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Submission No 42

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**Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs**

**Indigenous Juveniles and Young Adults in the  
Criminal Justice System**

**January 2010**

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<b>INDEX</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction – Australian Sports Commission	4
3. Targeted sport programs, social inclusion and crime prevention/reduction	5
4. Indigenous sport programs in Australia	11
5. Conclusion	13

## 1. Executive Summary

Sport and recreation can play an essential part in the Australian Government's Closing the Gap' in Indigenous disadvantage strategy. The National Indigenous Reform Agreement established through COAG frames the task of 'Closing the Gap' in Indigenous disadvantage. Through this Agreement COAG has recognised that overcoming Indigenous disadvantage will require a long-term, generational commitment that sees major effort directed across a range of strategic platforms or 'Building Blocks' which support the reforms aimed at Closing the Gap.

There is strong evidence in Indigenous communities that sport and recreation are powerful vehicles for driving outcomes within these building blocks. Sport and recreation are shown to have a positive impact on Indigenous Australians, improving overall health, reducing violence, crime, theft and vandalism, reducing substance abuse and self-harm and improving school attendance. Indigenous sport historian Colin Tatz found that sport contributes to enhanced social cohesion, improved self esteem, reducing suicide risks and improved social support for Aboriginal communities.

Collectively across Australian and State/Territory Government agencies, in 2009/10 approximately \$44m has been committed to sport and recreation services for Indigenous Australians. However, there is a critical need to better coordinate and utilise resources in this area. Whilst the issues in the current delivery of Indigenous sport and recreation services can vary between jurisdictions there is:

- no agreed vehicle for national coordination resulting in multiple funding sources creating confusion and overlap for local communities; funding models which may not provide the most effective delivery outcome; and varying congruence between agency objectives.
- short term resourcing, planning and evaluation processes resulting in limited ability to address individual long term community need; lack of capacity to build sustainability within local communities; and leveraging opportunities for non-Government funding being missed.

This has been recognised by the Australian Government and state and territory departments of sport and recreation. At its December 2009 meeting, the Sport and Recreation Ministers Council (SRMC) agreed to establish a working party of Australian Government and state and territory departments of sport and recreation as well as cross portfolio representatives to:

- assess the need for a national coordination and partnership model to reduce confusion, overlap and delivery inefficiencies;
- map and qualify existing sport and recreation funding for Indigenous Australians across government jurisdictions and non-government sectors;
- examine the appropriateness and efficacy of existing sport and recreation service delivery models to Indigenous Australians;
- examine place and evidence based approaches to sport and recreation participation and community sport capacity building, with a view to longer term sustainability;
- identify best practice models for engaging non-government funding sources to augment government support; and
- recommend options for evaluation and improving future service delivery.

The working party is tasked with responding to SRMC by June 2010.

## **2. Australian Sports Commission**

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is a statutory authority of the Australian Government charged with supporting and investing in sport at all levels in Australia.

Since its establishment in 1989, the ASC has earned a national and international reputation for its innovative and value-add approach to supporting Australian sport. The internationally renowned Australian Institute of Sport, a key component of the Commission, is a leading centre of excellence for the training and development of high performance athletes and coaches.

The ASC funds and works closely with a range of national sporting organisations (NSOs), state government agencies, schools and community organisations to ensure sport is well run and accessible so that everyone can participate and enjoy the benefits. It also works with these organisations and through the AIS and state and territory institutes and academies of sport, to develop sporting excellence at the elite level.

The ASC has managed and administered the Indigenous Sport Program (ISP), in financial partnership with other Commonwealth agencies, State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation (SDSR) and the mainstream sporting industry since 1993.

Additional detail concerning the establishment and evolution of the ISP is at Attachment A.

### 3. Targeted sport programs, social inclusion and crime prevention/reduction

There has been much research, discussion and review of the role that sport and physical activity can play in influencing positive outcomes across a broad range of Government program (both in Australia and internationally) e.g. health, education, social inclusion to name a few.

#### The evidence

In a paper given to the *Pathways to Reconciliation Summit*, Amman, Jordan, December 2009<sup>1</sup> Prof Colin Tatz argues:

“There is no *incontestable* proof that the presence of sporting facilities and competition reduces the level of violence against the person, or general criminal or delinquent behaviour. But, at a level just short of empirical proof, there is no doubt that sports facilities, participation and competition have had a marked impact on 'junior' crimes against property and on assaults. Among dozens of examples, Port Lincoln in South Australia is a striking case: in winter, during the football season, juvenile offending by Aborigines is virtually nil. Off season, it soars. Neither the police nor the Aboriginal community doubt the relationship. Broome and Geraldton in Western Australia, Yuendumu, Barunga and Ngiuu in the Northern Territory, Cherbourg and Woorabinda in Queensland, and Condobolin in New South Wales, among many others, bear out both the assertion and the relationship. There is some evidence that sport and outdoor recreation have reduced drastically the normally high number of juvenile offenders at Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory (Owston, 1991).

The 1994 report<sup>2</sup>, while it did raise the matter of suicide escalation in some detail, kept close to the relationship between sport and delinquency, which at that time had become a major concern. It concluded that:

- sport plays a more significant role in the lives of Aborigines than in any other sector of Australian society;
- sport provides a centrality, a sense of loyalty and cohesion that has replaced some of the 'lost' structures in communities that so recently operated as Christian missions and government settlements;
- sport has become a vital force in the very survival of several communities now in danger of social disintegration;
- sport has helped reduced the considerable internalised violence — homicide, suicide, attempted suicide, rape, self-mutilation, serious assault — prevalent in some disordered communities;
- sport is a cheap enough option in the way it assists in reducing the second-highest cause of Aboriginal deaths, namely, from external and non-natural causes;
- sport has been effective in keeping youth out of serious (and mischievous) trouble during football and basketball seasons;

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<sup>1</sup> *Indigenous People, Race Relations and Australian Sport*, editors Chris Hallinan and Barry Judd, special edition of *Sport in Society*, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Tatz, Colin 1994 *Aborigines: Sport, Violence and Survival*, CRC Project 18/1989, Criminology Research Council, Canberra, April.

- sport has given several communities and regions an opportunity for some autonomy and sovereignty when they organise sport and culture carnivals — such as at Yuendumu and Barunga in the Northern Territory;
- sport takes place despite the absence of facilities, equipment, money for travel, discrimination against teams and/or access to regular competition;
- sport takes place in circumstances and environs that resemble Afghanistan in wartime and Somalia in drought time;
- sport is *essential* to counter the morale and moral despair of many Aborigines.

Similarly Prof Fred Coalter (2001)<sup>3</sup> makes the following statements in relation to targeted sport programs and crime:

- there are strong theoretical arguments for the potentially positive contribution which sport can make to reducing the propensity to commit crime;
- there is an absence of robust intermediate or final outcome data, especially for large-scale diversionary projects;
- large-scale diversionary projects tend to have vague rationales, overly-ambitious objectives and a relatively unsophisticated understanding of the variety and complexity of the causes of criminality;
- available evidence suggests that outreach/bottom-up approaches, credible leadership and non-traditional, local, provision have the best chance of success with the most marginal at-risk groups. A needs-based youth work approach may be more appropriate than a product-led sports development approach;
- sport appears to be most effective when combined with programmes which seek to address wider personal and social development - diversion must be complemented by development; and
- to maximise their potential contribution sports organisations must adopt multi-agency working in integrated and developmental programmes.

Mason and Wilson<sup>4</sup> (1988) state that by ‘Utilising sport and recreation to improve social conditions as a whole (rather than solely as crime prevention programs) is a strategy that has much to offer Australia. It is unrealistic to expect that sport/recreation programs operating on their own, and only addressing the needs of delinquent youth, can have a major impact. Young people (both Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal) in Australia have a wide range of needs and attention should be paid to them if we seriously want to address the problems that result in criminal activity, suicide, drug abuse etc”

Similarly, Morris<sup>5</sup> (2003) states “The research evidence suggests that sport and physical activity programs can facilitate personal and social development through which behaviour may be positively affected. This seems to be primarily achieved by focusing on improving underlying risk factors that predispose individuals to such behaviour. However, this assessment is based on a limited number of

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<sup>3</sup> Coalter, F, 2001, The Case for Sport

<sup>4</sup> SPORT, RECREATION AND JUVENILE CRIME, An assessment of the impact of sport and recreation upon aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth offenders, Gail Mason and Paul Wilson, Australian Institute of Criminology, 1988

<sup>5</sup> Sport, Physical Activity and Antisocial Behaviour in Youth Leesa Morris, Jo Sallybanks, Katie Willis and Toni Makkai, Australian Institute of Criminology, trends & issues, April 2003

evaluations of varying quality. Before more definitive conclusions can be drawn, more rigorous and systematic evaluations are required”.

The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation<sup>6</sup> has recently published a report about a broad range of international targeted sport programs that assist in ‘breaking the cycle of violence’ (2009) and they have summarised the following as best practice principals:

- Acknowledge that many young people’s perceptions of gang behaviour are not consistent with those which dominate wider public discussion
- Accept that those who identify themselves with gangs often do so in order to secure friendship and a sense of belonging which offers protection
- Utilise sports’ similarities with, rather than its differences from, gangs and gang related behaviour
- Mobilise sporting activity that generates equivalent levels of excitement and delivers a sense of danger, heroism and status
- Where possible engage whole groups in purposeful activity without undermining or challenging existing group structures and hierarchies
- Focus on the provision of regular and reliable opportunities that build interest, credibility and commitment over time
- Identify realisable goals that capture the imagination and build in structures which enable the development of progression pathways and competitive opportunities
- Generate access to better local facilities and make them openly accessible with a sense of local control and ownership
- Utilise high-profile sports figures to generate interest, credibility and respect but acknowledge that there is no better role model than the peer mentor who has graduated from the position of the participants
- Ensure the ongoing capture of a range of evidence of outcomes to demonstrate project achievements.

However, it is widely acknowledged that sport should not be seen as the ‘panacea’ or ‘silver bullet’ that can solve complicated and long standing societal issues. Rather, the research demonstrates that there is much work to be done in properly evaluating and measuring the success or otherwise of targeted sport programs as prevention and intervention tools. It is also true to suggest that the use of sport programs will only be successful if they are carefully designed in conjunction with the specialist policy areas across the social justice network and targeted towards specific outcomes.

CCPR<sup>7</sup>, the UK national alliance of governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation, in a major paper prepared for their Government about the broader contribution that sport and physical activity contributes toward Government policies and programs stated:

*‘many government policy objectives are interlinked; and second, many of sport’s potential benefits extend from similar intermediate impacts, such as improved fitness or increased sense of wellbeing. Research has shown how the strategic social outcomes which it is claimed sport can help produce in fact work through a series of intermediate impacts and outcomes<sup>1</sup>. For example, sporting outcomes, such as increased participation and the development of*

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<sup>6</sup> Laureus - Breaking the Cycle of Violence, 2009

<sup>7</sup> Getting the Ball Rolling, Sports Contribution to the 2008-2011 Public Service Agreements, CCPR, 2009

*sporting skills may, in certain circumstances, lead to intermediate impacts like improved fitness and/or self-esteem. In turn, these may lead to changes in behaviour, such as decreased drug use, improved educational performance or increased employability. If this type of behaviour change occurs in individuals, it may lead cumulatively to wider strategic social and economic outcomes, such as community regeneration. Consequently, analysis of sport's impact on, for example, educational achievement and crime reduction may be based on identical evidence that demonstrates that sport can potentially impact positively on participants' self-esteem (given that improved self-esteem may contribute to beneficial education and crime reduction outcomes). Marshalling the evidence in reference to the various PSAs was therefore a tricky task. Again, however, this can be viewed in a positive light, since it demonstrates the multiple, interrelated benefits that could arise from properly targeted investment in sport.*

In the Australian context, the ASC is partnering with the University of Queensland and Surfing Australia to conduct a three-year (2009–11) research project measuring the impacts of sport on Indigenous Australian communities. It is funded by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, an international apolitical organisation whose aim is to use the positive influence of sport to address social challenges.

The research project will use a case study approach based upon up to seven Indigenous surfing sites throughout Australia. It will focus on the key areas of viability, sustainability and participation in the surfing programs. In doing so, the networks of interaction developed through the programs will be investigated along with the associated benefits (or otherwise) of these networks.

A further recent Australian example of how sport can be utilised to contribute to social justice and community programs was the Roebourne Basketball carnival. This local event in the WA Pilbara region had over 350 participants and Senior Sergeant Gavin Carter stated:

*'the carnival was a great success with teams from all over the Pilbara attending and playing the games with great commitment and also the right spirit of a team sporting event. The commitment from community members from all walks of life in helping out and enforcing the "No alcohol & No anti-social behaviour" theme was a credit to all involved. This was carried on well into the night after the conclusion of each days play with the collection of rubbish and setting up for the next day's events'*

As a final example of how targeted sport can be utilised effectively as a component of wider diversionary programs a long term UK project called Positive Futures in contrast to many other sports-based social policy initiatives in its assertion that it is not a 'diversionary' or even a 'sports development' programme as traditionally understood and practiced. Rather, it describes itself as a 'relationship strategy' which seeks to engage with young people through an ability to teach or help them learn something they think is worthwhile. In an evaluation of the program Knowing the Score (2006)<sup>8</sup> acknowledges that the Positive Futures programs and approach will:

*'have a positive influence on participants' drug use, physical activity and offending behaviour by widening horizons and access to lifestyle, educational and employment opportunities within a supportive and culturally familiar environment'.*

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<sup>8</sup> Knowing the score Positive Futures Case Study Research: Final Report For the Home Office - November 2006  
Tim Crabbe with Gavin Bailey, Tony Blackshaw, Adam Brown, Clare Choak, Ben Gidley, Gavin Mellor, Kath O'Connor, Imogen Slater, Donna Woodhouse



Most pertinently the report also notes “we would conclude that whilst the provision of sporting opportunities does not itself generate sufficient confidence to provide ongoing support for sport-based social inclusion programmes, when tied to an appropriate personal and social development strategy, such programmes can have significant impacts. Furthermore, in an increasingly individualistic and consumer-oriented world, it is particularly appropriate to adopt ‘models’ of delivery which are flexible enough to cope with a diverse range of interests and personalities rather than to rely upon more formulaic sports development approaches”.

#### Sport for Indigenous Australians within Australian Government policy directions

The Australian Government has made it clear that sport and physical activity is an important part of society. This is even more so for Indigenous Australians given the inherent value of sport participation and development brings. There has been much discussion over the past 18 months about the role and contribution that sport and physical activity can play within broader Governmental and societal outcomes and the time is now right for there to be a concerted effort by all system partners to ensure that these accrued benefits can be maximised.

In its 2008 paper *Australian Sport: Emerging challenges, new directions*<sup>9</sup>, the Australian Government identified the following:

*“Research indicates between 2001 and 2005 there has been a shift towards lower levels of physical activity by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There has also been an increase in the proportion of sedentary behaviour amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years and over during this period from 37% to 47%.*

*Sport and physical activity can help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians life expectancy by providing a practical tool for Indigenous communities to achieve positive outcomes in areas such as physical wellbeing and mental health, education and social dysfunction. For too long the funding of indigenous sport has been heavily fragmented between Federal Government, State Governments, non-Government organisations and sporting bodies.*

*It would be a great advantage to better coordinate the different pools of Government and private dollars to use these funds more efficiently, identify duplication and focus on how it can be spent more effectively to achieve best results.....The Government will enhance the capacity and coordination of sport participation and development programs for Indigenous Australians in partnership with State and Territory Government sport and recreation agencies, through the engagement of Indigenous Sport Development Officers, and National Sporting Organisations”.*

The ‘Closing the Gap’ speech by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd, to the Australian Parliament on 26 February 2009 further highlighted the need for partnerships across all sectors of the Australian community to help close the gap in Indigenous outcomes including in health, sport and physical activity.

The recently released Productivity Commission *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*<sup>10</sup> report noted:

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<sup>9</sup> Australian Sport: Emerging challenges, new directions: Australian Government, May 2008

<sup>10</sup> Australian Government, Productivity Commission, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Key Indicators 2009 Overview*, Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision.

*'Taking part in sport, arts or community group activities can foster self-esteem, social interaction and the development of skills and teamwork. Early participation in these activities can lead to stronger bodies, the prevention of chronic diseases and improved learning and academic performance. Reductions in substance misuse self-harm and crime may also result. Indigenous people's participation in artistic and cultural activities helps to reinforce and preserve living culture, and can also provide a profitable source of employment.'*

#### 4. Indigenous sport programs in Australia

A range of programs are administered by Australian, state and territory governments to engage and support the involvement of Indigenous Australians in sport.

Five Australian Government agencies and ten state/territory government agencies collectively commit nearly \$45 million to sport and recreation activities and programs for Indigenous Australians. The combination of funding spread too thinly across Australian Government and state/territory government agencies, duplication of activities, limited strategic direction and vision, and limited understanding of the Australian sports industry has resulted in an inefficient, fragmented and under-resourced approach to sport and recreation service delivery for Indigenous Australians. This has the potential to limit the positive long-term impact it can have on Indigenous Australians, particularly youth at risk.

As indicated previously, the ASC's role in the delivery of sporting programs to Indigenous Australians commenced in 1991 as part of the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1987–1990) and has evolved considerably since that time.

The ASC implements the ISP, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Ageing, state and territory departments of sport and recreation and a number of NSOs to:

- encourage and increase active participation and skill development of Indigenous Australians in structured sport
- improve the sports capacity of local Indigenous Australians and their communities to organise, manage and deliver sustainable sporting opportunities
- promote and provide support for mainstream sporting pathways and development opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

The program operates with an annual budget of \$3.73 million, made up of the ASC appropriation of \$1.5 million and the \$2.23 million from the Department of Health and Ageing as part of its overall Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program budget.

Indigenous Sport Development Officers (ISDOs) are responsible for consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to better understand their sporting needs, negotiating with State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) the availability of sport participation and development programs and coordinating the delivery of programs, in partnership with SSOs. The result is the right sport delivered in the right community at the right time. As part of their contribution, SDOs provide significant resources on top of the financial support provided under agreement with the ASC for the ISP. ISDOs also provide a recreational component via the delivery of Yulunga: Traditional Indigenous Games (TIG) to the broader community.

The Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program (EITAAP) provides financial support to sub-elite Indigenous sportspeople to advance in their chosen sport at the national and international levels. This assistance is a practical means to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the mainstream sporting system. Feedback from recipients clearly indicates that without the support of EITAAP very few individual could afford the high costs of representing their State/Territory or Australia, particularly those from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The ASC's current contribution to the ISP is directed to engage peak sporting organisations to deliver mainstream sport participation and development programs in cooperation with ISDO/SDSR. The ASC's contribution also assists the ISDOs with program development and delivery. Several

commercial organisations (BHP Billiton and Newcrest Gold Mining) in Western Australia provide financial and human resources for the implementation of the ISP in that jurisdiction. These relationships are valuable and give the ISP significant profile and support, as well as offering an across-sector alliance with an industry seeking tangible outcomes

A recent evaluation of the ISP<sup>11</sup> concluded that the program is unique and very effective, partly due to the range of committed partners and stakeholders involved in delivering sporting activities and services to Indigenous people. The report further notes that:

The program involves a myriad of working relationships with countless sporting associations and clubs, as well as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. There are strong pathways that the program creates, from the base experience of sport and physical activity programs, leading to connections with sporting clubs and competitions. The excellent networks within the ISP have the potential to build pathways for participants, athletes and teams to advance.

In addition, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation has committed funding over the next three years to add further value to the ISP through the purchase of sporting equipment for targeted Indigenous communities, training additional community coaches and officials, and conducting evidence-based research on the impact of sport participation on Indigenous disadvantage.

The ASC enters into agreements with each of the state/territory departments of sport and recreation (with the exception of Queensland) to employ 28 Indigenous Sport Development Officers, deliver sport-specific participation and development programs and initiatives directly to Indigenous Australians and their communities, maximise the involvement of Indigenous Australians in structured sport over the longer term, assist in building the capacity for Indigenous Australians and their communities to organise, manage and deliver community sport in the future, and improve the pathways for talented Indigenous sportspeople.

The ASC also provides funding to 16 NSOs to coordinate the delivery of structured participation and development programs directly to Indigenous communities, in collaboration with their state/territory associations and locally based Indigenous Sport Development Officers.

A key point identified within the recent evaluation of the ISP was that the majority of the program partners and stakeholders have as their major purpose the advancement of sport and subsequent outcomes to Indigenous communities. The report identified that sport is the inspirational factor for many of the people who implement the program. Sport is considered an important outcome in itself, though stakeholders recognise that there are many other significant benefits that individuals and communities can take from the program.

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<sup>11</sup> Australian Sports Commission 2009, *Indigenous Sport Program Evaluation Report*, August 2009

## 5. Conclusion

The substantial contribution of sport to the Australian community is well recognised by those involved in sport, from athletes competing at the highest level to those involved in weekend club competition and social play, as well as parents and volunteers.

Our Prime Minister has spoken about the important role sport plays in shaping our national identity and promoting Australia's international reputation. We hear almost daily of the potential for sport to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Australians, and how it is contributing to other important objectives such as social inclusion and cohesion and addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

There are, however, challenges emerging to the centrality of sport to Australians and our way of life. Demographic shifts, sport integrity issues and competition from other activities are challenging the market relevance and value of sport to many Australians.

The fundamental key to meeting these challenges head-on is the rationalisation and consolidation of sport governance and program planning and delivery. Our structures and the federated system in which we operate give rise to significant potential for duplication, gaps and misalignment of effort. It is important that our responses drive greater system cohesion by reducing fragmentation and clarifying the roles of all system partners.

A key focus for the ASC going forward will be developing connections with other portfolios within the Australian Government, so as to improve coordination with sports and provide whole-of-sport views on strategic issues and Government objectives. Issues such as physical education and sport in schools, improved coordination of Indigenous sport programs, and better understanding the dimensions of the facilities and sporting infrastructure needs-gap, will be areas for joint work with our system partners. Given the diverse outcomes that sport contributes to, it will be highly beneficial to both sport and government for there to be improved coordination and access to whole-of-sport information.

The ASC looks forward to discussing this paper and the role that ASC programs may be able to play as part of the wider Governmental approach with the Committee in the future.

## **Attachment A – Establishment and evolution of the Indigenous Sport Program**

In 1992, the Commonwealth Government responded to recommendations from a Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1987-91). The recommendations recognised the value of sport and physical activity as a preventative strategy against the risk laden and anti-social behaviour of some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. From the recommendations the then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) established a sport and recreation initiative that:

*“promoted the social and physical wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the development of a positive self-image through increased access to and participation in recreation and sporting activities”.*

This sport and recreation initiative was divided into two components, national programs and ATSIC Regional Council programs. ATSIC central office also distributed some funding for multi-regional projects. National programs included the Young Persons Sport and Recreation Development Program (YPSRDP) and the National Sport and Recreation Program (NSRP). The YPSRDP and NSRP were developed jointly by ATSIC and the ASC in 1992 with both agencies sharing the management role until 1996. The YPSRDP supported the employment of a national network of Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Development Officers (ASRDOs), primarily located in the State Departments of Sport and Recreation (SDSR).

The NSRP aimed to encourage and support national and international participation of Indigenous athletes with regard to integration into mainstream sport and links to mainstream athlete development. In 1996 the ASC signed a four-year MOU with ATSIC to be the sole administrator of national programs (YPSRDP and NSRP).

In addition to the YPSRDP and the NSRP, the ASC supported a number of other Indigenous programs including an Olympic Training Centre and National Scholarships, international events and national development camps, national conferences, carnivals, a mentor scheme, a cross-cultural awareness training package, Active Australia initiatives which reduced the barriers to Indigenous sport participation, and employment and administration costs of staffing. In delivering these programs, the ASC's key delivery agencies were SDSR and NSOs.

In 2002, following an Ernst and Young review, the ASC modified its approach under the ISP to focus more specifically on mainstream sport participation and development opportunities. This gave rise to the terms Indigenous Sport Development Officers (ISDOs) and Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program (EITAAP).

Prior to its abolition in 2004, ATSIC renamed the national programs and ATSIC Regional Council programs, Sporting Opportunities for Indigenous People (SOIP). The Department of Communications, Information Technology & the Arts (DCITA) took on responsibility of the SOIP in April 2004 following the demise of ATSIC. In 2005, DCITA amended the title of the SOIP to Indigenous Sport & Recreation Program (ISRP) to provide scope for recreation-based activities. In 2007, following a change of Federal Government, DCITA was abolished. The responsibility for the ISRP now rests with the Sport Branch of DoHA. The ISRP currently supports an annual grant process, a flexible funding pool for Regional Partnership Agreements (RPAs) and Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs) and a one-year MOU with the ASC to fund the ISDO and EITAAP components of the ISP.

## Submission No 25 - Amendments

### Footnote 14

See Response in Committee to a Question from the Opposition by Mr Gary Johns (Labor Member for Petrie) (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services), *Hansard*, 19 August 1992, available at <http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=:db=CHAMBER;group=:holdingType=:id=chamber%2Fhansardr%2F1992-08-19%2F0108;orderBy=date-eLast;page=0;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansardr%2F1992-08-19%2F0108%22;querytype=Month%3A08;rec=9;resCount=Default> (viewed 17/4/09).

See also Mr Garrie Gibson (Member for Moreton, Labor), 2nd Reading Speech Disability Discrimination Act 1992, House of Representatives, re migration act exemption in the DDA, *Hansard*, 19 August 1992, available at [http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=:db=CHAMBER;group=:holdingType=:id=chamber%2Fhansardr%2F1992-08-19%2F0101;orderBy=date-eLast;page=0;query=johns%201992%20SearchCategory\\_Phrase%3A%22house%20of%20representatives%22%20Decade%3A%221990s%22%20Year%3A%221992%22%20Month%3A%2208%22;querytype=Month%3A08;rec=9;resCount=Default](http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=:db=CHAMBER;group=:holdingType=:id=chamber%2Fhansardr%2F1992-08-19%2F0101;orderBy=date-eLast;page=0;query=johns%201992%20SearchCategory_Phrase%3A%22house%20of%20representatives%22%20Decade%3A%221990s%22%20Year%3A%221992%22%20Month%3A%2208%22;querytype=Month%3A08;rec=9;resCount=Default) (viewed 17/4/09).

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