



Through Softball, we are proud to create opportunities for Indigenous people of all ages

24 October 2012

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Committee Secretary

Softball Australia's submission for the inquiry into the contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring

Softball Australia and our Member States have a long and proud history of delivering programs to Indigenous communities. With the development of a new Indigenous Softball Program (ISP) Strategy, Softball Australia is 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.

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. In 2011/2012, 7,876 Indigenous Australians participated in Softball through the ISP, 160 Indigenous people successfully completed accredited training in coaching or officiating and 154 Indigenous people were responsible for the delivery of Softball in their community.

Over the next 12 months we will provide more than 150 programs, including Softball competitions, coaching and officiating training sessions, and junior development activities to more than 7,000 Indigenous participants. We will also continue to work with Indigenous communities to help them become more self-sufficient, so they can continue to develop and deliver their own softball events and programs.

With the support of our principal partner the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Government, our Member States, program partners and sponsors, the ISP will use Softball as a vehicle to close the health and opportunity gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Also included in the submission is an ISP Book which provides a snapshot of the program throughout Australia, the Softball Australia ISP Strategy, the ISP Project Report for 2011/2012 and an article which featured in the Koori Mail this year.

Yours sincerely

Chet Gray
Acting CEO