

Maurice Gleeson OAM

Insight is indebted to Maurice for the fundamental role he has played in the development and ongoing support of our Centre.

After four decades as an advocate for the blind, his stature in the blind and wider community is incomparable.

It was an innocuous schoolyard accident when Maurice was twelve, which led to his blindness.

His life since has been one of remarkable personal achievement overcoming great tragedy and then building a career devoted to improving the life for countless blind and vision impaired people, especially their involvement in sport.

In recognition of Maurice's efforts to create sports and recreation involvement for the blind, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2002. The list of awards for his services and contributions to the betterment of blind people is distinguished and long, including most recently, the 2017 Disability Sport & Recreation Victoria Lifetime Achievement Award.

Maurice Gleeson stands as a beacon to everyone, not just those with disabilities, of what can be achieved through persistence, daring, courage and developing one's skills. A University graduate he has an extensive list of advanced studies in community services, health management, family therapy and welfare.

In his various roles with Vision Australia and Sensory Education and Advocacy Services, Maurice has been a tireless negotiator and mediator with all levels of Government on behalf of the blind. His efforts have had a profound effect developing, promoting and implementing Public policy and standards to influence decision makers.

Though he professes to have no sporting prowess, Maurice has participated in a range of sporting activities including tennis and cricket; he's even skydived and scuba dived! But it his contribution in advocating for a wide range of sports to be made available for the blind, which is a crowning achievement.

- He doubled the number of sport and recreation programs available to Victorians who are blind or vision impaired
- Increased pathways for blind and vision impaired sports within mainstream sporting clubs
- Increased BSRV's revenue by 100% in the last seven years, resulting in the introduction of a diverse and flexible range of sport and recreation opportunities
- Established new partnerships with mainstream sport and recreation clubs; including Melbourne City Football Club, Preston Lions Football Club, Gymnastics Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Ten Pin



Bowling Australia, Cycling Victoria, Noblesoul Judo Academy, Elance Ballet School and City of Boroondara Aquatic Centre.

Maurice's input into the disability sector is valued and keenly sought; as such he is involved in numerous organisations and on many committees, especially those focused on the disability sector.

Maurice's mantra is for blind and vision impaired people to participate in life wherever possible and to discover and follow their purpose. He believes in encouraging children at an early age to adopt this mindset.

Insight greatly appreciates the contribution Maurice Gleeson makes to our Centre, the Board and to the blind community in general.