

Susan Cardell
Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Telephone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE; Parliamentary Inquiry round table 22/11/2012

Dear Susan,

As per the closing comments from the Parliamentary Inquiry on the 22, November 2012, it was mentioned that we as participants could add further submissions as to what was discussed. I would like to elaborate from a social work perspective and experience from comments made from Belinda Duarte, Jason Tamiru and Bill Fogarty discussion.

Cultural unity, determination and governance through sports

Belinda Duarte mentions how important it is for Aboriginal people to have and be involved with a cultural specific sporting event. It was mentioned that such event brings pride and unity which I fully support. I would further suggest that having such a sporting event that is managed, facilitated and participated by Aboriginal people enhances development towards 'Ownership'. This allows the ability to self-determine and self-govern. This allows for cultural control and input to construct, develop and design program models that are culturally specific understood and agreed upon by cultured people. To control and to determine a cultural sporting event, as discussed at the Inquiry then leads to the ability to form decisions, this lead to directions .From a historical perspective, ownership and direction was something that was taken away from Australian Aboriginals when they were was colonised. When ownership is taken away, there is a loss of empowerment through white dominate views and policies in society. As mentioned by Jason Tamiru, history still plays a significant role that impact upon the lives of Aboriginal people. We have seen that the social and emotional distress experienced as well as the social disparity and discrimination that impact upon the lives of so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people is inherited trait from colonisation.

It could be suggested that what Belinda Duarte eluded too, that through cultural sports programs that has cultural ownership and participation, enhances pride, culture and identity. This can in fact be seen as a positive stepping stones that has the capacity to enhance and develop positive affirmation that creates positive self-determination and governance for Indigenous Australians, through sports participation. There are many examples that reaffirm these views, especially with what I have a seen in rugby league in Queensland and New South Wales. I have been personally involved with the Lloyd McDermott National U16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Rugby Union Development Tournament for the past 5 years. The patron, Mr., Lloyd McDermott is a very positive role model for the youth, firstly as the first Aboriginal man to play for the Australian Wallabies as well as leading a successful career as a Barrister. The Lloyd McDermott Development committee has influential Aboriginal people and past and present Aboriginal Wallaby greats that govern the direction and facilitation for the National development tournament. These outcomes produce pride and unity. As an Indigenous man from another country, I am also proud and empowered that they involve me as part of their development and strategies in enhancing Indigenous youth development through sports participation.

Bill Fogarty, made reference to the hard work that is required while working in Aboriginal communities and I fully agree as I have had personal experience in my employment position, as well as a coach at a local rugby club. I would like to make a point based on experience and observation with comments made by people who have witnessed and seen the outcomes of my work with Aboriginal youth and women I am involved with. There is one area I feel becomes apparent with the audience base that sees the work I am involved with and that is only seeing the *outcomes achieved*. Many have commented on the Nunga Touch carnival that exhibits flair, colour and the amount of Aboriginal youth and community members participating as wonderful and empowering. Also with the Women's rugby team, the outcome of winning the grand final only shows the glamour and shine of what has been achieved. What I like to explain to people is the **"Brick and Mortar Effect"** What all the audiences do not see is the extra hours worked far beyond normal working times and the weekends, connecting and building relationships with family and community members to achieve these positive outcomes through sports. To put it into perspective, when looking at a brick wall, you see the colour, tone and texture of the bricks which appeal to you, the mortar that holds the bricks together is something people do not recognize or see. The mortar represent the extra hours work, the late nights, the early mornings, the relationship building, the time taken out to help resolve issues in the community. The mortar is hidden behind the glossary of the bricks; however, it is vitally important in holding the bricks together to form a wall that captures the eye of audiences.

Ross Tanimu

NUNGA TOUCH 2012

CENTACARE(SAO) -NUNGA TOUCH 2012 - HAS THE SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY SHAREHOLDERS



SAO

FIELD OF DREAMS
"Build It and They Will Come" - Kevin Costner



"WE'VE GOT THE MAGIC TOUCH"

Centacare's SAO program (Schools Assertive Outreach) , falls within the national homelessness strategy 'Turning off the Tap' and supports young people to maintain their connection culturally alongside education. Nunga Touch Carnival is an early intervention initiative within that program which is one year in the planning and supports young people to establish and maintain connections with education through a recreational activity that builds unity and teamwork within a respectable cultural framework.

The 2012 Nunga Touch Carnival was another magical event that has made a lasting impression for all those in attendance. My acknowledgement must first start with our Creator, who gave us a perfect day to have this event, considering that the 2 days leading into Nunga Touch was overcast and intermittent rain. Secondly, I acknowledge the Kurna people and the land on which we played Nunga Touch and acknowledge their spiritual connection to the land. I acknowledge the school students for their attendance, their wonderful sporting abilities and most of all respecting the guidelines I had put in place for Respect and Sportsmanship. I acknowledge all the shareholders and volunteers for their wonderful support on this special and unique day. I did mention at the beginning of the ceremony that the Nunga Touch is now a distinctive and sacred event, in that we have been blessed as community members to achieve so much in our capacity, and by doing so, have answered questions that have been asked by so many in our society about how to engage positive youth development in the community.

The 2012 Nunga Touch Carnival saw another magic display of community spirit and partaking for all who attended, supported and participated. The title of community supporting community has been the catalyst of our foundation since our humble beginnings in 2008. By maintaining a community approach for youth development through sports participation, we have seen a growth in community support with businesses, institutions, government, volunteers and schools being involved. The philosophical view that everyone can bring their unique ingredients towards making the Nunga Touch a special day and what arises, is a magical day that is shared by all, with enough left over for all to take a piece of that magic home in our memories. What was on displayed at the Nunga Touch Carnival cannot be bought or manufactured, it was created and shaped by those who had a common interest, belief and willingness to follow that belief with others to bring wellbeing and happiness to so many of our youth.

From my records of students representing their schools, we had a total of **370 students** participating on the day, a markup of 70 students from 2011. Our community shareholders have also grown and it is pleasing to see what positive outcomes can be achieved when 'Community is Supporting Community'. We have all witnessed how important belonging is for inclusiveness and empowerment and most of all wellbeing for our cultural community. Rest assured that those who volunteered their time, donated resources and finances, you have all had a positive impact upon the lives of our youth and their community

We have shown that winning is translated through laughter, smiles and joy and this has highlighted the enormity of **what has been and can be achieved when 'Community is Supporting Community'**. We have shown that enhancing opportunities can be achieved for tomorrow's youth when a vision is shared and in turn supported by many in the Adelaide community. Many can reflect on the success of the day and interpret the significance of what has been achieved. However, when students, staff, and family members are asking, with expressions of happiness and smiles to be involved in the next Nunga Touch Carnival, then the question has been answered. It was mentioned that the workload to organize something of this caliber would have been arduous and demanding, however, to bring a special day that enhances wellbeing and where everyone becomes a winner, then I can categorically state that the journey was well worth the effort. Furthermore, when the term **Deadly** is mentioned, we can assure whoever played a role in making this carnival happen, we as community shareholders, volunteers and supporters have exceeded all expectations of what we set out to achieve

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS



I would like to personally acknowledge the following organisations, departments and volunteers who assisted in making this event successful. I would like to firstly state that Nunga Touch is not about individuals or particular organisations, it is bigger than that, its foundation is based upon Community involvement and it is the community who shares and supports events like this that enhances youth development.

To the following South Australian government departments - Departments for **Communities and Social Inclusion (Hon Ian Hunter MP) - Premier and Cabinet - Office for Recreation and Sports(Hon Tom Kenyon MP) - Education and Child Development,(Hon Grace Portolesi MP) and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation(Hon Minister Paul Caica MP)** I would like to sincerely thank you for your departmental support in enhancing and empowering Indigenous youth. To the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, **Minister Paul Caica**, I thank you for words of support and encouragement on the day and I know your views were representative of those Ministers and staff members who supported our event. Special mention to Minister Caica's assistant, **Paul Ryan** who assisted with correspondence on a regular basis and sometimes on late nights, leading up to the event.

To the City of Charles Sturt Council, we cherish the support from local council who have shared and supported our Nunga Touch Carnival over the past 4 years. **Mayor Alexander**, I thank you for your attendance on the day and the kind words of support. To Councilman **Jim Fitzpatrick**, I thank you for your continual assistance with council guidelines and approaches that support youth events within the Henley Ward. We could be so bold as to suggest we *played Touch football with Charles Sturt!*

Jane O'Callaghan on behalf of Centacare, we graciously acknowledge your schools support and assistance with us having the Nunga Touch carnival at Henley Beach high for the last 5 years. To **Mark Blackman**, bro you have done an awesome job with your mob and thanks for the yarn and support with this event. A very special mention to Klaus the groundsman, your Heart and Enthusiasm is as big as your height (6'5'), without your assistance **Klaus**, it would have made my job very difficult. **Joan and Barry**, thank you for the storage space at the canteen and your supportive words - means a lot.

Sydac management and staff members, I wish to thank you for your support both on and off the field. Once again your kind contribution as BBQ chiefs on the day was welcomed and sustained the crowd's appetite after the games. I would like to acknowledge **Adrian Smith's** contribution to Nunga Touch, as he has always been a stalwart for the cause over the past 5 years

Mark Duckett and Kalu, it was pleasing to see **Transfield services** support again for Nunga Touch 2012, I hope your work staff got a lot out of the day and it was pleasing to see some of your staff get down to Gangnam style.

Sharon Hoffam and Ernist, I would like to sincerely thank you for your contribution and support from **Kirsten Charity Trust**. I am humbled and grateful that you have continued to share our passion and commitment for cultural youth development and empowerment over the last 4 years.

Aunty Mia and Ian Copley and board member of **Turkindi**, your support for your mob is exceptional and playing a part towards developing future leaders of the community will be respected and acknowledged by these students.

Lydia Agius, thank you for Adelaide University's involvement and support for the students at Nunga Touch, having **Wilto Yerlo** staff members present only highlights the educational opportunity that exists for the students and the journey they may take into University would be well supported by members such as yourself

Brother **Trevor Rhodes**, thanks again for your support from **IGA**, the bottled water was a God send, especially after the 8 exhausting games of touch football. Thanks for sharing and supporting the dream

Ron MacGillivray, thank you for your assistance throughout the year as a member of the **ADF**, you have been able to give some positive direction and support for career pathways for our young students. Bringing Defence staff out to assist with the carnival will leave a lasting impression.

Lance, Warren, Bill and Eru, Team **Kiwi Kia Katering**, a name synonymous with fine food and handsome looks! Well my bro's, all I can say is Kia Ora and thank you for your efforts and commitment in providing an awesome meal that still maintains great conversational topic with our students and audiences. **Eru**, I am grateful for the blessing (**KARAKIA**) for the meal.

For my brothers and sisters from **Centacare Aboriginal Leadership Committee**, I thank you for your contribution with support and direction with this journey for Nunga Touch. Your attendance and words of support gave me the energy to go the extra mile. **Neville** it was pleasing to see your Mari Yerta Youth group in attendance and supportive of this event both on and off the field.

Anna McPherson, I thank you and the **community police department** for their services – that is the BBQ service that you provided on the day. I know it was short notice for you as you were

initially unaware of this event, but you pulled and pushed the right buttons in your department to get involved with this community event and spirit.

Jed from Subaru and Robert from Toyota, thank you for the loan of the Marquees for the day, they came in very handy for our shareholder stalls. Looking forward to your support in 2013, maybe even a car for the raffle!! **T shirt city, Craig and Tim**, deadly job with the T shirts, you must be commended. **Darren, Southern trophies**, job well done, the hats captured the essence of what we are doing in the community. **Sean from Dazzlers** signs, well mate the banners did the trick and dazzled the audience, excellent work mate.

Allan Sumner, well we shared another magical day bro and being the music man, you also were the life of the party. Thanks for the entertainment and support when working with the students

Referee's, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your precious time and your physical endurance to run around for half a day with the students. All of you would have some understanding of what sports can do for our youth and supporting me on the day has been a blessing. To **Jim and Lee**, the father son combination was awesome, to the **SARL** thank you again for your support and assistance, **Celso** your enthusiasm and drive is always appreciated. The **SARU**, thank you for your devotion and support, looking past the sweat and tiredness I did see a smile when the Hangi was served, **Pat and Dobbo** – thank you. **The ADF** was again outstanding and we thank you for your community involvement. God speed in your new journey **Gary Browning** to Newcastle, your support over the past 4 years has been awesome. For other people who stood in to referee, I do appreciate your involvement and support.

Volunteers - To all our volunteers, I say thank you for your time and support to this community event, my **ladies from the Onkaparinga RUFC**, thank you sisters for supporting your coach. To **Fraser**, bro awesome that you share the passion with youth, **Kevin**, your assistance was a safety blanket for me and I appreciate that, from your feedback, I have booked you in already for next year. **Centacare staff and SAO team**, I am in appreciation and gratitude for taking the time to support this event. **Leah**, my thanks and gratitude for the paperwork support. To my bro, **Clayton**, another magic day bro, you are a wonderful role model for these students and your passion and commitment to put back into the youth community should be commended – Thanks for capturing in on film. It's how we show the rest of the society what it means when we get a mob together for positive wellbeing. I would like to extend my gratitude and sincere thanks to my right hand man for the day – **Jason Harding**, Bro what you did on the day was outstanding and it gave me the freedom to attend to other things, knowing that you had everything under control and on time and under budget.

To all the schools, students and teachers, thank you for participation on the day and the manner in which you all played the game in high spirits and with great respect and

sportsmanship. You all have all shown that Nunga Touch is about connecting and having fun, you have all shown that. What you have all actually **won on the day** is mutual respect, unity, community belonging and inclusiveness, these are the important tangibles that are worth more than any material or financial gain you will receive in a competitive sports arena. What you have all witnessed and experienced in Nunga Touch is that, **WITH THE MAGIC TOUCH** - you are all winners irrespective of whether you lose, win or draw.

Well my friends, we have all been given the **thumbs up for another resounding success** with the Nunga Touch Carnival. Until we converge again at our special carnival in 2013, stay safe, be good, love lots and laugh loud.

Nukkan ya

Ross



ROUNDING OFF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

