Pathways to sport – Success stories

Eurobodalla Coast Hockey Association

This document demonstrates the pathways to community sport and physical activity made available through the Australian Government’s Active After-school Communities (AASC) program.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sport: Hockey</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation: Eurobodalla Coast Hockey Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: NSW South Coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: 2009-2011</td>
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<td>Transitions: A new junior hockey competition has been established (consisting of 38 participants)</td>
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Summary

The Eurobodalla Coast Hockey Association (ECHA) became engaged with the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program in 2009 to promote local clubs and to create interest in a junior competition.

Four ECHA members delivered five engaging hockey programs between Term 2, 2009 and Term 1, 2011 at various schools and out of school hour care services (OSHCS) on the Far South Coast. The coaches and programs were instantly popular with some of the participants picking up a hockey stick for the very first time.

Prior to its engagement with the AASC program, the ECHA had no relationships with schools and out of school hour care services in the area. Now, for the first time in nine years, a junior hockey competition is running in Moruya.

_Cheryl Sutherland, ECHA Coaching Convenor said, ‘By delivering the AASC program in schools, our hockey association has been able to get a junior hockey competition up and running after nearly 10 years of no competition.’_
Planning

The AASC Regional Coordinator for the NSW South Coast, Kate Baker, made contact with the ECHA in 2009 to discuss the benefits of delivering sports programs in the AASC program. From these initial discussions, the following steps were taken:

- Four ECHA members completed the Community Coach Training Program (CCTP) to become AASC accredited coaches.
- Coaches commenced delivering hockey programs at four different sites within 12 months.
- The ECHA successfully applied for a Special Initiative Grant (SIG) in 2009 for the purchase of sticks, balls and shin pads to cater to the increased amount of children participating in hockey.
- A second SIG was obtained in 2011 for the purchase of plastic sticks and soft balls, a requirement of the NSW Department of Education and Training.

The equipment obtained through grant funding was also made available to any new junior member of the ECHA so parents didn’t incur the expense of buying equipment.

Implementation

From 2009-2011, hockey programs were consistently delivered in schools and OSHCS across the NSW South Coast region. Sites involved in delivery included St Bernard’s Primary School in Bateman’s and Moruya, and Broulee and Batemans Bay After School Care centres.

In total, three seven-week programs were delivered in 2009, one in 2010, and two in 2011. This consistent delivery ensured that hundreds of children across the region were given the opportunity to experience hockey.

Outcome

ECHA junior hockey teams were created early in 2011 for the first time in nine years.

‘The AASC program has helped to increase participation in our competition through the provision of grants,’ Cheryl Sutherland said. ‘We also have access to kids in after-school timeslot which means we aren’t disrupting class time or lessons.

‘More children have been experiencing hockey and enrolments in junior competitions have increased as a result of our partnership with the AASC program over the past 18 months.’

Bookings have already been made for hockey to be delivered in Term 1, 2012 at Batemans Bay and Moruya Primary Schools and Broulee OSHCS.
AASC Regional Coordinator Kate Baker worked to establish this pathway for NSW children into hockey.