, special need considerations and local community resources.

Who assumes the duty of care for the students?
As the AASC program provides a grant to the school/OSHCS to assist with delivery of their proposed physical activity program, the responsibility and duty of care rests with the school/OSHCS.

Requirements of deliverers
Deliverers must be registered with the Australian Sports Commission to be able to deliver programs within the schools/OSHCS. Anyone may apply for registration — school teachers, OSHCS staff, development officers from national sporting organisations/state sporting associations, local club personnel, local government staff, parents, private providers, university students, high school students, etc.

How may a deliverer become registered with the Australian Sports Commission?
Individuals are required to complete and submit an application form to their local AASC Regional Coordinator. To obtain probationary registration, the individual must:
• satisfactorily complete a national police check
• nominate to be registered as either a volunteer or paid deliverer:
  — volunteer deliverers are not able to receive payment for the delivery of activities. They may only receive an honorarium from the school or OSHCS to cover expenses associated with the delivery of the activities.
  — paid deliverers will be required to take out and maintain their own public liability insurance (with coverage of at least $5 million) and professional indemnity insurance (with coverage of at least $1 million) and may receive a payment from the school or OSHCS for the delivery of activities.
• complete (or demonstrate competence in) the AASC Community Coach training program. Training will be provided by the AASC program.
• have a minimum of 12 months experience working with children or youth.
• nominate to be registered as having a ‘multi-skill’ focus and/or a ‘sport-specific’ focus.
  — Multi-skill focus deliverers will be provided with a set of resources developed by the Australian Sports Commission for delivery within the AASC program.
  — Sport-specific focus deliverers will be required to demonstrate a minimum of 12 months coaching experience for each sport nominated.

Where individuals may not meet these requirements, an Application for Exemption may be submitted for approval by the state coordinator.

What is a ‘multi-skill’ focus?
The AASC has developed a set of training resources for deliverers to use that are non-sport specific activities. Instead they will focus on multi-skill development games and movement activities. The Playing for Life Resource Kit has been constructed to provide a variety of activities across age group and environments. Deliverers are able to register to deliver these activities after completing the AASC training and accreditation program.

To obtain further information on the program, visit the AASC web site at www.ausport.gov.au/aasc or contact the Regional Coordinator in your local area.