

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
Contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring
WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2012**

Question on Notice

Mr HUSIC: With the All Stars game, I see from the submission that helped create about \$1.5 million. You say in the submission it is reinvested in the community program. I get a sense of some of the stuff that was mentioned earlier where you can show where the ARL is directly of its own accord forming relationships with local providers and getting programs done. But are there any other examples of community programs that you have invested in particularly through the money you have been able to generate through initiatives such as the All Stars game? You could take that on notice.

National Rugby League response to question taken on notice:

The National Rugby League (NRL) funds a number of community programs that target disadvantage by improving social outcomes. These include:

- Rugby League Reads
- Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well
- Dream Believe Achieve
- NRL Ambassador Program

These initiatives are funded by the NRL as part of our 'One-Community' agenda which is dedicated to supporting and growing inclusive participation and development opportunities through the delivery of targeted programs.

Further, over the last three years, the Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars game has raised just over \$4.5 million for community programs currently being delivered by NRL Clubs with the support of Rugby League's One Community. Programs from the 2011 [latest available statistics] match include:

Brisbane Broncos

Over 1000 students accessed quality, educational programs and initiatives facilitated by the Broncos with more than 96,000 literacy and numeracy questions answered. Six schools within the Brisbane region participated in programs and initiatives, 100 'read along' DVD resources were produced to distribute to rural communities, login cards, book bags and certificates were also produced to assist with improved learning of students. Partnering with Tutoring Australasia, the Broncos developed an online tutoring and educational resource for students within Queensland that will assist with improving educational learning and outcomes.

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

169 Indigenous children attended 'Rainbow Serpent Tours' that involved reaching out to underprivileged members of the community to attend the Children's Hospital at Westmead. Activities included dental, x-ray, ear nose throat and outpatient clinics and check-ups. Two tours were conducted in 2011 in the Western-Sydney catchment area. Approximately 100 children were deemed as requiring immediate medical treatment and were able to receive the necessary treatment through the program.

North Queensland Cowboys

180 students, 120 parents, 11 schools and two communities participated in the program with more than 20 hours invested by Cowboys' players. Community needs such as strengthening

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relationships, cultural awareness, training and support, development, mentoring, education, health and welfare, were identified and addressed throughout the program. Links to improved learning and education have been attributed to student participation along with positive community cohesion and the broadening of interrelation activities.

St George Illawarra Dragons

Dragons' student internship programs were able to report 100% attendance across 2011. In addition to this, 200 Indigenous students participated in the University of Wollongong Indigenous Kids Fun Days along with 141 families accessing game-day promotions and activities.

Parramatta Eels

Fourteen schools went through the Eels 'Learning Centre' with more than 500 students participating in educational and developmental programs and initiatives. As a result of the 'Deadly Heart' program the Eels visited Armidale in NSW and nine high schools and 15 primary schools in the New England region, where more than 2700 students and 3500 community members participated in the three-day Eels road show.

Newcastle Knights

Knights' programs have seen 33 Indigenous students across seven schools successfully transition from school into work or further educational pathways; 18 students have chosen meaningful employment and 13 have sought further education, with a 94% success rate in transitioning these students post-school. At present the Newcastle Knights have 57 students who are currently in school and are expected to transition either at the end of 2012 or 2013.

Penrith Panthers

'Panthers on the Prowl' Community development was developed in 2002. More than 25,000 children have taken part in the program since its inception and staff, current players and ambassadors have made a real difference to the wellbeing of young people in the local community.

South Sydney Rabbitohs

In 2011, over 1200 year 5 and 6 students attended the 'Healthy and Active Lifestyle' Program; 400 students accessing programs and initiatives delivered by Souths were of Indigenous heritage; 30 primary schools participated in the program and an additional 15 high schools will join in 2012.

Canberra Raiders

The Raiders 'Tackling Indigenous Health Day' was attended by 73 Indigenous children who sampled a healthy breakfast and learned the importance of physical activity and healthy eating. Across 2011 the club also visited schools across Canberra and the surrounding region to deliver key Indigenous health messages to high school students. In 2011 the Raiders were sponsors of the Harold Crow Williams Memorial Indigenous Rugby League Knockout which promotes community cohesion and reconciliation.

Sydney Roosters

Three eastern Sydney suburbs as well as Dubbo in regional NSW and Katherine in the Northern Territory were involved in the program which included more than 1500 students. The importance of education, health and active lifestyles were key messages of a well-received and successful program with many hours attributed by Roosters players and ambassadors.

Manly Sea Eagles

In 2011, the Sea Eagles' 'Ready Steady Grow' program was a huge success with four participating schools completing their first 'harvest' of fresh produce by students. Students

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have accessed quality, healthy lifestyles and nutritional information as well as growing foods of nutritional value to change their understanding of overall nutrition and living healthy.

Cronulla Sharks

Twenty Indigenous students, four schools and a further 35 parents participated in programs delivered in 2011. Successful partnerships have been developed which included the PCYC, Youth Liaison Police Officers, School Liaison Officers, local community members and senior Sharks officials. A Cultural Immersion, Youth Leadership and Mentoring Camp was held in Bindal and Wulgurukaba Country (Townsville) over five days. The camp included mentoring, leadership, culture, traditional food, art, sport and recreational activities with a group of future leaders who have demonstrated these qualities within their respective communities.

Melbourne Storm

Development and launch of a Reconciliation Action Plan – launched on 5 August 2011 during Close the Gap Round – with a committee established to include three current players and community representatives. In 2011 seven players (three of whom are Indigenous) graduated after completing their Certificate 3 or 4, or 'Diploma in Youth Work' which will enable them to pro-actively participate in all community programs and initiatives. Participants involved in the Club's Mentoring program have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on the program.

Wests Tigers

2011 saw the completion of 'The Lair' learning facility in Campbelltown with the Indigenous community of Campbelltown and Macarthur regions accessing the program. To date 30 students from years 9 through to 12 at Airds High School have participated in the program with time management, leadership and study technique delivered in the inaugural program. A 'bricks and mortar' facility was completed and is now fully functional and will see more students and broader community members come through in 2012.

Gold Coast Titans

In 2011, the Titans program expanded to service 264 students from the Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, Toowoomba, Murgon and Kingaroy. The club also introduced the Titans Achievement Program in 2011 as part of the Australian Government's broader commitment to 'Closing the Gap'. This program is spearheaded by Preston Campbell, Dean Widders and Clinton Toopi and operates in the remote communities of Mornington Island, Doomadgee and Cherbourg.

Warriors

The Warriors 'Backyard Legend' and Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well health and nutrition programs have helped more than 1500 children across New Zealand.