



The contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring

The contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring is the subject of a new inquiry by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. The Committee will examine how sporting bodies can increase opportunities for Indigenous participation, including for Indigenous women and how non government organisations can use sport as a vehicle to improve outcomes for Indigenous people. The Committee will look at how Indigenous sporting programs can contribute to Closing the Gap targets.

The Committee Chair, Mr Shayne Neumann MP said, “Sport can have a powerful effect in Indigenous communities, with Indigenous athletes enjoying a long and rich history of achievement in sport. Indigenous people are more likely to participate in some sports, such as Australian Rules Football or Australian Rugby League, and Indigenous men participate in sport more than Indigenous women.”

“We know that sport can contribute to promoting teamwork, healthy living and community cohesion in Indigenous communities. The challenge, then, is to increase participation in sport and remove barriers to participation. Sporting bodies, non government bodies and the government all have a role to play.”

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Sport have asked the Committee to inquire into and report on the contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring with a focus on:

- how sporting bodies can increase opportunities for Indigenous participation, including opportunities for Indigenous women,
- how non-government bodies can utilise sport as a vehicle to improve outcomes for Indigenous people, and
- the contribution of Indigenous sporting programs to Closing the Gap targets as supported by
 - o sporting codes,
 - o the private and NGO sectors, and
 - o federal government assistance.

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry by **Friday 26 October 2012**. For the full terms of reference and advice on making submissions 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