

AUSSIE
SPORTS

NEWS

ISSN 0817-9875

Vol 1 No 1 August 1986

WELCOME TO AUSSIE SPORTS

AUSSIE SPORTS has been available to schools, sports and recreational clubs and other interested bodies since late April. We are thrilled that already, more than 500 schools and 30,000 children have joined the Program. This means an increasing number of children now have the opportunity to become involved in a skill-based sports program to link in with their existing physical education programs.

AUSSIE SPORTS gives children the opportunity to become involved in a wide variety of sports at levels commensurate with their size, skills and interests. It offers the resources and support needed to promote the enjoyment of sport and skill development.

Now we have AUSSIE SPORTS NEWS which will be issued every two months. In it we will discuss issues in sports education, show how

some schools use AUSSIE SPORTS, offer ideas for the conduct of primary school sport, explain how to play modified sports, and through the AUSSIE SHORTS segment provide snippets of general interest from the AUSSIE SPORTS Co-ordinators, teachers and sports development officers.

I hope you enjoy our first issue.



Greg Hartung
General Manager
Australian Sports Commission

AUSSIE SPORTS:
A NEW APPROACH

During the past decade, much has been achieved by many school and community sport organisations. Unfortunately, in some instances alarming trends are still apparent:

- The imposition of inappropriate adult values in terms of unhealthy competition and an over-emphasis on winning.
- A high dropout rate due to stress and unrealistic expectations for successful performance and achievement.
- Unequal opportunity for sport involvement, especially for girls, the handicapped and the less skilled.
- Injuries due to mismatching, overtraining and sometimes violence.
- Children and youth being less attracted to healthy physical recreation as a consequence of their negative sport experiences.

What AUSSIE SPORTS Stands For

Modified Sports. Promotion of modified sport for all children. AUSSIE SPORTS currently offers thirty sports as options for schools and clubs.

Equal Opportunities. Equal opportunities for all children to participate, enjoy and improve their skills, self confidence and self esteem.

Community Involvement. AUSSIE SPORTS will be encouraging everyone interested in children and sport to be a good sport and support the Program. Helping out with organising sport, training, coaching, umpiring and providing transport are all rewarding and very necessary areas of assistance.

Quality Sports Instruction. With the assistance of the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER), AUSSIE SPORTS is assisting sports organisations to develop basic coaching courses for those teachers and parent coaches who want a basic understanding of how to help children enjoy their sport.

Sports Education. Sport can be an exciting medium through which children can learn about a number of issues related to sport, Australian society and good sporting behaviour. Teachers will be able to use the Sports Education Units either as presented or as part of other school curriculum subjects such as language, social science and health.

Incentives for Children. Incentives for children to learn a variety of sports skills and to participate regularly via the Award Scheme.

National Launch
At Matraville

Photo courtesy NSW Dept of Education

The Acting Prime Minister Lionel Bowen together with the Sports Minister John Brown and the NSW D-G Bob Winder at the national launch for AUSSIE SPORTS in Matraville, Sydney (further story on page 5).

THE AUSTRALIAN
SPORTS COMMISSION

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is the Federal Government's principal authority responsible for developing sport in Australia.

In 1985, the Commission established a **Children In Sport Committee** to develop the AUSSIE SPORTS Program. Its members are: **Roy Masters** (Chairperson), **Vicki Cardwell**, **Wendy Pritchard**, **Margaret Pewtress**, **Grant Kenny** and **Glynis Nunn**. The Committee has consulted widely with many sport and education bodies to develop the framework for the AUSSIE SPORTS Program.

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