



Contribution of Federal Government sports programs to help Close the Gap

The first Parliamentary sitting week of 2013 will focus on Closing the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage. On Wednesday 6 February, The Prime Minister will provide Parliament with an update on the Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2013. The following day the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will hear from two agencies on what programs they are running in relation to Indigenous sporting programs and how they are helping to Close the Gap.

Committee Chair, Mr Shayne Neumann MP said, "Sport plays an important role in getting Indigenous community members involved in physical activity and at the same time mobilises Indigenous Australians to get together to talk about important issues such as health, education and employment."

Mr Neumann added "The Federal Government has invested a large amount of money in utilising sport as a vehicle to improve outcomes for Indigenous people. The Committee is keen to find out how successful these initiatives have been to date."

The Committee will hear from the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), who are responsible for a number of programs which aim to improve youth engagement with education.

Under the terms of reference DEEWR administers three programs relevant to the inquiry:

- the Sporting Chance program
- the No School No Play program, and
- Learn.Earn.Legend! program.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) will appear to discuss the ways that sport is being utilised to improve the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians through initiatives such as the Youth in Communities, Respectful Relationships, Mental Health programs and a Sports Leadership for Women program.

Public Hearing

Thursday, 7 February 2013

Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House Canberra

12.30pm – 1.00pm: DEEWR

1.00pm – 1.30pm: FaHCSIA

The hearing will be broadcast live via: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>.

For more information, see the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/sport or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 4559**.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann on (07) 3201 5300. **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au