



Sport contributing to Closing the Gap

The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (DRALGAS) and the Australian Sports Commission will appear before the House of Representatives Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on Thursday, 14 February 2013 to discuss the contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring. These agencies are responsible for administering the following programs:

- Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program
- Indigenous Sport Development Officers Program.
- Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program, and
- other participation funding grants to national sporting organisations

At the hearing the Committee will hear from the Director of Left-field Business Solutions, Mr Carl Currey who will discuss the significance of sport on educational, employment, health and wellbeing outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Committee Chair, Mr Shayne Neumann MP said, “Sport can be a hook that engages Indigenous community members in physical activity and at the same time benefits other outcomes such as improved health, education and employment.”

“The Committee is keen to find out how successful sports programs and initiatives have been in improving participation of Indigenous Australians and in Closing the Gap outcomes.”

Mr Neumann added “This Committee hearing follows a significant day in the House of Representatives which saw bipartisan support for the passage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill and a step towards constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.”

Public Hearing
Thursday, 14 February 2013
Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House Canberra
12.15pm – 1.00pm: DRALGAS
1.00pm – 1.30pm: Left-field Business Solutions

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