

Australia's Wheelchair Curling Pathway Takes Shape

News Release

16 August 2026 - Curling Australia has commenced delivery of Australia's first national wheelchair curling pathway through a coordinated athlete and coach development initiative. The initiative has been made possible through investments from Paralympics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission through the AIS Para Coach Capacity Building Grant Program.

The program commenced with an international athlete and coach development camp at the Auckland Curling Centre from 13 to 17 July. This was followed by domestic athlete and coach development activities in Perth and Melbourne. The activities provided opportunities for athlete identification and assessment, coach mentoring, technical and tactical development, and preparation for future classification processes. Information and observations gathered throughout the program will help Curling Australia assess capability and inform future pathway development, selection and high performance decisions as the program continues to develop.



Auckland, 13–17 July (top) | Perth, 18–19 July (bottom left) | Melbourne, 20 July 2026 (bottom right)

Across the three activities, wheelchair athletes participated in on- and off-ice development, assessment and technical and tactical work, while coaches who had expressed an interest in wheelchair curling received practical mentoring and development support.

Curling Australia Chair Hamish Lorrain-Smith said the initiative marked an important milestone for wheelchair curling in Australia.

“We have now moved from planning to delivery, with the first coordinated activities bringing Australia's national wheelchair curling pathway to life.

“The investments from Paralympics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission have enabled us to deliver activities across Auckland, Perth and Melbourne designed to strengthen athlete engagement, coach mentoring and classification readiness across the emerging pathway.

“While these activities represent the beginning of the journey, they will help shape the future of wheelchair curling and the people who will drive its continued development.

“I would like to thank Paralympics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission for recognising the potential of wheelchair curling and investing in the establishment of this pathway.

“I’d also like to acknowledge our Member States, volunteers, athletes, emerging coaches, classifiers and everyone who has contributed to making this initiative possible. Much of the work to reach this point has taken place quietly over many months, and this initiative reflects the commitment of many people working to grow opportunities in wheelchair curling across Australia.”

The July program was designed to combine access to dedicated curling ice in Auckland with targeted domestic activities in states where athlete and coach interest had been identified. This approach has broadened participation while providing different environments in which coaches and athletes can be observed and supported. Curling Australia also acknowledges the ongoing contribution of its Member States, whose volunteers continue to foster local participation opportunities and support wheelchair curling communities around Australia. Their work provides an important foundation for the national pathway.

Further information about future pathway activities and opportunities to become involved in wheelchair curling will be released as the program develops.

About the initiative

The investments from Paralympics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission are helping Curling Australia establish the foundations of a sustainable wheelchair curling pathway through athlete development, coach capability, classification readiness and future high performance participation.

About Curling Australia:

Curling Australia is the governing body that leads, develops, and promotes the sport of Curling in Australia. We aid and support the individual Member States and their grassroots endeavours to advance Curling whilst providing a pathway for curlers to compete at National and International events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Curling Australia is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within our organisation and is a child safe organisation and has a zero-tolerance policy to child abuse and neglect in any form. We encourage individuals of all backgrounds and experiences to be involved with Curling in Australia.

For more information, contact: secretary@curling.org.au