The Centre for Sport and Social Impact (CSSI) at La Trobe University was commissioned by Tennis Victoria to undertake an evaluation of the Accessible Community Equality (ACE) Program, which was funded through VicHealth’s State Sporting Association Participation Program 2011–14 (SSAPP). The Tennis Victoria ACE programs were administered via three models:

- Tennis coach driven programs
- Community Tennis Club driven programs
- Programs driven by third party

The evaluation adopted a case study method in order to develop an in-depth evaluation of five ACE programs identified by Tennis Victoria, which represent the three ACE program models: coach driven; tennis club driven; and those driven by a community organisation. The case studies were developed in two stages.

Stage One – Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the key facilitators of each program.

Stage Two – Site visits were made to each program during which participant observations were made to identify program outcomes and evaluate program elements. Semi-structured interviews were also carried out with participants and their parents, eliciting more direct data.

Conclusions were made from the five case studies in relation to:

- Outcomes for the community and tennis clubs
- Participant outcomes
- Overcoming barriers to participation
- Models of delivery and effective program elements
- Program administration