






<p>Project</p> 	<p>The Impact of Reclink Australia Programs on Participants</p>	<p>Partner</p>	
		<p>Year</p>	<p>2014</p>
<p>Purpose</p> 	<p>To examine the impact of Reclink Australia programs throughout Australia. The central aim of the project was to identify how the programs contribute to the physical, mental and emotional health of people experiencing disadvantage.</p>		
<p>Method</p> 	<p>Three research methods were employed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An online survey of Reclink agencies (64) to establish the types of organisation and their capacity to engage in and contribute to sport, recreation and arts programs. 2. In-depth interviews with staff from agencies that Reclink has partnered with (60 interviews throughout Australia), to establish what agency workers perceived were the impacts of Reclink programs on their clients and participants. 3. In-depth interviews with active participants in Reclink funded or supported sport, recreation and arts programs (274 interviews throughout Australia) to collect and analyse data on the perceptions of these individuals about the impact of Reclink funded and supported programs on their lives. 		
<p>Application</p> 	<p>The research revealed that Reclink participants experience significant disadvantage. More importantly, the findings revealed that Reclink programs were a catalyst for a better life for many of the participants who took part in the study. One of the greatest benefits from participating in Reclink activities appears to be regular access to a support network, and being part of a community of people who have had similar experiences or difficulties.</p> <p>Eight recommendations were made to support and develop the programs offered by Reclink and to link these to social support services and to education and employment outcomes.</p>		

