

IOR AND QUILPIE SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE

Delivering a first-class facility for the Quilpie community and employees through partnership.

Summary

- Supporting the Quilpie Sport and Recreation Centre (the Centre) is a very practical example of IOR's community contribution. IOR is helping to provide a first-class facility which contributes to Quilpie's liveability and supports the health and safety of IOR's local and visiting employees and contractors.
- The success of this valued community alliance demonstrates IOR's approach to engaging with community groups and making targeted social investments in communities to build long-standing relationships.

Background

After a long and sustained campaign by the local community, Government funding was secured to build a facility to house a Sport and Recreation Centre for the Quilpie community. The building is owned by the Quilpie Shire Council.

Opened on 5 November 2017, the Centre is a state-of-the-art gymnasium available to the community 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Through the hard work and commitment of the volunteer committee's fundraising and grant-writing efforts, the Centre boasts nearly \$80,000 worth of high-quality fitness equipment.

Since it opened, the Centre has become a valued service to locals and visitors alike, with officials and players from the NRL even visiting during their regular trips to Quilpie.

At a glance

IOR has proudly supported the Centre since it opened in 2017.

The Centre offers a 24/7 service equal to, or better than, gyms in major centres.

Around 20% of Quilpie's population are permanent members.

Opportunity

Within the town of Quilpie, population approx. 500, there is a strong community spirit with local businesses working hard to support community organisations and programs to create an amazing town spirit and high standards of wellbeing.

The Centre's committee had gratefully received strong support from local businesses and community members in their fundraising efforts but wanted to reach out to larger entities with a connection to Quilpie.

IOR was a natural choice with the town being home to five IOR employees and a short trip from Eromanga, where IOR operates an oil refinery. Additionally, IOR employees and contractors also regularly visit the town when travelling to and from the Eromanga Refinery.

IOR employee Shaun Lander was part of the original Committee that worked with Council to progress the development of the Centre and first approached IOR to assist. "The Council supported the idea from the beginning, donating the land and helping us get started," Shaun explained. "There was no other facility like this in town, so we formed the Committee, became incorporated and were lucky to get the support of others including IOR."

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What IOR's support has meant for the Centre

Through its Corporate Social Responsibility Investment, IOR has assisted with funding to meet the Centre's insurance costs which are a significant component of the operating budget. Prior to the Centre's installation of solar panels, IOR also assisted with meeting electricity costs. As part of the partnership, IOR receives four memberships for local employees.

Centre Secretary Hollie McCarthy explained the value of IOR's contribution: "we could not be more grateful for the support we receive from IOR. It's so great that their employees that live in Quilpie or visit for work can use the Centre."

Securing IOR's support has been critical to the continued sustainability of the Centre, which is solely operated by volunteers. The dedicated team of five volunteers keep the gym operational, attend to member enquiries, manage the administration and in 2020 had the added pressure of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Closing for a short period to comply with Government health advice, the Centre quickly recovered and introduced additional cleaning and processes in line with their COVID Safe Plan. It is a testament to the perseverance of the Committee and the gym's members that the Centre has remained operational and safe during the pandemic.

Find out more about IOR

The majority of IOR's workforce live in rural and regional locations all over Australia and the company is committed to supporting the services and facilities in those centres. As a business, IOR prioritises the health and safety of its employees and contractors so the alliance with the Quilpie Sport and Recreation Centre makes a key contribution to achieving that goal.

Listening to the needs of local communities is a key factor in guiding IOR's funding decisions and IOR is proud to be part of this vital community initiative.

Visit www.ior.com.au/community for more information if you would like IOR to support your event or cause.



I really can't express how much we appreciate the ongoing support of IOR. As volunteers we work hard to keep this essential service available for everyone in Quilpie and IOR is a huge part of that."

Emily Tully

President, Quilpie Sport and Recreation Centre