

Hand out for Indigenous Sports Webinar 2

Sport: Cricket

Organisation: Tiwi Islands Shire Council

Region: Tiwi Islands

1. Gathering the evidence

The Tiwi Islands is made up of two Islands (Bathurst and Melville) that has 3 main communities. Wurrumiyanga has a population of 1527, Milikapiti around 500 and Pirlangimpi around 500. Tiwi is the first language spoken on the Islands with English being the second language. The Tiwi people still live by ceremony and are very culturally focused. It was clear that a great deal of cultural understanding was required in order for a Cricket program to be implemented with the goal of it being self sustainable in the future. The Tiwi Islands have not had a structured cricket competition before. In 2004 a competition started however did not stay a float. The Tiwi Islands had played in the 2005 and 2006 Imparja Cups. Winning it in 2005 and making the finals in 2006. However Since 2006 there had not been a ball bowled.

In 2011 the Regional Cricket Manager from NT Cricket conducted a 3 day visit to the Islands to discuss cricket with Tiwi people and see if they were still interested in the sport.

Discussions were held with Local Sport & Rec Officers which indicated that Cricket was a popular sport on the islands however there were no facilities or support that gave the Tiwi people an opportunity to play the game. Over the next two days visiting every community and speaking to men women and children from the community it was obvious that there was a genuine interest in the sport.

The approach taken was to advise the identified key people on the Islands what formats were available to play cricket and for them to chose what they wanted to play and what rules they wanted to play by.

2. What program was delivered

During the initial trip NT Cricket advised that they would return with ongoing support for the competition and coaching and umpiring accreditation was organised. The second trip was a 6 day trip that consisted of visits to each community. Continual contact had been kept with the key people identified on the initial trip via phone and email. A 12 month strategic plan was drawn up by NT Cricket and was starting to be delivered with the main outcomes to be a structured competition on the Islands, Tiwi people becoming accredited, junior cricket at each community, women's cricket and a representative team to play at the 2012 Imparja Cup.

Funding was received through the Sports Demonstration Project. An 8 week season was to be delivered with 3 teams, one from each community.

3. How has the program tracked

The program was tracked through the monthly outcomes set out in the strategic plan.

4. What were some challenges or some real wins

Challenges –

- Rego forms for mulo cricket through Cricket Australia.
- Having Tiwi children represent Tiwi – Travel
- Closure of Wurrumiyanga Oval
- Tiwi Time
- Transport
- Facilities
- Funding

Successes

- Competition off the ground
- Accreditation
- Imparja Cup (3 wins 2 losses in last over)
- Opened doors to other sporting opportunities – IMP
- Re connected Family that had not seen each other for 15 years
- 2012 3 Milo in2cricket centres running
- •Holding inaugural “Winga Sheild” (Saltwater Sheild) on Tiwi at the Milimika Festival
- 3 team men’s Competition with brand new roll out flicx pitch – Tigers, Magpies & Sharks.
- Possible Dingo Cup tour in October.