

SUBMISSION 20

Submission to the External Territories Committee

To whom it may concern,
I wish to forward a submission to Parliament's External Territories Committee to upgrade sporting facilities on West Island - Cocos Islands. As I have been employed as the District High School's Physical Education Coordinator for the past three years I believe I am in a position to be able to comment on the limited sporting facilities on West Island for community use.

After surveying and liaising with local community members, (including students from the West Island campus) an overwhelming number of people consider a hard court that facilitates games of basketball and netball as being the most significant lacking playing field on the Island.

Both these games enhance and promote physical fitness and positive health practices. They are regarded as 'the hub' of community spirit in most small, remote communities and I believe that all ages and both genders would benefit from the addition of a hard court on West Island.

The cheapest option would be to establish a hard court with both netball and basketball markings with rotational goals, shade sails and lighting. The rectangular dimensions of a court are approx 20m x 30m. It would be practical to position the court/s near the tennis court or golf donga - so that other sporting facilities are close by. However, realistically the needs of the community are far greater than this and I strongly urge the committee to consider erecting a sporting hall. A sports hall could house a sporting arena that would be utilized for gymnastics, aerobics, weights, carnivals, netball, basketball, softcrosse, badminton, handball, soccer, touch rugby, gogo golf, arts and crafts and be an excellent base for all community groups, meetings and wet weather activities. Air conditioning and shower facilities would also greatly benefit the community.

A small, poorly ventilated and poorly equipped gymnasium has been set up and paid for by locals in order to increase physical fitness options and to prevent community boredom. This indicates we have a severe lack of facilities that fosters concepts of a healthy lifestyle, interpersonal skills, skills for physical activity and self-management skills - especially for our youth in the community.

I wish to strongly recommend this submission and would not hesitate to assist with further enquiries.

Yours sincerely,
Tracey Evans

Tracey Evans
Physical Education Coordinator
Cocos Islands District High School

