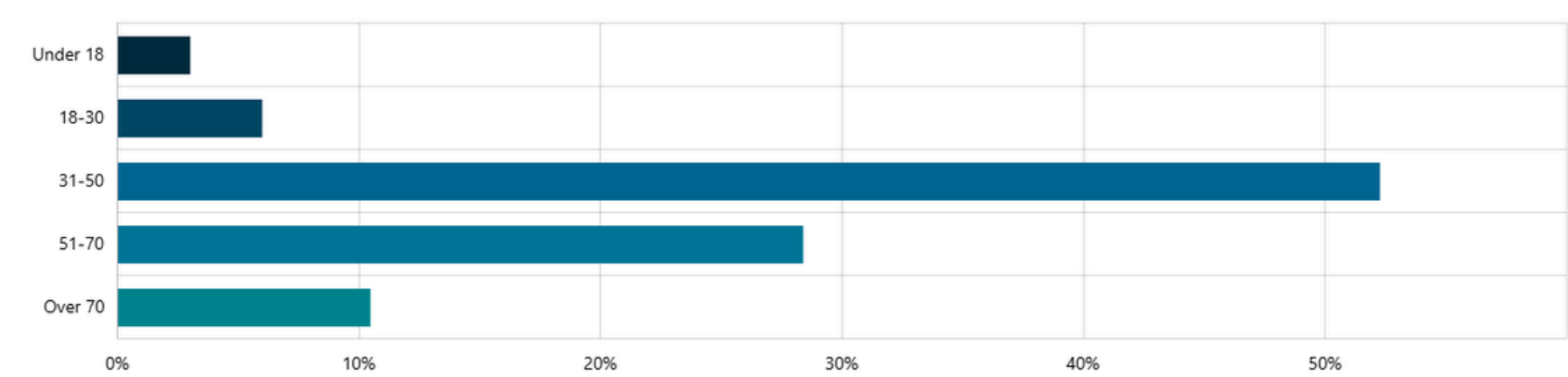


ALAN COULTER RECREATION CENTRE CONSULTATION

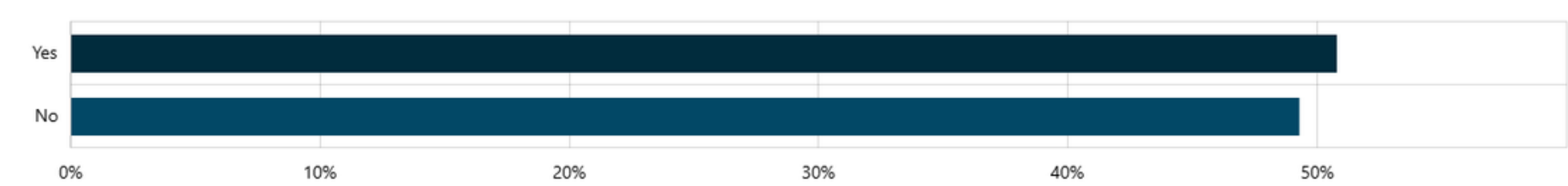
Renmark Paringa Council undertook a community consultation to inform upcoming upgrades at the Alan Coulter Recreation Centre. Community members provided detailed feedback on their experience using the Alan Coulter Recreation Centre. Responses highlight a strong desire for modernised amenities, improved safety, better circulation, and enhanced aquatic and fitness services.

Survey responses 82

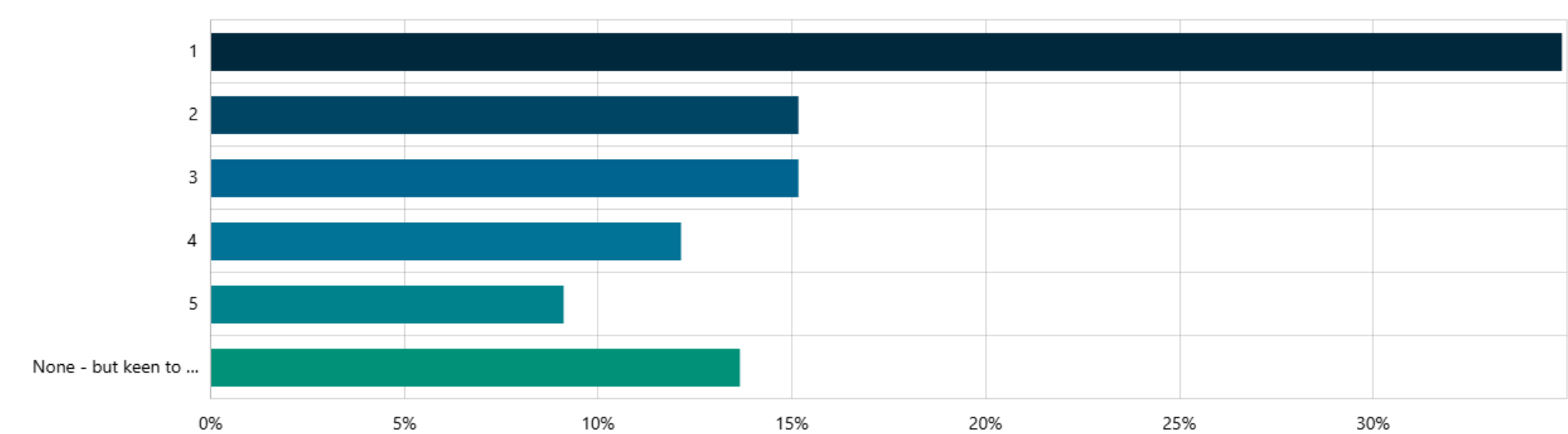
Age group



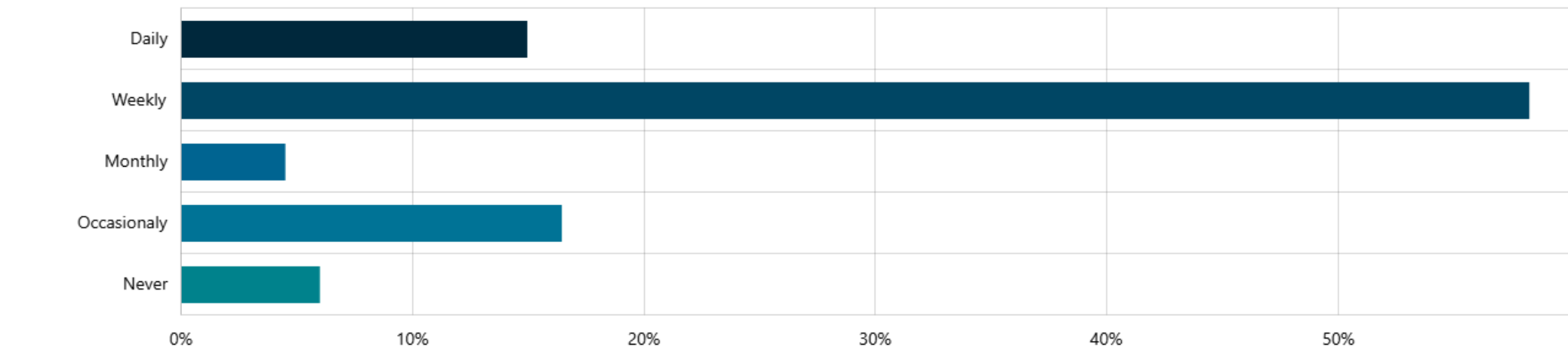
Are you a paying member?



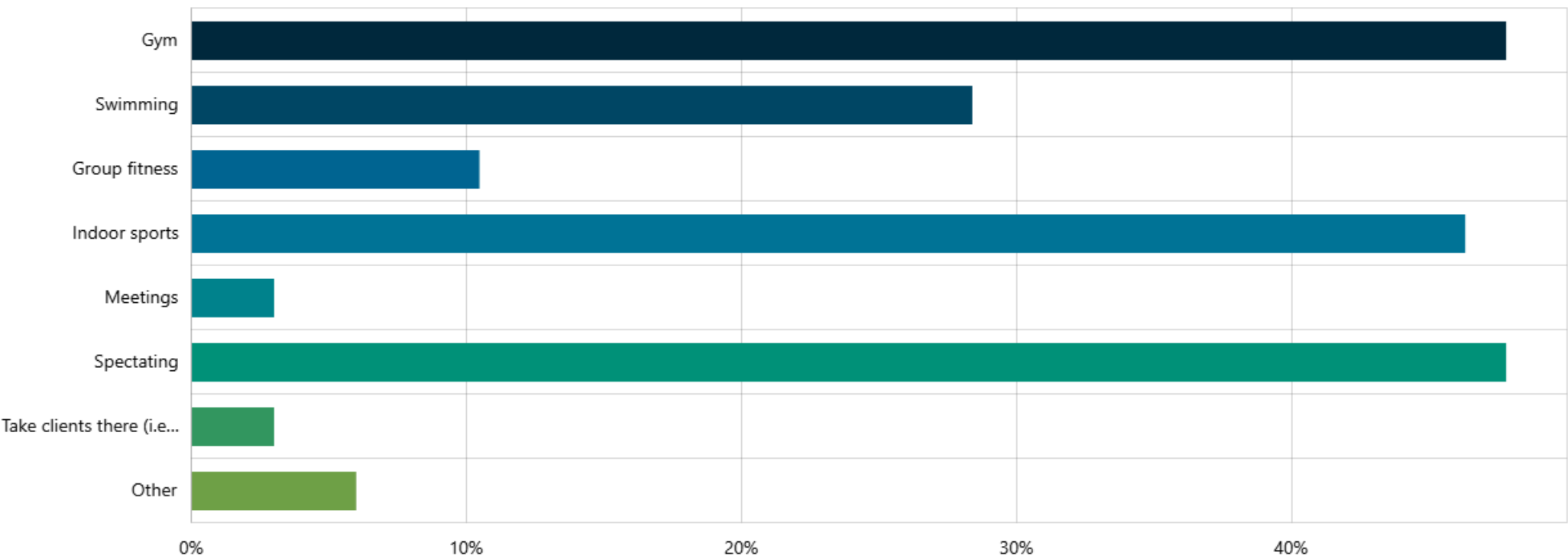
How many people in your household use the recreation centre?



How often do you visit the centre?



What activities do you typically participate in at the centre?



What changes or upgrades to the rec centre would improve your experience of using the facility? (summarised)

1. Building Condition & Maintenance (≈35 mentions)

- Leaking roof repeatedly identified as a major issue, affecting courts and causing cancellations.
- General maintenance concerns: broken equipment, dusty/unclean areas, outdated finishes, damaged or worn fixtures.
- Requests for routine, timely repair of gym equipment, TVs, air-conditioning, and cleanliness.

2. Pool Upgrades & Operations (≈40 mentions)

- Desire for a larger or second indoor heated pool, improved hydrotherapy options, and increased public swimming times.
- Slippery tiles and need for non-slip surfaces around the indoor pool highlighted as a safety issue.
- Requests for separate scheduling for lap swimmers vs aqua classes.
- Re-opening the spa/hot tub, adding sauna, improving pool change rooms and showers.
- Calls for reduced fees and more lessons (children’s lessons and general swimming).

3. Change Rooms, Toilets & Amenities (≈30 mentions)

- Strong feedback about outdated, inadequate, or dirty change rooms and toilets.
- Requests for:
 - More change rooms.
 - Better shower facilities.
 - Dedicated children’s change room for swimming lessons.
 - Larger, accessible disability toilets with appropriate rails.
 - Baby change tables.

4. Gym & Fitness Facilities (~35 mentions)

- High demand for new gym equipment, particularly treadmills, bikes, ellipticals, and maintenance of existing machines.
- Calls for an improved group fitness area (not “dark, dingy, or cramped”).
- Requests for more group fitness classes, including non-senior options, spin, pump, personal training, and better class times.
- Desire for better ventilation and air-conditioning in gym areas.
- Requests for a 24/7 accessible fitness room with more equipment.

5. Seating, Viewing & Stadium Improvements (~30 mentions)

- Poor viewing due to structural columns, ducts, and beams obstructing the courts.
- Need for:
- More accessible seating for elderly and people with disabilities.
- Individual seats like Berri Stadium.
- Ground-level seating options.
- Improved upstairs/downstairs seating layout.
- Calls for improved ventilation, fans, and cooling in the stadium.

6. Access, Flow & Circulation (~20 mentions)

- Current building layout described as clunky and congested, especially entrance to courts/gym.
- Pool access via the gym not ideal.
- Desire for better pedestrian flow, clearer signage, and improved internal navigation.
- Suggestions for relocating gym/foyer to improve connections with outdoor netball courts.

7. Canteen, Food & Social Spaces (~15 mentions)

- Requests for:
- A proper canteen with hot food.
- A barista/coffee area.
- Social spaces for clubs and families.
- Vending/kiosk facilities.

8. Accessibility & Inclusion (~12 mentions)

- Need for:
- Improved disability access to courts and seating.
- Easier connections between outdoor and indoor courts.
- Accessible toilets and change areas.
- More availability and access on weekends or during rain.

9. Program & Service Improvements (~20 mentions)

- More public pool sessions, particularly outside school hours.
- Expanded group fitness program variety and times.
- Improved customer service and supervision standards.
- Community ideas such as:
- Running groups,
- Open days,
- Donation bins,
- Mental health volunteer presence.

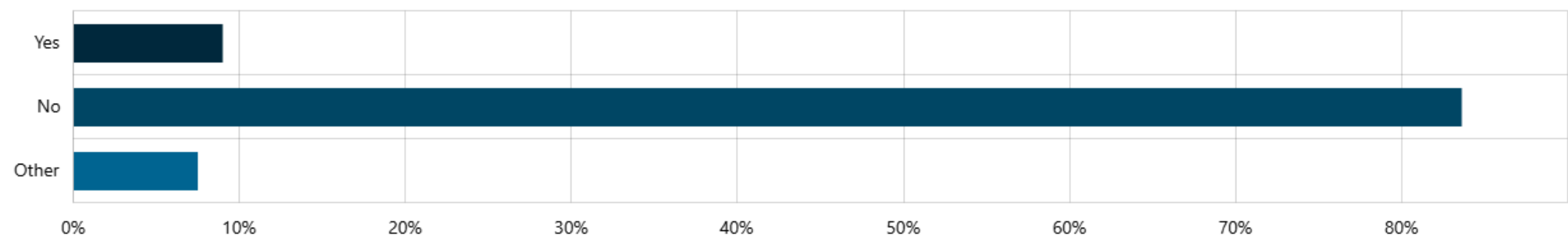
10. Storage & Club Support (~8 mentions)

- Clubs—particularly volleyball and netball—express need for:
- Larger storage areas,
- Better access to courts for training,
- Updated meeting/umpire rooms.

11. Management Model & Governance (~6 mentions)

- Several comments express dissatisfaction with current management (Belgravia Group).
- Suggestions to return to local management or seek state grants for a full redevelopment.

Do you or someone in your household have specific accessibility needs when visiting community facilities (e.g., mobility, hearing, vision, sensory, or communication needs)?



What improvements or features would make the centre more accessible and inclusive for you or others (summarised)

- 1. Disability Access (~25 mentions)**
Consistent calls for full accessibility: wider hallways, step-free floors, accessible change rooms and toilets, lift access, and equipment/spaces usable for people with disabilities.
- 2. Seating & Viewing Accessibility (~20 mentions)**
Strong demand for safe, ground-level, mobility-friendly spectator seating. Current tiered seating is difficult or unsafe for older adults and people with mobility impairments.
- 3. Amenities, Toilets & Change Rooms (~18 mentions)**
Need for modern, spacious, inclusive amenities with non-slip surfaces; upgraded toilets, showers, and children’s facilities.
- 4. Safety & Hazard Reduction (~15 mentions)**
Requests for slip-resistant flooring, removal of trip hazards, stable steps, and better lighting/ventilation.
- 5. Pathways, Entrances & Circulation (~12 mentions)**
Centre layout needs improvement: wider hallways, easier access to courts/gym/pool, and better circulation for prams and mobility devices.
- 6. Climate Control & Comfort (~8 mentions)**
Improved air-conditioning, airflow, and fans—particularly for fitness areas and spectators.
- 7. Inclusive Programming & Support (~10 mentions)**
Interest in beginner-friendly fitness sessions, more classes for varied abilities, increased staff support for children’s programs, and broader activity offerings.
- 8. Cultural Inclusivity (~4 mentions)**
Suggestion for a privacy curtain around the pool to support culturally diverse users requiring private swim environments.
- 9. Communication & Information (~5 mentions)**
Requests for regular email updates on programs, clearer signage, and screens with club information.
- 10. Management, Court Access & Community Use (~6 mentions)**
Desire for better collaboration with clubs, more affordable/flexible court hire, and improved use of courts during winter.
- 11. Parking & External Access (~3 mentions)**
Need for clearer disability parking signage and safer external pathways.

Are there any safety or comfort concerns you've experienced or observed in the building (e.g. lighting, surfaces, signage, emergency exits)? If yes please describe. (summarised)

Slippery & Wet Surfaces:

- Pool tiles and surrounds very slippery; lack of full non-slip matting.
- Frequent roof leaks create slipping hazards on courts, in gym areas, and walkways.

Poor Accessibility & Circulation:

- Only one pool exit (bottleneck risk).
- Narrow court entrances; difficult for wheelchairs, prams, and walkers.
- Limited or obstructed accessible spectator areas.

Seating & Viewing Issues:

- Uncomfortable, unsafe, or outdated seating; damaged balustrading.
- Viewing obstructed by pillars and equipment.

Facility Condition & Cleanliness:

- Old, dirty, deteriorated toilets and change rooms.
- Dark, unsafe or crumbling older spaces (e.g., former squash courts).
- Baby change tables placed in unsuitable public spots.

Climate Control & Ventilation:

- Poor ventilation; inadequate cooling; stadium gets very hot and noisy.
- Air-conditioning leaks oily residue onto courts, causing cancellations.

Lighting & Signage:

- Poor lighting in several areas; need for clearer wayfinding.

Equipment & Layout:

- Gym equipment low-grade, poorly placed, and sometimes hazardous.
- Storage areas cluttered and unsafe.

Additional comments (summarised)

Upgrade Needed: Strong call for major modernisation to match neighbouring towns and improve overall quality.

Staffing & Programs: Need for more staff, better retention, return of group fitness classes, trainers, and extended pool hours.

Gym & Equipment: Significant issues with equipment maintenance; users leaving for better-equipped gyms.

Pool Improvements: Heated pool overcrowded; requests for additional/25m pool, spa/sauna, better accessibility, and clearer rules.

Cost vs Value: Fees seen as high for outdated facilities and limited services.

Community & Clubs: Desire for better coordination across sports, improved event access, and a more unified sports hub.

Family & Social Spaces: Requests for a more inviting café/lobby area and more family-friendly activities.

Positive Notes: Staff praised for being friendly and helpful; people optimistic about planned upgrades.