

## **Hand out for Indigenous Sports Webinar 2**

**Program:** Sports Demonstration Project

**Organisation:** Australian Sports Commission

**Region:** NT – 5 Remote communities

### **1. Gathering the evidence**

The delivery of sport to youth in remote communities has posed many challenges for State and Territory Departments of Sport & Recreation and the ASC for a number of years. Through initial research conducted by SVID it was evident that sport is being utilised as a diversionary activity for youth in remote communities but was unorganised and not coordinated by service deliverers in the communities, resulting in either duplication of services or unsustainable programs and visits by sporting organisations.

### **2. What program was delivered**

In June 2010, FaCHSIA entered into a \$500,000 agreement with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to coordinate a Sport Demonstration Project (SDP) in 2011/2012 for Indigenous youth aged 10-20 living in 5 Remote Service Delivery (RSD) sites in the Northern Territory. The RSD priority locations were: Gapuwiyak, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Wurrumiyanga (formerly Nguju). The Northern Territory Government, through NT Sport, Venues and Indigenous Development (SVID), is the key delivery partner.

The SDP trialled a good practice model for delivering sport based diversion activities through improved whole of government coordination and the use of a 'place based' approach to service delivery that built community capacity to deliver sporting activities in a sustainable way.

The SDP was an example of how a well planned strategic approach to sport participation and development can make a contribution to the broader Government commitments to Closing the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage. The SDP was designed in direct alignment with the COAG National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Service Delivery Principles for Services for Indigenous Australians and National Principles for Investments in Remote Locations.

The SDP had dedicated staff based in Darwin to coordinate the project. For the purposes of the targeted approach, the 5 RSD sites were identified via a selection process that included analysis of:

- Community profile information (accessible from Regional Operation Centres (ROCs) and FaCHSIA National Office)
- current sports capacity of local community people
- readiness or preparedness of community for sport training
- existing sport programs
- access and status of current sports infrastructure
- connectivity between community and local services (e.g. schools)
- other government services operating in the community that may provide partnership opportunities/shared responsibilities.

Analysis of the available Local Implementation Plans (LIPs) of the 5 communities also showed that sport and active recreation is prominently mentioned as a vehicle intended to engage young people and contribute to achievement of key building block targets.

The SDP Project Coordinator catalyses existing sport and recreation resources operating in the relevant sites, including Indigenous Sport Development Officers (ISDOs), Local Government Shires (LGS), Community Sport & Recreation Officers (CSROs) and Active After-school Communities (AASC) program Regional Coordinators to establish, develop and support the following:

- Community Working Parties (CWPs) in each of the RSD sites, including key representation from community, SVID, LGS and CSROs to ensure local level engagement/ownership; and
- Place- based Community Action Plans (CAPs) in each of the 5 RSD sites. This includes identifying the sporting needs of the community, training requirements, roles and responsibilities and key deliverables and reporting requirements specific to each community (not a one size fits all approach). Each is linked to LIP actions as part of the Closing the Gap measures.

The aim of this approach was to:

- Provide coordinated, quality sporting opportunities and experiences that meet individual community needs;
- Enable local community people to coordinate and deliver quality sporting programs; and
- Maximise and add value to existing sporting programs and resources within the community with a view to achieving mutual outcomes.

The deliverables in each community for 2011/2012 were determined by the Community Sport Working Parties.

### **3. How has the program tracked**

The outcomes of the SDP will not be known until the ASC completes its evaluation in October 2012. Below are the achievements to date as a result of the SDP:

- Federal, Territory and Local Government agencies working together to support the SDP
- Establishment and ongoing meetings of a SDP Steering Committee (includes membership from the ASC (NT AASC and Central Office), FaHCSIA (NT and National Office), Office for Sport, Department of Education , Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), NT Sport and Recreation, NT Department of Education and Training, Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) and the NT Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services)
  - the SDP Steering Committee (Chaired by the ASC) oversees the activity, considers issues from a broader government perspective and provides advice and support to the project coordinator to ensure the SDP adds value to existing outcomes and makes recommendations on steps to move forward
- Acceptance of the SDP (and the Coordinator) as a positive opportunity for Indigenous Australians by Indigenous Australians living in each of the 5 RSD communities

- Formation of Community Working Parties (CWPs) to identifying the sporting needs of each RSD community
  - CWPs include Indigenous community and service providers (e.g. FaHCSIA Government Business Managers (GBMs), AASC, schools, police, health services, NT Sporting Organisations, other government funded community organisations etc.)
- Ongoing consultation with NTSOs to determine their capacity/capability to service the identified needs of communities
  - identified opportunities to provide direct support to NT Sporting Organisations to ensure their services are meeting community needs effectively
- Development of Community Action Plans for each RSD community
  - includes WHO is already delivering what in the community, WHAT is the gap (e.g. no opportunities for Indigenous females or juniors), WHO is required to deliver (e.g. NT Softball), WHEN (e.g. 10 week program beginning in Nov 2011), HOW much it will cost and WHAT are the performance indicators (quantitative and qualitative)
- Leverage from other FaHCSIA programs (e.g. Community Development Employment Program) to build the capability of community people participating in the SDP (in the form of sport and recreation vocational training)
- Grant agreements entered into with NTSOs and Shires to deliver key performance indicators as outlined and agreed to in the Community Action Plans.
- Examples of outcomes from the action plans and grant agreements include – regular meetings of the working parties to review action plans, the establishment of junior competitions in communities, coaching and officiating courses, inclusion of remote sport into mainstream pathways, providing sport specific equipment and uniforms were required.

This has created a very strong community engagement platform where services (like sport) can be delivered effectively. It also provides a basis for the approach under the SDP to be adapted and mirrored in more communities as better community engagement practice.

#### **4. What were some learnings**

- Each community is different so what works in one community might not work in another. For example – the school in one community might have a principle who wants sport to be included on a weekly basis where a principle in another community might not understand sport and thinks the youth should focus on education outcomes while at school.
- Engagement of youth in any activity in these communities is hard so the program has to be fun and not go for too long. Sport in communities may have to modified a few times to figure out what will work and what won't.
- Structure of sport and the coordination of sport between so many different organisations – Sport & Recreation, Shire's, Community Organisations, State Sporting Organisations, Non Government Organisations
- Capacity of State Sporting Organisations to deliver in sport communities – including why and how they should be delivering sport in communities

- Remote locations – hard to get to in wet season. Sport and communities need to be more organised to
- Acceptance of the SDP (and the Coordinator) as a positive opportunity for Indigenous Australians by Indigenous Australians living in each of the 5 RSD communities
- Formation of the working parties and getting community organisations to sit down and talk to each other
- Community Action Plans – planning sport programs
- Sport programs being long term and sustainable in the communities
- Trialling the delivery of coaching and officiating course in communities