

Press Release
(For immediate release)
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Sport Southland seeks board members

An opportunity to help shape Sport Southland's future has emerged with two vacancies on its board.

Trustees Steve Jackson and Wayne Evans have both completed their four-year terms and the board's rotation policy will result in their positions being advertised. While Jackson plans to step down from the role, Evans has indicated he will reapply.

Sport Southland chief executive Richard Hoskin said the board played an integral governance role.

"It's an opportunity to contribute to what Sport Southland does in terms of our delivery, the extensive range of programmes we run and the direction we will take in the future," he said.

"We are seeking people who feel they can contribute and act in the best interests of the sport and recreation sector.

"Sport in general is at another crossroads in having to decide what's important for our community and I'm sure there are some talented individuals who would be excited about having an input into that."

While SPARC is Sport Southland's biggest stakeholder, the organisation also receives strong support from community funders. The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation has approved a total of \$210,000 to assist Sport Southland with its general operations and programmes, which range from health and wellbeing through to high performance sport.

ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust chairman Alan Dennis said Sport Southland was a fantastic asset.

"The role Sport Southland plays has expanded in recent years and, while many sporting organisations and recreational groups are recognising the expertise on offer, it's a resource more could benefit from having an involvement with," he said.

Hoskin said the ILT's grant had increased considerably in the past two years.

"Their investment in us has to reflect the value of our organisation to the community. We don't expect that funding by right," he said.

"I believe we have a very valuable impact in the community. We're not just about delivering sport and many of our programmes are focused on getting people off the couch and enjoying some form of physical activity."

Last year's inaugural BNZ Workplace Challenge, which involved over 420 Southlanders, demonstrated the success of its active lifestyle initiatives.

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