



# The Indigenous Softball Program



Having fun  
under  
the sun

Softball Australia's Indigenous Softball Program continues to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for Indigenous people of all ages, genders and abilities to participate in Softball in urban, rural and remote areas throughout Australia. Softball Australia and our Member States have been proactive in developing relationships and working with Indigenous communities and a variety of other interested or key stakeholders, including the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission, State Sport and Recreation Departments, National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA) and Red Dust.





Let's play Softball

Softball Australia and our Member States have a long and proud history of promoting and delivering Softball to Indigenous communities. Our Indigenous Softball Program produces positive health and social outcomes by providing female and male Indigenous Australians of all ages and abilities with opportunities to participate in Softball – as players, coaches, umpires, administrators and volunteers. With Softball generally recognised as the preferred sport of Indigenous women, and becoming increasingly popular amongst Indigenous men, we are committed to expanding Softball programs in targeted urban, rural and remote areas across Australia.

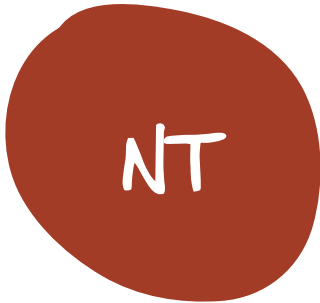
Over the next 12 months we will provide over 100 programs including Softball competitions, coaching and officiating training sessions, and junior development activities to more than 8,000 Indigenous participants. We will also work with local communities to help them become self-sufficient so they can develop and deliver their own events and programs.

With the support of our Member States, program partners and sponsors, the Indigenous Softball Program will use Softball as a vehicle to close the health and opportunity gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

This promotional booklet showcases some of the great work happening now in Indigenous communities across Australia.



**Sue Noble CEO**



In partnership with the Northern Territory's Indigenous Sports Unit and participating Shires, Softball Northern Territory attracts over 1,700 participants to the Territory's Shire Softball competitions. The competitions aim to increase participation levels of Indigenous women and children living in remote communities by way of a structured and regular sporting activity. Participating teams play a round-robin home-and-away format over a 10-15 week period. This format promotes wider community involvement and enhances inter-community relationships. Softball Northern Territory, through the delivery of coaching and officiating training courses, has increased the capacity of participating Shires to host a sustainable competition. The Shire competitions have clearly defined participation and development pathways, with winning teams representing their Shires at the Northern Territory Championships.





Softball South Australia, through its partnership with the South Australian National Football League and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Land Council, has supported the ongoing development of the Far North West Sports League (FNWSL) on the APY Lands. The League runs an 8-team Softball competition, which has been instrumental in building the sustainability of the participating Indigenous communities. The competition has been successful in providing community members, particularly women, with an increased sense of self-worth, leadership opportunities as coaches and team officials, as well as delivering the social, physical and health benefits associated with playing an active team sport.

The coaching, scoring and umpiring training provided by Softball South Australia in 2011 resulted in 17 umpires, 8 coaches and 3 scorers achieving nationally recognised accreditation. The FNWSL is close to achieving self-sufficiency, with most communities now having the capacity and capability to run their own competitions.





Softball Western Australia, through its successful partnerships with Newcrest Mining, the Western Desert League and the Garnduwa community, delivers Softball programs to a number of communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley. The programs aim to build the capacity of communities to self-manage, organise and deliver Softball competitions and related activities. In 2011, Softball Western Australia conducted coaching, umpiring and scoring clinics that resulted in 23 Indigenous participants achieving nationally recognised accreditation and the formation of a new Softball Association in Broome.



NSW

Softball NSW is targeting Indigenous communities from Blacktown, Dubbo and Kempsey in order to increase their participation in state Softball programs. Planned activities include Softball Batter Up junior participation sessions, Come-and-Try Days and Community Coaching clinics – all of which link to local club and association competitions. Opportunities are also provided for Indigenous participants to access accredited coaching and officiating training, as well as development opportunities for players to help them progress from grassroots programs to elite competition.







Softball Victoria's Indigenous Softball Program centres around its partnership with the Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville. As a result of the athlete development and coach education programs provided by Softball Victoria, Worawa College now competes in the Knox Softball Association C grade Women's competition. Softball Victoria, with Sport and Recreation Victoria's Indigenous Sports Unit staff, has provided cultural awareness training to Knox Softball Association members to support the entry of Worawa College into the competition.





Softball Tasmania, in partnership with Softball Australia and Sport and Recreation Tasmania, is developing its Social Inclusion Strategy to ensure Softball is accessible to Tasmanians of all ages, cultures and abilities. Twelve clubs will be selected to receive cultural awareness training, coach and official accreditation courses, equipment and other resources to assist in developing a more accessible, welcoming and inclusive environment.

These clubs will deliver and promote inclusive programs, such as the national junior participation program, Softball Batter Up, to people from Indigenous communities.





ACT

Softball ACT continues to work with Sport and Recreation ACT to provide opportunities for Indigenous participants of all ages and abilities to participate in Softball. In 2001, the WhiSPers Softball Club was established when three Indigenous women, including former Australian representative Joanne Lesiputty, established an Indigenous Softball team to compete in Canberra's Softball competition. With assistance from Softball ACT, Softball Australia and the ACT Indigenous Sport Program, WhiSPers is now totally self-funded, boasts a number of junior and senior teams, and welcomes people from Indigenous and non-Indigenous backgrounds.



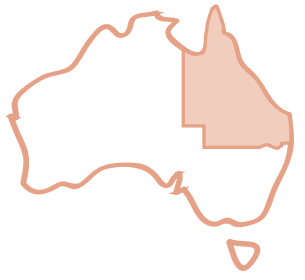


QLD

The Mornington Island Sports League project is a joint initiative of Womensport Queensland and Softball Queensland. Funded by the Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation Services, the primary objectives of the project are to increase sport participation for the Mornington Island community (specifically women and girls), and to build capacity to facilitate the delivery of independent community-based sport.

Social Softball games conducted by the Mornington Island Sports League in 2010 attracted more than 290 community participants, with the majority being women and girls. With the support of a local working group and regular visits by specialist program providers supported by Softball Queensland, participants now have the skills required to organise, play and officiate games. A day-long community Softball event in 2010 saw 60 participants in four teams compete against each other in a round-robin competition.

The success of the Mornington Island Sports League project can be directly attributed to local engagement, ownership and the efforts of a working group drawn from various organisations on the Island. The working group was instrumental in the design of a program based on the 'turn up and play' model, rather than the more traditional approach of training and formal competition. This more relaxed model succeeded in motivating the community to come and try Softball, making it more accessible and visible in the community.



### The female sport of choice

"Indigenous women living in remote communities have said they would like more opportunities to participate in structured and regular sporting activities and Softball was their preferred sport."

Karl Hampton, NT Minister for Sport and Recreation

"Softball on the Lands helps bring family and friends together, it is a sport that everyone can play"

Tim Stewart,  
SANFL, APY Lands  
Development Coordinator

"I have loved playing Softball since I was a young girl, and now that I am older, I want to pass what I have learned down to the young women in Amata so they can enjoy everything about Softball that I got to. The young women love Softball because they get to play against other women from across the APY Lands and get to see their friends and family from other communities a lot more. It's good for the community because like football, it makes everyone feel happy."

Barbara Moore,  
Amata Softball Manager

### Did you know....

- Softball is a popular sport in the Indigenous community. In 2010–2011:
  - More than 7,800 people participated in Softball Australia's Indigenous Softball Program – approximately 73% were female
  - 183 Indigenous people were involved in the management of Softball activities
  - 308 people participated in coaching and officiating accreditation courses. As a result, the number of Indigenous Australians involved in the management of Softball teams has grown significantly over the last few years
- Softball is the sport of choice among Indigenous women
- In 2009, an estimated 1.8% of male and 3.4% of female Softball participants across Australia were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders
- Softball Australia works closely with ARMtour and Red Dust to deliver Softball programs across outback Australia
- In 2007, Softball Australia introduced the Indigenous Athlete of the Year Award to recognise the outstanding achievements of our elite Indigenous Softballers. Award recipients are: Stacey Porter (NSW) 2008, 2010, 2011, Renee Gloss (NSW) 2007 and Jeff Goolgong (ACT) 2009.
- Jeff Goolagong is a valued member of our World Champion Open Men's team, the *Aussie Steelers*. Jeff comes from a rich sporting pedigree – former world number 1 tennis champion, Evonne Goolagong Cawley AO MBE, is Jeff's aunt.
- Stacey Porter, captain of the Australian Open Women's team, the *Aussie Spirit*, is the first and only Softballer to win a Deadly Award hosted by Vibe Australia for the Female Sportsperson of the Year (2005). Stacey is also a successful Olympian, winning a silver medal in Athens (2004) and bronze medal in Beijing (2008).

Promoting a healthy lifestyle

The National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA) uses sport and sporting role models to encourage Aboriginal youth to value education, stay in school and increase their post school opportunities. Softball Australia is proud to partner NASCA through the Athletes as Role Models program (ARMTour).

ARMTour involves teams of athletes visiting remote Aboriginal communities to deliver educational, health, culture and sporting programs. Softball role models help convey four simple messages to remote Aboriginal youth:

- Provide inspiration, encouragement and support for students at school
- Enhance student self-esteem and self-confidence as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Help students develop life skills, for example in communication, leadership and goal-setting
- Encourage participation in sport and recreation activities for healthy and positive lifestyles.

Since 1997, ARMTour role models have reached more than 8,000 young people in over 20 communities across Australia, with a current focus on the Central Desert region of the Northern Territory. Role models work to increase community and school partnerships, and inspire young Aboriginal people to greatness. The result is higher attendance rates at school (up 34% while role models are in a community, and remaining up by 19% for the following month), increased participation in sport and less destructive and dangerous behaviour among youth.



Red Dust Role Models is a non-profit health promotion charity that seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged youth in remote communities. Softball Australia is proud to partner with Red Dust in providing Softball role models to help deliver its Lifestyle Education Program. Red Dust utilises the profile and influence of positive role models from many walks of life, including sport, art and music to:

- Deliver health messages
- Inspire healthy lifestyle decisions
- Promote education as a path to personal development, employment and readiness for community leadership.



## Benefits of Softball

As a team sport for all ages, cultures, gender and abilities, Softball offers participants many benefits:

- Shared enjoyment with friends and family
- Improved health and fitness
- Increased physical activity and mental alertness
- Sense of belonging to a community with shared interests
- Improved life skills, including quick thinking, loyalty, sense of responsibility, heightened concentration, judgment, discipline and teamwork
- Opportunities to compete and represent their community, club, state, or Australia
- Development of new skills, whether playing, coaching, scoring, umpiring or administration
- Ability to accommodate female and male participants of all ages and skill levels
- Affordability – players starting out do not have to make a big financial commitment
- Fun!

While the many benefits of Softball are as applicable to the Indigenous community as they are to the wider Australian community, other features of Softball stand out as being particularly beneficial to Indigenous participants including:

- Fostering of community spirit and pride
- Improved self-esteem and self-worth
- Access to great role models, including Stacey Porter and Jeff Goolagong
- Free or subsidised access to Softball equipment, coaching, officiating and scoring accredited training, competitions, carnivals, skill development clinics and programs such as Softball Batter Up.

Softball  
scores on  
all levels

### Health

Softball is an outdoor game that is easy to play. It offers a great sense of wellbeing and a good balance of exercise, and is fun for a healthy mind and body.

### Social

Participating in a structured sport that promotes fun, a team spirit and applause from friends and family creates a powerful sense of community, pride and togetherness.

### Education

Collaborating with local schools to promote and play Softball encourages young Indigenous people to attend school, which increases their chance of gaining a formal education and greater opportunities in life.





Key Partnerships



Australian Government



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission



# Role models

## Stacey Porter

Stacey has demonstrated her skills on the diamond since 1997 when she first represented NSW. She has been a member of the AIS Softball squad since 2002.

At 20 years of age, Stacey became the first female Indigenous Australian to represent her country in Olympic Softball competition. Stacey won a silver medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens and a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. In 2006, Stacey also won a bronze medal in her first ISF Open Women's World Championship.

Over the years Stacey has received several awards for her outstanding achievements:

- 1997-1998 Best Batter in the Australian U16 Championship, Esther Deason Shield
- 1999-2000 Best Batter in the Australian U19 Championship, Elinor McKenzie Shield
- 2001 Most Valuable Player, Elinor McKenzie Shield
- 2005 Female Sportsperson of the Year, Deadly Awards

- 2005 Female Softballer of the Year, Softball Australia Awards of Excellence
- 2005 and 2010 Best Batter in the Australian Open Women's Championship, Gilley's Shield
- 2008 Sportsperson of the Year, National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
- 2008-2010 Most Valuable Player, Gilley's Shield
- 2008, 2010 and 2011 Softball Australias Indigenous Athlete of the Year
- In 2010, Stacey captained the Australian Open Women's team, the Aussie Spirit, in their ISF World Championship campaign and in 2012 captained the NSW Firestars to win the Australian Open Women's Championship, Gilley's Shield.

Stacey is an exceptionally strong player and is arguably the best batter in the world. When Stacey is not playing professional Softball in Japan, she resides in Brisbane and actively promotes community awareness and recognition of Softball.

"As one of the Indigenous role models for Softball Australia, I'd like to acknowledge the work our sport is doing in our communities. I attended the first NRL All Stars vs Indigenous All Stars rugby league game in 2010. I was so proud of the powerful sense of community and togetherness the Indigenous people brought to the game and this is exactly what we can bring to Softball. This is a great relationship that I did not have the opportunity to grow from when I was a young athlete. With 'sport' as our common bond, I'd like to encourage the development between the Australian government, Softball Australia, our sponsors and the Indigenous communities."

Stacey Porter  
Aussie Spirit Captain



Role models

“Playing Softball has given me so many exciting opportunities. I have been fortunate enough to travel the world representing Australia and playing in the North American and New Zealand Softball leagues. I have played alongside some of the best Softball players and met many great people, many of whom are life-long friends. I’d like to thank Softball Australia for developing the Indigenous Softball Program. Through this program Indigenous people of all ages are given the same opportunities I have been given to participate in Softball.”

Jeff Goolagong

Jeff Goolagong

Jeff is a two-time World Championship player from the ACT. He was a member of the ACT Team that won the 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2012 John Reid Shield, Australian Open Men’s Championship. In 2012, Jeff was awarded Best Player in the John Reid Shield Grand Final. He was also a member of the winning team at the 2006 International Softball Congress Tournament and was selected in the All World Second Team as an outfielder.

In 2008, Jeff played in a number of high-level club competitions, including the ISC World Tournament and was a member of the Australian team that defeated New Zealand to win the Pacific International Series.

In 2009, Jeff played a vital role in ACT’s win at the Australian Open Men’s Championship, where he was awarded the Most Valuable Player for the tournament.

The pinnacle of Jeff’s career came at the 2009 XII ISF Men’s World Championship when the *Aussie Steelers* were crowned World Champions.



## The art of Indigenous Softball

Softball Australia is pleased to acknowledge the young Aboriginal artists who created a unique Indigenous inspired Softball bat and ball to represent the special spirit and bond between Indigenous communities and the game of Softball.

The bat was designed and hand painted by Angelina Doolan (aged 18) to depict the theme of wildflowers in the wet season.

Kira Briscoe (aged 14) hand painted the ball using the elemental colours to represent air, water, fire and earth.

Angelina and Kira are students at the Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville, Victoria.

Worawa Aboriginal College have a strong partnership with Softball Victoria through the development of the Worawa Aboriginal College Softball team who participate in the Knox Softball Association Women's Competition.



Thank  
you

*A special thanks to everyone*

Thank you for taking the time and interest to read what a difference Softball is making to the lives of those Indigenous Australians who contribute to, and participate in our sport.

Softball resonates with Indigenous communities, especially the women and girls in those communities. To keep the benefits flowing, we need to keep the game growing. Your support is most appreciated.

For more information visit [www.softball.org.au](http://www.softball.org.au)  
or contact us on 03 9417 0022



## Indigenous Softball Program Strategy (ISP)

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### Introduction

Softball Australia and our Member States have a long and proud history of delivering programs to Indigenous communities. We are committed to expanding these programs in targeted urban, rural and remote areas throughout Australia. The ISP will increase opportunities for participation by Indigenous people of all ages, gender and ability in all facets and levels of Softball, including playing, coaching, officiating, volunteering, administration and governance.

### Purpose

The purpose of Softball Australia's ISP is to:

- Increase participation of Indigenous Australian's from targeted urban, rural, and remote areas in all facets and levels of Softball through a National strategy that;
  - embeds softball as the sport of choice for Indigenous women
  - positions softball as an attractive option for Indigenous men
  - supports government health and wider policy objectives

### Values

- collaborative & cooperative
- supportive & responsive
- inclusive & equitable
- open & transparent
- innovative & creative
- flexible & dynamic
- proactive & enthusiastic
- professional & respectful
- accountable & ethical
- competitive & tenacious

### Strategic Themes

The purpose and vision of the ISP will be achieved by focusing on the following strategic themes that will underpin all our objectives and initiatives. We will:

- build a vibrant, diverse, satisfied and growing Indigenous membership
- adopt an innovative and integrated "borderless" approach to our ISP
- provide well qualified culturally sensitive people (staff, volunteers, players, coaches, officials) marketing and communication excellence, equipment, and other non-financial resources
- develop and implement inclusive, integrated, culturally sensitive and sustainable softball programs
- identify, support and develop indigenous softball talent
- establish a robust and sustainable financial base that enables us to invest in the future of the ISP

## Strategic Objectives

<sup>1</sup> By June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, the strategic objectives and initiatives described will be achieved.

### Market Objectives

- **ISPM1 Understand Indigenous Communities:** Achieve a clear understanding of what Indigenous communities want in the ISP.
- **ISPM2 Membership Growth:** Develop a membership model that incorporates Indigenous Communities that participate in Softball and contribute in achieving over 60,000 members by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 (linked to M1 SAL Strategic Plan)
- **ISPM3 Indigenous Community Awareness and Satisfaction:** Indigenous communities have a high level of awareness, engagement and satisfaction with the ISP and with their *Softball experience*. (linked to M2 SAL Strategic Plan)
- **ISPM4 Participation in ISP:** Growth in ISP participation (linked to M3 SAL Strategic Plan):
  - In activities delivered by SAL and its ISP partners. Activities may include carnivals, competitions, role model visits, and accreditation training for coaches and officials.
  - Volunteers in various capacities, including coaches, players, officials, and administrators
- **ISPM5 Partner Engagement:** a high level of positive awareness, recognition, understanding, support and engagement with potential ISP partners, including funding-bodies, government at all levels, the media, general public, sponsors, commercial partners and other sporting bodies (linked to M4 SAL Strategic Plan)
- **ISPM6 Pathway to Mainstream:** the ISP will provide a pathway to mainstream Softball in both recreational and high performance capacities

### Organizational Capacity Objectives

- **ISPOC1 Our People:** our people (staff and volunteers) will be highly engaged, motivated, skilled, respected, service focused and culturally sensitive (linked to OC1 SAL Strategic Plan)
- **ISPOC2 Facilities:** we will have a network of national & community facilities in place to enable us to deliver a great competition & social/recreational experiences at all levels in all States & Territories. (linked to OC2 SAL Strategic Plan)
- **ISPOC3 Programs, Products and Services:** we will have programs, products and services to meet the needs of Indigenous communities, urban, rural and remote. (linked to OC3 SAL Strategic Plan)

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<sup>1</sup> The strategic objectives are in a sequence and description that links directly with the Softball Australia Strategic Plan FY2010-14 using the balanced scorecard model.

## Internal Business Process Objectives

- **ISPIBP1 Plans, and Processes:** we will have implemented plans, policies and processes that:
  - support *best practice* ISP management
  - facilitate collaboration and cooperation across the Indigenous communities and with ISP partners
  - provide a great experience and environment for everyone involved with the ISP
- **ISPIBP2 Marketing and Business Development:** we will have implemented *best practice* culturally sensitive marketing and business development practices to support the promotion, development and delivery of softball across Australia. An emphasis will be placed on marketing and communications tasks to aid program development, demonstrate value, support good internal communications, inform and persuade potential partners, cut through the “noise”, and manage the brand

## Finance Objectives

- **ISPF1 Financial Management:** To ensure secure, stable, viable and sustainable financial footing to support the continued growth and development of Softball in Indigenous communities
  - Grants, sponsorship, fees and charges

## Key Initiatives

Following are the key strategic initiatives that will be developed and delivered by Softball Australia over the next 2 years in order to achieve our purpose, vision, strategic themes and objectives for the ISP.

## Market Initiatives

### Membership Management Program

- Market Research
  - Identify priority locations, market segments and communities to target.
  - Explore and identify the various market segments that form the ISP and understand the barriers and drivers to increase Softball participation in each of these market segments.
  - Conduct an audit of existing Indigenous Sports Programs from other sports covering a range of urban, rural and remote communities. The audit will determine the strengths and weaknesses of each program and provide learning's for Softball moving forward.
  - Understand the barriers and motivations of key urban, rural and remote indigenous communities to develop appropriate drivers to engage and increase participation of Indigenous people from these communities in all facets and levels of the sport.
  - Explore and identify the opportunities for the adaptation of existing SAL Programs such as 'Softball Batter Up', the community coaching program as well as new product development that suit the needs of Indigenous communities.
  - Understand the support or otherwise of talented players and how they may best transition into mainstream high performance programs
  - Assist with understanding the Indigenous landscape so that “borderless approach” is meaningful and successful for all Indigenous Softball products and services
- ISP contribution to review of SAL Membership Model



## Submission 012 - Attachment A

- Market research will inform the membership review of current barriers to SAL membership for Indigenous Australians
- Ensure Indigenous communities are catered for in development of a Community Group membership category
- Effectively capture Indigenous individuals and community groups in the National membership (CRM) database
- ISP Member acquisition and retention activities
- Development of an ISP communication program
- Ensure barriers to SAL membership for Indigenous are considered in the review of membership fees and categories

### Partnership Building

- Identifying, understanding and building stronger relationships with key current/potential system partners including the ASC, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Member States, Red Dust, NASCA, SANFL, Wiltja Indigenous Academy, AFL, DSR, Garnduwa (WA), State Sport & Recreation Departments, Blacktown City Council, Blacktown International Sports Park, Newcrest Mining, Rio Tinto, Heart Foundation, Red Cross, Diamond Sports Academy, schools and sponsors.
- Identify and develop relationships with key individuals from targeted Indigenous Communities who can play important roles in the development and ongoing delivery of the ISP. These individuals may become Indigenous Softball Ambassadors
- Involvement in initiatives which improve the health aspects, school attendances and education of Indigenous youth and children.
  - Partnering with organisations such as Red Dust and NASCA which aim to use sport and high profile athletes as Role Models to encourage Indigenous children in Indigenous Communities to stay in school, lead healthy lifestyles and make positive choices in life.
  - Partnering with organisations such as Red Dust and NASCA to identify and develop more role models in Indigenous Communities to build and sustain the work started by the Red Dust and ARM Tours which should have a positive link to an increase of Softball participation amongst other sports in Indigenous Communities.

### Organisational Capacity Initiatives

The ISP will be developed and managed by the SAL Social Inclusion Coordinator and overseen by the Membership & Business Development Manager and Chief Executive Officer. The Social Inclusion Coordinator will also be supported by other relevant SAL staff. Through ongoing two way communication and consultation the Social Inclusion Coordinator will be an effective resource for Member States providing input and assistance to each State's annual ISP activities.

- People:
  - Chief Executive Officer
    - Regularly updates the SAL board on the progress of the program.
  - Membership & Business Development Manager
    - Management support of the Indigenous Softball Program.
  - Social Inclusion Coordinator

## Submission 012 - Attachment A

- The development, implementation and coordination of the Indigenous Softball Program throughout Australia through effective management, leadership, organisation, collaboration and communication
- Build and develop SAL's relationship with key stakeholders
- Actively contribute to the development and delivery of new and existing products and programs for identified Indigenous communities
- Provide verbal and written reports as required by SAL, the ASC, Prime Minister and Cabinet and other stakeholders
- Provide timely, relevant ISP input to the SAL Participation, High Performance and Technical strategies, and actively support the delivery of those strategies
- Establish and lead a broadly represented ISP Advisory Committee (sub-committee of SAL Participation Committee) to guide the development and delivery of the ISP strategy.
- Actively contribute to the work of the ISP Advisory Committee, SAL Participation Committee and other relevant Committees and Working Groups
- Act as an advocate for SAL and Member States providing best practice advice on all Social Inclusion related matters.
- Member States
  - Consult and liaise with Softball Australia, key partners and key community contacts to plan and deliver the activities, provide equipment and resources needed, evaluate outcomes, track progress and identify any future needs and requirements. Member States are also required to report to Softball Australia on a quarterly basis on project outcomes aligned to program objectives.
- Advisory Committee
  - Establishing a broadly represented Advisory Committee (sub-committee of SAL Participation Committee) to guide the development and delivery of the ISP
- Community Coaching Program Staff
  - Building a critical mass of volunteer community coaches (the Softball coaching workforce) with the appropriate coaching skills and training to be used for the delivery of the ISP as well as other National and State programs.
  - In consultation with the Social Inclusion Coordinator develop suitable and appropriate community coaching courses to increase the number of Indigenous Coaches and introduce them to the Coach Accreditation pathway.
  - In consultation with the Social Inclusion Coordinator, develop suitable inclusive coaching and awareness training as part of the Community Coaching Program.
- School and Club Development Coordinator
  - Working closely with the Social Inclusion Coordinator in adapting and repackaging programs such as Softball Batter Up to be used as a program delivery option for the ISP that leverages/links with Softball Batter Up for clubs and schools.
- Manager High Performance Pathways
  - In consultation with the Social Inclusion Coordinator develop an accessible pathway for Indigenous players in accordance with the principles of Long Term Athlete Development and the High Performance Pathway with the aim of increasing the number of Indigenous players in elite Softball.

## Submission 012 - Attachment A

- General Manager Operations and Technical
  - Work closely with the Social Inclusion Coordinator to provide increased opportunities for Indigenous people to become umpires and scorers at all levels.
  - Train and recruit a critical mass of volunteers through the Community Officials Program to assist with the delivery of the ISP throughout Australia.
- Marketing and Business Development Coordinator
  - Raise awareness of the ISP
  - Promote ISP activities in conjunction with key stakeholders
  - Identify and attract sponsorship and other commercial opportunities Social Inclusion training for SAL and key ISP staff members
- Program and Service Development
  - Develop ISP products and services that meet the needs of Indigenous communities, urban, rural and remote, driven by market research. Culturally appropriate products and services may include:
    - Re-packaging Softball Batter Up to be used as a program delivery option for the ISP that leverages/links with Softball Batter Up for clubs, schools, and AASC. This may include extra visual resources and the inclusion of Traditional Indigenous Games in lesson plans where appropriate.
    - Additional ISP resources will be developed following the completion of market research to ensure resources are appropriate for, and meet the needs/wants of Indigenous Communities.
    - Progression from Softball Batter Up to a social competition.
    - Accessible coaching and officiating courses for community members, indigenous organisations and volunteers (linked to CCP)
- High Performance Pathway
  - Development of a clear pathway from ISP to mainstream high performance program for elite and sub-elite Indigenous female and male athletes, officials and coaches
  - Ensure that relevant Indigenous Softball Program Initiatives and Objectives are included in the National Elite Development Review (NEDP)
- Training and Development
  - Cultural Awareness Training
    - SAL, States, Clubs and Associations working with Indigenous Communities, to be involved in Cross Cultural Competence Training to provide a foundation of knowledge about the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, their cultures, and the effects of colonisation and government policies and practices which can then serve as the basis for the development of skills to enable effective and appropriate communication and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the nation with the assistance of further training activities

### Internal Business Process Initiatives

- Governance and Policies: ensure that all SAL Policies take into account opportunities for Indigenous Communities.
- Adopting a borderless and integrated National approach to ISP;

## Submission 012 - Attachment A

- SAL and Member States collaborating and working together in a coordinated approach to service targeted Indigenous Communities.
- Partnership Agreements
  - SAL will work with each Member State to develop an annual participation work plan which incorporates ISP. Each work plan will reflect the needs and priorities of each state, capacity to deliver, and resources required. These plans will not be a one size fits all model, some initiatives might work in some States but not in another, some initiatives might work in some communities but not in others and some States may have ISP as a higher priority than others.
  - Partnership agreements will be based on areas such as program development and delivery, training and education (including cultural awareness training), coaching, officiating, scoring, player development, equipment and resources, capacity building and partnership development (including building relationships with key individuals within Indigenous communities) .
  - Once the partnership agreements are finalised, SAL can allocate support (resources such as Softball Batter Up equipment packs and support staff such as CCP Coordinators) to deliver on these outcomes.
- Reporting process
  - SAL will develop a low time intensive reporting process. This could include the submission of progress reports by Member States to SAL to track progress towards the planned goals and objectives (linked to partnership agreements). Detail of reports may include total number of participants involved, a break-down of gender, number of participants converted to a club program or competition, number of coaches/officials accredited, and number of volunteers.
  - Benefits of improved reporting will include: Capturing the success of the program with the ability to report on the success to funding bodies, and respective Boards when required as well as providing comprehensive information to plan for next year's program based on the previous year's results.
- Marketing Communications Plan
  - A comprehensive marketing communications (marcomms) plan will be developed by the SAL marketing team, in consultation with Member States and other stakeholders. The purpose of the plan is to:
    - Raise awareness of the ISP and engage with Indigenous Communities
    - Promote ISP activities
    - Development and implementation of a marketing campaign which aims to increase the exposure of Softball Australia as well as the recognition of Softball as the preferred sport for Indigenous women towards various stakeholders including funding bodies, government departments, media etc.

### Finance Initiatives

- Developing sponsorship opportunities and effective relationship management of ISP sponsors (linked to SAL sponsorship plan)
- Effective management of ISP grants and assistance with Member State grant acquisition
  - Assist Member States to secure State specific funding for the ISP (including SDS&R)
  - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
  - Australian Sports Commission
  - Increase promotion of Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program

## Submission 012 - Attachment A

- As part of SAL's Membership review, investigate differentiated costs for Indigenous Communities for SAL products and services, this strategy will attempt to minimise the cost barrier.
- Seek additional revenue streams to support ISP delivery.

DRAFT



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The Voice of Indigenous Australia



## Our newest international

Meet Vanessa Stokes, a 25-year-old pitcher from South Australia, who late last month became Australia's second Indigenous international softball. She took her place in the Aussie Spirit open women's team alongside Stacey Porter. Stokes made her debut in the fifth game of a seven-match series against world number two team Japan at the International Softball Centre in the Canberra suburb of Hawker. She helped Australia to their first win of the series. Japan were too consistent for the Aussies, winning the series 5-2. **Picture: Graham Hunt ● Indigenous Softball Program launched – See pages 94-95**

# Bound for London



Moree's Cameron Hammond in action in February at the Australian titles in Hobart. *Photo: Jillian Mundy*



MOREE'S Cameron Hammond has joined Queenslander Damien Hooper in the Australian boxing team for this year's London Olympic Games.

Welterweight (69kg) Hammond had decisive wins at the Oceania Olympic boxing qualifying tournament in Canberra last month.

The Oceania tournament brought together the best amateur boxers from Australia, Samoa, Tonga and New Zealand.

Light-heavyweight (81kg) Hooper earlier had qualified for the London Olympics by finishing in the top eight at last year's World Championships.

He was the only Australian to gain such an early entry.

Hooper is delighted to have Hammond with him in the Australian team.

The two Indigenous fighters train together at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Hooper was ringside when Hammond took his first step towards the London Olympics. That was in Hobart last February, where Hammond won the

Australian title, and qualified for the next leg – the Oceania tournament.

Now that the Oceania tournament is out of the way, Hooper, Hammond and the other eight Australian London-bound fighters will take part in a six-week tour that takes in China, Thailand, Serbia and Lithuania ahead of the Games, which start in late July.

The Australians pulled off a stunning coup at the Oceania qualifier on 25 March, winning all nine finals to claim nine tickets to the London Games.

It means Australia will field a fighter in all ten men's weight divisions at the Olympics.

Elated assistant coach Mick Daly wasn't sure if it had ever happened before.

"I think it's the first time Australia has been in every weight division – it's a clean knockout," he said.

"It's just a credit to the boys – their attitude, their dedication.

"It's been a really good preparation and they've

● Continued Page 88

● Rising cricket stars in Indian global school – Page 88

# Softball puts focus on

# Participation key to sport's growth

Story and pictures by GRAHAM HUNT



SOFTBALL is the latest sport to seriously engage Indigenous Australians as it seeks to broaden its base. Softball Australia last month launched its Indigenous Softball Program at the International Softball Complex in the Canberra suburb of Hawker.

It was held before the Australian and Japanese women's teams locked horns in the fifth and sixth games of their seven-match series.

Softball Australia said the purpose of the program was to increase participation of Indigenous Australians from targeted urban, rural and remote areas in all facets and levels of softball.

It said it would do this by embedding softball as the sport of choice for Indigenous women; positioning softball as an attractive option for Indigenous men; and supporting government health and wider policy objectives.

## 8000 Indigenous participants

Softball Australia said it would provide more than 100 activities, including softball competitions, coaching and officiating, training sessions, and junior development programs to more than 8000 Indigenous participants.

It said Indigenous softball role models Stacey Porter, Jeff Goolagong and Vanessa Stokes would inspire other Indigenous Australians to aim for the top.

Porter, a member of the Australian open women's team Aussie Spirit, participated in the Athens and Beijing Olympic Games. Goolagong, a member of the Australian open men's team Aussie Steelers, is a world champion.

Stokes, a member of the Australian open

women's squad, is well on her way to becoming a world-class pitcher.

"With the support of our member States, the Australian Government, our principal partner the Australian Sports Commission and other program partners, the Indigenous Softball Program will use softball as a vehicle to close the health and opportunity gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians," Softball Australia said.

## Delivered

It said the program has already been delivered throughout Australia, including the Northern Territory (Alice Springs and surrounding communities, East Arnhem, Daly River, Wadeye, Katherine and Tennant Creek); South Australia (APY Lands in partnership with Softball South Australia and the South Australian National Football League); Western Australia (throughout the Kimberleys, Broome, Port Hedland and the Western District).

Australian Sports Commission deputy director, strategy and relations Phil Borgeaud said: "The Australian Sports Commission is committed to providing increased opportunities for Indigenous Australians to participate in sport, and is particularly proud to partner with Softball Australia in the launch and delivery of the Indigenous Softball Program."

"The program will provide a pathway for Indigenous Australians to participate in elite competition."

Softball Australia director Helen Langenberg welcomed the program and said her organisation was committed to producing positive health and social outcomes by providing female and male Indigenous Australians of all ages and abilities with opportunities to participate in softball – as players, coaches, umpires, administrators and volunteers.



● TOP: Jeff Goolagong explains catching techniques to the girls.

● ABOVE: NSW Indigenous player Jordan Griffen makes contact during the game against local team the ACT WhISPers.



Girls from the WhISPers and NSW teams during a drills session with Australian men's softball representative Jeff Goolagong before their match at the Hawker International Softball Centre, Canberra.



Jeff Goolagong with NSW Indigenous player Natasha Young, 14, from Sydney, during the drills session.

# Indigenous Program

● RIGHT: Two-time World Championships player Jeff Goolagong, from the ACT, was at the launch of the Indigenous Softball Program. The achievements of the nephew of tennis great Evonne Goolagong are many, but the pinnacle came at the 2009 XII International Softball Federation Men's World Championships, where the Aussie Steelers were crowned world champions.



Auntie Agnes Shea, of the Ngunnawal (Canberra) mob, welcomed players, officials and spectators to country.

## Vanessa steps up to the plate

INDIGENOUS pitcher Vanessa Stokes played a big part in her debut softball match for Australia against Japan last month in Canberra.

She was one of two Indigenous players turned out for Australia in the seven-match softball series against Japan at the International Softball Centre in the Canberra suburb of Hawker.

South Australian Stokes looked to have consolidated her position in the national squad with impressive displays on the mound.

Stacey Porter again was one of the batting heroes in a series dominated by world number-two team Japan.

The Japanese won the series 5-2, with Australia winning the fifth and seventh games.

Porter, from Tamworth, and Stokes played big parts in Australia's 5-3 win in the fifth game at Hawker.

Porter, 30, has been a regular fixture in the Australian team and won a silver medal at the 2004

Athens Olympics and a bronze medal in Beijing in 2008.

Her overseas experience includes playing for the University of Hawaii from 2001 to 2003.

She also has played professional softball in Japan.

Softball Australia officials were said to be delighted with Stokes' debut performance for her country.

Stokes plays club softball in South Australia and now has represented Australia at junior and senior levels.

Her aim is to be part of Australia's 2012 International Softball Federation (ISF) XIII Women's World Championship campaign.

She is from Gepps Cross, South Australia, but grew up in Darwin.

She moved to South Australia after her Darwin-based softball coach moved there and encouraged her to move as well.

Wikipedia says her mother also played competitive sport, representing her State in national competitions in softball and soccer.

— GRAHAM HUNT



● LEFT: Monique Clare, of the NSW Indigenous team, in action on the plate during the game against the ACT WhiSPers.

● BELOW LEFT: NSW Indigenous player Natasha Young ready to hit.

● BELOW: ACT WhiSPers pitcher Jacinta Ellemes-Williams.



A proud moment for South Australian Vanessa Stokes (centre) as she lines up with the Australian Spirit women's open softball team during formalities before the start of the fifth game in the seven-game series against world No 2 side Japan. Stokes made her debut in that game and starred on the mound.



The NSW Indigenous team with head coach Craig Ervine, of Wagga Wagga, left rear, and assistant coach Paul Young, of Sydney.



The ACT WhiSPers team after their game against the NSW girls.



Stacey Porter running between second and third bases to score Australia's first run in the fifth match against Japan. Australia won that game 5-3, but Japan won the seven-game series 5-2.



## PROJECT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION REPORT

**Organisation's Name**                      **Softball Australia Limited**  
**Submission/Project Number**            **29673/72460**  
**Purpose of Funding**                        **Softball for all Australians**  
**Period**                                        From: 01/01/2012 to 30/06/2012

Description	Planned	Period	Period	Total
		1	2	
The number of Indigenous people involved with the management of the activity	50	55	99	154
The number of Indigenous people who successfully completed accredited training in coaching/ officiating (e.g. referee certificate)	50	130	30	160
The number of participants in the funded activity	5000	2200	5676	7,876
The number of participants with a disability	30	93	12	105
The number of times the activity was held	30	52	103	155
The percentage of participants in the activity who are Indigenous	95	95	95	95
The percentage of participants who are male	35	35	40	37.5
The percentage of participants who are over 18	20	20	30	25

### Degree to which the funded activity encouraged community ownership and management of sport and physical recreation activities

During the period 1 January 2012 – 30 June 2012, Softball Australia continued to successfully conduct a number of programs and training courses in conjunction with our Member States and Associations, partner organisations including Sport and Recreation NT, WA, SA, SANFL, Western Desert League, Indigenous Sport Development Officer's, Local Government Shires, Sport and Recreation officers, and each targeted community.

The Indigenous Softball Program continues to build the capacity of numerous Indigenous communities throughout Australia to organise and manage the delivery of Softball programs and competitions in the community. Our aim has been to provide ongoing opportunities for Indigenous people of all ages and abilities to become involved in sport and recreation through Softball, increase the social connectedness of each community and allow them to develop the skills required to organise and manage their own sustainable Softball programs.

#### Initiatives;

- Provision of training and education such as coaching, officiating and scoring courses suited to the ability of the participants
- Provision of the Softball Community Coaching program aimed at developing community coaches with the skills to deliver game based programs and activities such as Softball Batter Up.
- Mentoring programs to educate community members on how to coordinate competitions and manage teams.
- Provision of equipment kits for newly developed teams.
- Provision of resources such as Softball Batter Up lesson plans and Rules in Pictures.
- Member States working closely with ISDO's and Sport and Rec Officers to educate them on programs, competitions, training courses and resources available and using their expertise to engage and encourage community ownership and management.

#### Examples

##### NT

Softball NT continued to provide opportunities to Indigenous communities to gain coaching and officiating accreditation with ongoing mentoring at community events. The NT Shire Competition structure provides coaching and officiating training and development to ensure community teams have the skills to manage and deliver their own competitions.

##### Softball Community Coaching Program

Softball Australia's Community Coaching Program was rolled out in Hermannsburg in April with 38 women learning how to manage a group, plan a session and deliver game-based Softball programs and activities.

Softball NT delivered umpiring and officiating training in Ti-Tree in May, up-skilling over 50 participants.

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# Submission 012 - Attachment A

## Softball Batter Up

Softball Batter Up clinics were presented in East Arnhem Shire Communities, with a Gapuwiyak teacher identified and trained as a potential deliverer. In addition, two Sport and Rec Officers were trained to deliver the SBU Program, receiving Lesson Plans and Deliverers Guide.

## Softball Equipment Kits

Softball Equipment kits were provided to eight community shires. This has enabled a community team to be established within each shire, with those teams now competing in the Community Shire Competition.

Ongoing delivery of Rules in Pictures presentations, basic coaching and officials accreditation, practical demonstrations of skills and drills sessions, the introduction of the SBU Program, the Softball Community Caching Program and ongoing mentoring of identified Community members enabled participants to continue programs in their home Communities. Skill Development sessions are delivered at Shire Sport and Rec Forums, Shire Competitions, NT Champs and development visits and events attended by Softball NT personnel. To overcome the high turnover of staff in Communities, Softball NT have endeavoured, wherever possible, to include Indigenous Sport and Rec Officers and/or senior Community softball members to help retain acquired knowledge within the Community. Softball NT Delivered a Rules in Pictures presentation and a practical skills and drills session at the Vic Daly Sport and Rec Forum in Katherine to 23 Shire Sport and Rec Officers, which has enabled them to continue delivering softball in their home Communities.

## SA

In partnership with the SANFL and through an Umpiring Accreditation Program delivered by Softball South Australia in April, a total of 13 female Indigenous participants became Level 1 Accredited Umpires and are now actively umpiring in the Far North West Sports League in the APY Lands.

On a separate visit to the APY Lands in June, Softball South Australia and SANFL launched the new FNWSL Level 1 Coach Accreditation Program. This was delivered to 5 females, with one of the participants successfully completing all components of the course and receiving Level 1 Accreditation.

## WA

Softball WA conducted coaching and umpiring clinics in Nullagine WA to Indigenous communities from Nullagine, Punmu, Warralong, Jigalong and Kiwirrkurra. The clinics (not certified courses) aimed at mentoring and educating participants on best practice umpiring and coaching methods. One method employed was 'umpire shadowing' in games where participants could learn from asking questions, rather than face embarrassment by making mistakes. Participants learnt how to position players, how to line up the batting team and which hitters to bring in depending on the situation. This training has encouraged coaches and umpires from these communities to put in practise what they have learnt in their community competitions.

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## Submission 012 - Attachment A

### ACT

The Whispers Softball Club, an Indigenous managed club in the ACT, were provided with 4 equipment bags and helmets for the use of their junior and senior teams.

### QLD

With funding provided by the Queensland Government through the “Closing the Gap” Action Plan and support from the Kahwun-Wooga Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Development Corporation, the SISTAS In Sport (S.I.S) Project in Maryborough was developed.

A team of 7 indigenous women participated in the Maryborough Softball Association (MSA) 2011/12 summer season.

A newly established club, Black Beautiez, was formed under the Kahwun-Wooga banner – an aboriginal phrase meaning *caring and giving*.

MSA provided coaching support, conducted training sessions to assist the women with skill development and administrative support to assist establishing Black Beautiez.

A local Softball member organised team uniforms. This, together with the equipment kit provided by SAL, helped build the women’s self-esteem and confidence as they were able to establish their own identity and be self-sufficient.

MSA is committed to supporting the ongoing viability and growth of the Kahwun-Wooga Black Beautiez Club. They are looking forward to next season where positive outcomes for the Black Beautiez Club will be realised and form the foundations for a healthy and active lifestyle.

### Extent of community involvement in the funded activity

Each community is heavily involved in all activities delivered as part of the Indigenous Softball Program. In most cases, a community has requested a particular activity to be developed and delivered. Each Member State liaises with respective communities to organise preferred dates to visit, activities to be provided to support the needs and wants of the community, and resources as required.

In addition to planning, community members are also involved in the implementation, delivery and evaluation of all activities in their community. As mentioned previously, the training and education provided has enabled community members to not only manage, coach, umpire, score, organise equipment and participate in working groups, but also play Softball.

### NT Shire Competitions

- Within the NT Shire competitions, it is a requirement that teams supply scorers, coaches, and umpires to enable community teams to be successful and self-reliant.
- 30 new community members have taken on management roles.
- 80 community members participated in coaching, umpiring, scoring and mentoring training.

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## Tiwi Shire Competition

- Completely self-sufficient, the community is involved from management through to participation.

## East Arnhem Shire Development Tour

- Each community was consulted by Softball NT and involved in the planning, delivery and implementation of each visit, which included requesting the type of activities that were to be delivered, the need for the delivery of these activities, preferred dates for Softball NT and SAL to visit and participation in programs, clinics and courses delivered. Softball NT liaised with the East Arnhem Sport and Rec Coordinator who communicated directly with the communities for feedback and input.

## East Arnhem Shire Competition

- The inaugural East Arnhem Shire Softball Competition was introduced by East Arnhem Shire in June. The Competition has regenerated interest in softball within the Shire, with a number of communities expressing an interest in taking part next year. Support from community Sport and Rec Officers has assisted communities to establish their own teams, which include coaches, umpires and scorers.

## Central Desert Shire

- The Central Desert Shire continues to embrace the Shire Softball Competition, running its third Annual Shire Competition. This Competition is almost self-sufficient, being managed and delivered by the participating communities.

## Gunamu Cup

- Softball NT provided mentoring and support to the local Sport and Recreation Officer in the development and delivery of the Gunamu Cup, an annual community carnival. The 4 community teams involved each have their own managers, coaches, umpires and scorers.

## Far North West Sports League

- The FNWSL Softball Competition in the APY Lands is close to becoming self-sufficient. The community handles the day-to-day running of the Competition, which is significantly in advance of the football program in terms of viability.

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## Western Desert League

- A Sports Council of 14 Indigenous community members, of which six member are women, currently manage the Softball competition in the League.

## ISP Launch Canberra ACT 23 March

- The Director of the Whispers Softball Club, Joanne Lesiputty, assisted Softball Australia with the planning and coordination of the Indigenous Softball Program Strategy launch in Canberra in February. Joanne organised a team of U16 girls from the Whispers Softball Club to participate in an Exhibition match against a team of Indigenous girls from NSW.
- The launch also included a Softball clinic delivered by Raelene Jeffrey, Softball Australia National Community Coach, Vicki Bingley, Softball ACT Development Officer, and Jeff Goolagong, Open Men's *Aussie Steeler* and Indigenous Softball role model. The WhiSPers team was coached by Joanne and her daughter Katina, both former Indigenous Aussie Spirit players as well as Jacinta Williams U19 Aussie Pride Squad member. The NSW team were also coached and managed by Indigenous coaches.
- Ngunnawal Indigenous elder Agnes Shea delivered a lovely welcome to country speech and acknowledged the players who participated in the Exhibition match as well as Indigenous role models Stacey Porter, Vanessa Stokes and Jeff Goolagong.

## Active participation, retention and new participants

### Softball NT

**Active After School Care** - SBU clinics were delivered as part of the AASC program. A total of 19 Indigenous students participated.

**Alawa Primary School**- SBU clinics were delivered at Alawa Primary School. A total of 195 Indigenous students participated.

**Wulagi Primary School**- SBU clinics were delivered at the Wulagi Primary School. A total of 23 participants were involved, of which 50% were Indigenous.

**Softball Batter Up launch**- The Softball Batter Up program was officially launched in Darwin. The Program was delivered by at the Tracy Village Complex by Softball NT over a 6 week period, attracting 123 new Softball participants.

**Merrepen Festival**- Softball NT was once again involved in the Merrepen Festival in Daly River in June, providing assistance at the Festival involving 504 Indigenous participants.

**Barunga Festival**- Softball NT participated in the Barunga Festival in June providing assistance at the Festival sporting carnival, with more than 265 Indigenous participants.

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## Submission 012 - Attachment A

**Softball Community Coach Program-** Softball Australia's new Softball Community Coaching Course was delivered to 38 women in Hermannsburg NT in April, providing them with the skills to deliver Game Sense Programs such as SBU within the community. A number of coaching clinics were also delivered to 300 children from the community.

**Outback Spirit Foundation-** This is a joint initiative between NT Education Department, Outback Spirit Foundation and selected schools in Tennant Creek, Ali Curung and Alice Springs which encourages school attendance/reward for attendance. A total of 223 participants were involved, with 183 Indigenous participants.

**East Arnhem Shire Development Tour-** Softball NT and Softball Australia staff spent more than a week in the Shire, visiting several Indigenous communities including Yirrkala, Gapuwiyak, Umbakumba, Ramingining and Galiwinku. The tour included the delivery of SBU clinics, modified Softball clinics/games, networking and building sustainable relationships with community members, Shire staff, schools, stakeholders and potential partners. A total of 745 Indigenous participants were involved.

Sport and Rec Officers and teachers were trained to deliver a SBU program, which the teachers and Sport and Rec Officers are planning to deliver after school on a regular basis.

Softball NT and Softball Australia will continue to communicate with each community through the relationships developed and track the progress of Softball competitions and programs being run in the respective communities. The tour inspired the women of Galiwinku to re-establish their team and compete in the East Arnhem Shire Competition.

**East Arnhem Shire Competition-** The inaugural East Arnhem Shire Softball Competition was introduced by East Arnhem Shire in June. The Competition has regenerated interest within the Shire, with a number of communities expressing an interest in taking part next year. More than 200 participants from community teams were involved and the winning Shire team was invited to participate in the NT Championships in Darwin.

**Red Dust-** Red Dust Role Models toured Kintore NT in May. The purpose of the Red Dust tour to Kintore was for role models to deliver health messages, inspire healthy lifestyle decisions, promote education as a path to personal development, employment and inspire leadership within the community.

Softball role model, Michael Kerr (NSW), representing Softball on the tour, delivering two Softball clinics to boys and girls. More than 60 Indigenous participants were involved.

**Social Competition-** An eight week mixed social Softball competition designed to encourage new players to Softball in a safe, non-competitive environment was implemented in Darwin by Softball NT, attracting 63 new participants.

**Joint T-Ball Primary School Cluster Day-** A joint initiative between Softball NT and Baseball NT based on the principles of Softball Australia's National Junior participation program Softball Batter Up and Baseball Australia's National Junior participation program Aussie T-Ball, was delivered to over 120 participants.

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## Submission 012 - Attachment A

**Tiwi Shire Competition-** The Competition involved community teams from Milikapiti, Nguiu and Pirlangimpi, with more than 80 Indigenous participants.

**Central Desert Shire Competition-** The Central Desert Shire continues to embrace the Shire Softball Competition, running its third Annual Shire Competition which saw more than 230 Indigenous participants. Community teams from Engwala, Atitjere, Lajamanu, Laramba, Nyirripi, Ti Tree, Willowra, and Yuelamu competed in the Competition, with the Grand Final taking place on 30 June.

**Gunamu Cup-** Held in Timber Creek, the Annual Community Carnival involved four participating teams from surrounding communities, with more than 65 participants involved. The winning team was invited to attend the NT Championships.

**Australia Day Carnival-** An U19 Women's Development Team competed in an Australia Day Carnival in Canberra. The team included eight remote Indigenous players, one Metro player, an Indigenous Coach, Assistant Coach and Manageress.

**U19 Women's Australian Fastpitch Championships-** An U19 Women's team attended the U19 Women's Australian Fastpitch Championships in Perth in January. The team included three Indigenous regional/metro players and an Indigenous Assistant Coach and Manager.

**South East Asia Women's Invitational Challenge, Singapore-** Softball NT sent an Open Women's team to compete at the Inaugural Asia Pacific Women's Invitational Challenge in Singapore in June. A total of six Indigenous regional/metro players were part of that team.

### Softball SA

**Far North West Sports League-** The football and Softball teams within the League have grown from eight to nine in the 2012 Premiership season. Tjurma, made up of the homelands surrounding Amata, entered the competition as the first additional team since the commencement of the FNWSL in 2007. The season commenced in April and has seen more than 100 women participating in the Softball competition. With 12 rounds completed, the women are looking forward to the Grand Final, which will be held in October.

**SAPSASA Softball Tournament-** In March, a team from the APY Lands, which included 12 children aged 10-12 years, participated in the South Australian Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA) Softball Tournament. The opportunity provided a fantastic learning experience, not least of all leaving their home communities at such a young age. During the Tournament, Annali Dolman, Softball NT Development Officer, conducted a coaching clinic

**Remote Community and School Programs-** Softball SA delivered programs to five remote schools with more than 120 participants. Softball SA also delivered six community clinics in the Eastern and Western end of the APY Lands.

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# Submission 012 - Attachment A

## Softball WA

**Western Desert Carnival-** The Western Desert carnival attracted teams from the Parnngurr, Warralong, Jigalong, Kiwirrkurra, Nullagine and Punmu communities, with more than 70 participants participating.

**Skill Development Sessions-** Softball WA delivered a number of skill development sessions to more than 370 junior and senior participants aimed at improving the skills of participants involved in addition to the coaching and umpiring workshops conducted in the communities. The majority of the skills covered consisted of batting, pitching, hitting, catching, fielding, base running and sliding. After each session a game was played that enabled participants to put in practise the new skills learnt. The sessions also aimed at encouraging the continued participation of current softball participants as well as developing the interest and skills of non-softball participants to participate in community run competitions.

Sessions were delivered in Nullagine, Punmu, Warralong, Jigalong, Kiwirrkura, Port Hedland, Marble Bar, Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton, Menzies, Mt. Margaret and Coolgardie.

## Softball Qld

**SISTAS IN SPORT Project-** The new Black Beautiez Softball Club was formed and participated in the Maryborough Softball Association 2011/2012 summer season.

## Softball Vic

**Worawa Aboriginal College team-** The Worawa Aboriginal College team continued their participation in the Knox Softball Association C Grade summer competition, with over 30 players involved in the 18 round competition which concluded in March.

## Softball ACT

**ISP Launch Exhibition clinic and match-** To prepare the 24 players for their match, a clinic was organised with Jeff Goolagong, World Champion Australian Open Men's (*Aussie Steelers*), player Raelene Jeffrey, Softball Australia's National Community Coach and Vicki Bingley, Softball ACT Development Officer. Former Australian Open Women players, Joanne Lesiputty and Katina Robson, who are associated with the WhISPers Softball Club, and coaches from NSW, were also on hand to assist.

The players were put through their paces and received some key advice on positioning, throwing, catching and fielding. The girls put their skills and talent on show in a fantastic exhibition match with the NSW players prevailing 7 runs to 5 in a close encounter. At the end of the match, Jeff Goolagong presented each girl with a ball signed by each Aussie Spirit player. A Kids Zone was also conducted, with over 50 students from local schools involved through the AASC program.

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## Submission 012 - Attachment A

### How long the activity went for (in hours and days)

Activities ranged from intensive community programs conducted over a day with a minimum of 1 hour of Softball activities, to weekly skill sessions and Community Shire Competitions and school programs lasting up to 18 weeks.

Below is a summary of programs.

Program	Number of times the activity was held	Duration of each activity
Softball NT	1 State Championships	3 days
	8 School Programs	1-4 day's per school conducted over 1-4 weeks.
	7 Carnival/Shire Competition	4 carnivals were conducted over a weekend and 3 Shire Competitions were conducted over 10 - 15 weeks.
	10 Community Programs	Between 2 and 10 days.
	5 Umpiring Courses delivered	2 hours per course
	4 Coaching Courses delivered	2 hours per course
	4 Scoring training sessions delivered	2 hours per session
	1 Community Coaching Course	5 days
	10 Softball Batter Up Program/clinics	1 program delivered over 8 weeks and 9 SBU clinics delivered in 30-60 minute sessions.
Softball WA	2 Softball Carnivals	10 days in total
	8 Skill Development Sessions	1-2 hours per session
	7 School Programs	1 hour per session
	6 Coaching Courses delivered	2 hours per course
	6 Umpiring Courses delivered	2 hours per course
Softball SA	1 Competition	6 month competition
	1 Umpiring Accreditation Course delivered	2 hours each
	1 Coaching Accreditation Course delivered	2 hours each
	5 Skill Development clinics	3 days
	6 School development clinic	1 hour per session
Softball VIC	1 Competition	9 weeks
	2 Cultural Awareness sessions	4 hours per session
Softball QLD	1 Competition	5 day
	1 Coaching Accreditation course	2 hours per course
	1 Umpiring Accreditation course	2 hour duration
Softball ACT	1 Exhibition match	1 hour
	1 Leadership presentation	1 hour
	1 Skill development clinic	1 hour
	1 Kids Zone	1 hour

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## Level of satisfaction expressed by the community with the funded activity

Feedback received from the community during the second half of the year continues to indicate high levels of community satisfaction. Communities have expressed satisfaction with opportunities and services provided to increase Softball participation in the community, as well as train and educate community member to self-manage and deliver their own programs and competitions. Each State has indicated that interest in Softball within Indigenous Communities, particularly with the women, remains high, with an increase in popularity amongst men also. The number of male participants captured also supports this claim. In particular, Softball NT, Softball WA, Softball SA and Softball Qld, are receiving regular requests from communities interested in developing Softball in their community.

## The range of age groups and ability levels catered for

All activities conducted catered for all ability levels. Each coaching and officiating course was modified to suit the ability levels of participants. All competitions, programs and clinics delivered also catered for a wide range of ability levels. Activities conducted also catered for a wide range of ages from 5 years of age - Seniors considering activities included, school programs, skill development clinics, community programs, competition/carnivals, coaching courses, umpiring courses and scoring training.

## Comment on any indicator where planned outputs were not achieved?

All outputs were successfully achieved well above what was initially planned. This was due to thoroughly planned programs with each participating Member State, effective partnerships, collaboration with targeted communities, high level of community interest in the sport, and delivery of high quality programs and services tailored to participant audiences. In addition, effective reporting processes have been established with each Member State to monitor progress throughout the year, and identify areas where extra support was required to achieve planned outcomes.

Return Address for Reports

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Photos



I certify the above performance information is correct.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Acting Executive) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_10 / \_\_\_8 / \_\_\_2012\_\_\_

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