The Canberra Skateboarding Association is a not for profit incorporated association that was started in 2007. The committee consists of local Canberra skateboarders who are volunteering their time and effort. Our free Progression Session events teach both young and old to skateboard at skateparks around Canberra and we also run occasional competitions for more advanced skateboarders. All events are sustained by donations and volunteer efforts.

Although the ACT has a range of effective larger skateparks, it lacks ‘incidental’ neighbourhood spaces that cater more effectively to localised needs.

Skatepark elements integrated into public play spaces can be multi-use and cater for a much larger demographic than traditional playground or sporting facilities.

Skateparks are also proven to be beneficial to social and mental wellbeing.

[www.sph.uwa.edu.au/research/hprg/childsplay/skateparks-project/why-consider-skate-parks-a-public-health-issue](http://www.sph.uwa.edu.au/research/hprg/childsplay/skateparks-project/why-consider-skate-parks-a-public-health-issue)

We are proposing that more "skate-able" elements be incorporated into play spaces in a similar manner to the existing skate ledges at the Crace playground in Gungahlin.

It would be valuable to our organisation and the community if we had more opportunities to get kids to try skateboarding, particularly at smaller facilities that are accessible in local neighbourhoods without the need to rely on public or private transport.

Creating these accessible spaces rather than actively discouraging skateboarding through the installation of 'skate stoppers' and other barriers will help young people to maintain active lifestyles and integrate physical activities into everyday life.

We also emphasise the importance of consultation on the design aspects of new facilities to ensure that they are functional and do not inadvertently include problematic aspects, such as tan bark, large expansion joints in concrete or unsuitable surface materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this process and we look forward to engaging further on the project.

Regards,

Brenden Wood & Tony Caruana

Canberra Skateboarding Association

