



Media Release

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For immediate release

SPORT FOR LIFE

Around 18% of indigenous youth complete year 12 and most do not go on to further education.

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has provided funding to Stride Foundation for a new program that seeks to reconnect and engage young indigenous people with education through school-based sport mentoring.

The Sport for Life project, which will be undertaken in rural, regional and remote regions of South Australia aims to promote healthy youth development by reconnecting young people to education and increasing their involvement with their community, school and peers, through sports and personal development workshops with inspirational mentors.

“Sport for Life not only encourages participants to attend schools and explore further education and employment opportunities, it also builds general competencies including self-esteem, leadership and relationship skills,” says Sally Pannifex, Stride Foundation Inspire Program Coordinator.

South Australian sports role model, Paul Vandenberg, former NBL Basketballer, says the program will enhance opportunities for indigenous youth in the regions.

“These kids love sport and it is a great way to get them involved and thinking about their futures. By using sport as a method of engagement, the mentors are able to build trust and help kids work on long-term goals and make healthy lifestyle choices.”

“Workshops and activities undertaken through the project equip young people with information and advice on health and wellbeing, while empowering them to take responsibility for their future direction”, says Ms Pannifex.

Sport for Life will commence in late 2008 and involve up to 180 young indigenous people aged 10-15 years from South Australian communities including Coober Pedy, Ceduna, Marree and Port Augusta.

This program will provide invaluable support and guidance for young indigenous people both in sport and in their youth development which in turn will have valued future outcomes for themselves and their communities.

ENDS

About Stride Foundation

Stride is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to improving the physical, mental and social wellbeing of young people and their communities. Stride's community-based mentoring programs promote purposeful relationships in which mentors assist at risk young people to develop a positive sense of self and useful connections with their community.

Media contact:

Sonya Tufnell
(03) 9489 1611 or 0423 842 161
stufnell@stride.org.au