

# Media Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 2018**



## Table cricket trial a first for aged care

It's been a long time since he's held a cricket bat, but 96-year-old Lionel O'Brien enjoyed trying out a different form of the game at Port Noarlunga last week.

ACH Group is the first aged care provider in Australia to pilot a table cricket trial in two of its residential care homes; ViTA at Daw Park and Perry Park at Port Noarlunga.

Run by the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA), the Table Cricket Program is aimed at people whose mobility is limited, allowing them to have fun and enjoy the game in a different format.

The tabletop game is played on a table tennis table or similar, with side panels used to represent the boundary and fielders. The 'batter' uses a small wooden bat and a bowling ramp allows the bowler to aim the ball. Rules are similar to indoor cricket, with batters given two overs each.

Funding from the Office of Sport and Recreation has enabled SACA to invest in Table Cricket equipment and to run a four to six-week program at participating schools and organisations.

"Our first session at ViTA was a big success, with members participating in social teams with plenty of smiles and laughs," SACA Diversity and Inclusion Leader Matt Lucas said. "This is a way of bringing cricket to people who might not be able to get out and play the traditional game. It's easy to set up and play and we hope it might be something we can continue to offer in collaboration with aged care providers and other organisations."

Disability support services Novita and Minda are also on board, beginning their Table Cricket Program sessions in coming weeks.

Perry Park resident Audrey Hutchins also enjoyed trying out the game. "I'm from a family of cricket lovers - my two sons and my husband played in Kimba," Mrs Hutchins said. "I still like to watch the Test games; I've never found it boring."

Sessions run for one hour per week and are suitable for 10 to 15 players per table.

Table Cricket was invented by The Lord's Taverners, a youth cricket and disability sports charity based in the UK. The South Australian trial is the first trial of table cricket in an aged care setting.

<https://www.lordstaverners.org/table-cricket>

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## **About ACH Group**

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952.

As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities.

Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

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