



The Role of Sport in Assisting Refugee Settlement

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About the Refugee Council of Australia

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) is a not-for-profit peak organisation which provides information on and advocacy for refugees and humanitarian entrants in Australia (RCOA 2008a, para. 1). It endeavours to “promote the adoption of flexible, humane and constructive policies” towards humanitarian entrants both in Australia and overseas (RCOA 2007, p. 3), with the aim of “improv[ing] settlement outcomes for refugees and their communities,” (RCOA 2008b, p. 1).

RCOA acts on behalf of its 100 organisational members and 200 individual members (RCOA 2008c, para. 1) and is governed by an elected Board. Its core activities include research, policy analysis, advocacy, training and community education. The organisation is funded through membership fees, by trusts and foundations, by undertaking consultancies and through donations (RCOA 2007, p. 3).

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1. Executive Summary

Agencies which support the settlement of refugees have increasingly recognised sport as a useful tool in assisting refugees to settle more effectively. However, there are many barriers which limit refugees' participation in organised sport, and initiatives which attempt to overcome these barriers are too few in number to meet the needs of most refugees in NSW (RCOA 2008b, p. 1).

Additionally, research on the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement has been limited. Previous studies have mainly concentrated on states other than NSW (Olliff 2007; Dykes & Olliff 2007; Keogh 2002; Wilson 1998) or have focused on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in general, rather than refugee communities specifically (Cortis & Muir 2007; Oliver 2007; ABS 2006; Kroluk 2002). Studies have also tended to focus on metropolitan, rather than regional, areas. While this research still has relevance to the refugee community in NSW in that it examines experiences common to many refugees, it does not take NSW's unique local conditions and service availability into account (for example, many refugees in NSW are initially settled in regional areas). The applicability of prior research to NSW is thus limited by these factors, engendering a need for research which examines the specific needs of the NSW refugee community.

In recognition of these deficits, the Refugee Council of Australia received a grant from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to undertake a project exploring the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement, with a specific focus on the NSW context. The objective of the project is to "draw lessons from across Australia on the involvement of refugees in sport and explore how those lessons can be best applied in NSW," (RCOA 2008b). The ultimate aim of the project is to build models of best practice for involving refugees in sport, and develop recommendations for encouraging increased participation by refugees in sport.

This report contributes to the project by:

-  Reviewing previous research on the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement, examining both the benefits of sport to refugees and the possible barriers to participation which refugees may face;
-  Investigating the policy context relating to this issue;
-  Surveying current approaches to involving refugees in sport around Australia at local, state and national levels;
-  Providing recommendations for further consultation with key agencies and service providers.

The purpose of this report is to create a base from which further consultation can be undertaken, in order to achieve the project's overall aim of building models of best practice for involving refugees in sport.

2. Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Refugee

According to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is someone who

“owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his [sic] nationality, and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself [sic] of the protection of that country,” (UNHCR 2007, p. 4).

This definition is used by the Australian government to determine whether Australia has an obligation to grant protection towards an individual.

Asylum Seeker

According to the United Nations, an asylum seeker is “someone who has made a claim that he or she is a refugee, and is waiting for that claim to be accepted or rejected. The term contains no presumption either way – it simply describes the fact that someone has lodged a claim,” (UNHCR 2007, p. 10).

Acronyms

AASI	All Australian Sporting Initiative
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACL	Australian Centre for Languages
AFL	Australian Football League
ALIV	Australian League of Immigration Volunteers

ASC	Australian Sports Commission
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CEH	Centre for Ethnicity and Health
CMY	Centre for Multicultural Youth
CRC	Community Relations Commission
DIAC	Department of Immigration And Citizenship
ECCQ	Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland
ESL	English as a Second Language
FC	Football Club
HARDA	Horn of African Relief and Development Agency
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
IHSS	Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy
MAC	Mobile Activity Centre
MCCSA	Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
MRCSA	Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia
MYAG	Multicultural Youth Action Group
NAP	National Action Plan
NESB	Non-English Speaking Backgrounds
PCAL	Premier's Council for Active Living
PCYC	Police and Community Youth Club
PIEC	Primary Introductory English Centre
QPASTT	Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma
QPS	Queensland Police Service
RCOA	Refugee Council Of Australia
SAIL	Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning
SCAAB	Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau
SEAAC	Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council
SGP	Settlement Grants Program
SLSA	Surf Life Saving Australia
SMRC	Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
STARTTS	Service for the Treatment And Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VMC	Victorian Multicultural Commission

3. Methodology

A range of research methods was utilised in the production of this report. Firstly, a literature review was undertaken to examine the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement, and document the possible barriers refugees may face in participating in organised sport. Key policy documents were also reviewed to determine the nature of policies already in place in relation to sport and refugee settlement, and the funding opportunities in NSW for sport programs which target refugees.

Using the evidence from the literature and policy review, a set of survey questions was developed (see Section 9.1). The questions aimed to elicit key information about approaches to involving refugees in sport across Australia (such as the demographics of the target community) to determine whether these approaches had the potential to serve as models of best practice.

A contact list of government departments, sporting administrators and relevant non-government organisations was then compiled. Each agency was contacted via telephone and/or e-mail to determine whether it oversaw or delivered sport programs targeting refugees and/or the CALD community. Any relevant programs were profiled using the survey questions.

Finally, recommendations for the consultation phase of the project were developed, with the aid of evidence gained from both the literature review and surveys.

4. Background Information

4.1 The Refugee Community in New South Wales

New South Wales is the largest settlement location in Australia, and receives more humanitarian entrants than any other state. In the last five years, over 57 000 humanitarian migrants have settled in Australia, with almost 18 000 (more than 30%) settling in New South Wales (DIAC 2007a, p. 12; 21). While the majority of humanitarian entrants are settled in Sydney (particularly western Sydney), initial settlement also occurs in regional areas such as Coffs Harbour, Goulburn, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong (DIAC 2007a, p. 24). Most humanitarian entrants to New South Wales come from Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan, with smaller numbers from Burma and central and west African nations (DIAC 2007a, p. 22).

4.2 The Benefits of Sport for Refugees

The beneficial impacts of sport have been well documented. Engaging in physical activity such as sport has numerous health benefits, both physical (such as improving fitness and decreasing the risk of chronic diseases) and mental (such as building self-esteem and counteracting stress and depression). Studies also increasingly point to the social benefits of sport, noting that increased participation in sport can assist in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and building social cohesion (see ABS 2001).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also acknowledges “the power and importance of sport,” (UNHCR 2008, para. 4) and notes that sport can play “a particularly important and healing role,” for refugees (UNHCR 2008, para. 1). In Australia, research carried out by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) has comprehensively documented the specific benefits of sport for refugee communities (see Olliff 2007; Dykes & Olliff 2007; Keogh 2002; Wilson 1998). As well as physical health benefits, sport can provide “a sense of purpose and direction for young

people recovering from the traumas of the refugee experience or the impact of racism,” (Dykes & Olliff 2007, p. 1). Sport also offers an opportunity for social interaction, and a forum for non-English speakers to learn and practise English.

Additionally, participation in sport can promote of ethnic and cultural harmony and strengthen communities (see Olliff 2007; Dykes & Olliff 2007). Larkin (2008, p. 12) has noted that “one of the key community benefits perceived for sporting activity is its ability to break down cultural barriers between different ethnic (and sometimes language) groups in the community.” Sport can assist in building links and trust both within refugee communities, and between refugees and the broader community, thereby acting as an entry point for the wider participation of refugees in community life. For this reason, sport can be an excellent avenue through which to combat racism. In the words of McNamara (2001, “Conclusion” section, para. 6):

“To the extent that sport builds social and cultural bridges, and to the extent that it reaches out across the community in both practical and symbolic ways, it is an exemplary site in which to combat racism and racial hatred.”

Furthermore, as Light (2008, p. 1) observes, “there are few countries in the world where sport forms such a pervasive and influential aspect of culture and society as it does in Australia.” Kell (2000, p. 23) has similarly noted that “sport and Australians’ understanding of themselves are intertwined in a complex and enduring way that is absent in other nations.” Given its profound influence on Australia’s culture and national identity, sport in the Australian context “offers opportunities to break down barriers and encourage participation in a way that other areas of society may struggle to match,” (Oliver 2007, p. 10). Involvement in sport can therefore be a particularly effective means of promoting refugees’ participation in Australian society, and introducing refugees to Australian culture.

The benefits of sport have particular relevance for refugee communities. Given that refugees are forced to leave their home countries, often without warning, and due to the fact that refugees have often suffered torture and trauma, the process of settling in a new country can be far more difficult and distressing for refugees compared to other migrants. Initiatives which promote physical and mental wellbeing and positive community integration are particularly important for refugees, therefore sport programs have the potential to be of great benefit to the refugee community.

4.3 Potential Barriers to Participation for Refugees

According to the Australian Sports Commission, 80% of all Australians participate in sport (ASC 2007). However, people from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB) and people belonging to CALD communities – groups which both include refugees – are less likely to participate in sport and physical activity than the general population (Chau 2007, p. 6; ABS 2006, p. 1; Krolik 2002, p. 6). A 2005-6 survey of Australians over 15 years of age found that nearly two-thirds participate in some sort of sport and/or physical recreation (ABS 2007, para. 1). However, people born in non-English speaking countries have a significantly lower participation rate (52%), with women from this group having a particularly low participation rate (48%) (ABS 2007, “Birthplace” section).

Numerous studies have identified multiple barriers which people from CALD backgrounds (particularly refugees) face when accessing and participating in sport and physical activity. These include cultural barriers, practical and financial constraints and a lack of culturally-appropriate programs.

4.3.1 Cultural Barriers

People from CALD backgrounds have a diverse range of unique cultural needs, traditions and expectations which may conflict with or be entirely different from Australian social traditions. As such, the operations of mainstream sport programs may be completely unfamiliar to people from CALD backgrounds. People from cultures without a strong

sporting tradition, for instance, may view engaging in “artificial” physical activity as “unusual and unnecessary,” (CEH 2006, p. 12). Similarly, certain social settings which may be considered “normal” in Australia, for example consuming alcohol after games, can cause discomfort for some cultural groups due to racial, religious and/or cultural constraints (Olliff 2007, p. 20; Cortis & Muir 2007, p. v).

This can be a particularly significant barrier for women, whose opportunities to participate in sport can be limited by both the nature sporting environments themselves and restrictions from within their own communities (Keogh 2002, p. 8; Taylor & Toohey 1998, p. 8). For instance, the need to wear uniforms or other sports attire may be a barrier to participation for women whose religious or cultural traditions mandate certain dress codes (Cortis & Muir 2007, p. v; CEH 2006, p. 13; Keogh 2002, p. 8). These gender-specific constraints may explain why women from NESB have a particularly low participation rate in sport. Indeed, Taylor and Toohey (1998, p. 8) argue that CALD women in Australia have largely missed out on the potential benefits of sport, observing that “within Australia sport has acted as a vehicle for the development of ethnic identity and pride almost exclusively in the male context.”

Language can also be a major barrier to participating in sport. A 2002 survey found that people who could speak English very well had a far higher sport participation rate (63%) than those who could not speak English (17.4%) (ABS 2006, p. 6). Considering that many of Australia’s humanitarian entrants come from non-English speaking countries such as Burma, Iraq and Afghanistan (DIAC 2008a, p. 72-3), and that most arrive with little or no English (DIAC 2007, p. 15), language barriers are likely to have a substantial impact on refugees’ ability to participate in sport.

It is also important to note that, while sport can promote inclusiveness and contribute to the breaking down of cultural barriers, it can also act as a site for exclusion, discrimination and racism. Indeed, Kell (2000, pp. 10-11) claims that “sport in Australia has always been a source of divisiveness and a site of exclusion.” Wilson’s (1998, p. 27) study found that “racial discrimination within sport is prevalent,” and can include “verbal

and physical abuse, ostracism and exclusion.” Oliver (2007, p. 9) notes that in recent years, incidents such as “a young Muslim woman being abused for wearing her headscarf during a junior soccer match, or an Iraqi refugee being harassed at a basketball game,” are typical examples of racism in Australian sport. Needless to say, discrimination and racism act as strong deterrents from participation in sport by people from CALD backgrounds.

4.3.2 Practical and Financial Constraints

As noted by Olliff (2007, p. 21) “refugees usually arrive in Australia with no possessions or financial assets.” As such, the costs of participating in sport are often prohibitive for refugees (see also Taylor & Toohey 1998, p. 7). This is a particularly noteworthy barrier considering that the costs of club and representative sport are often beyond the means of *non*-refugee families (Kirk et al 1996, p. 13).

Furthermore, other aspects of settlement – such as learning English, securing suitable accommodation, finding employment, applying for Australian citizenship and seeking torture and trauma counselling – are often more pressing for refugees than participation in recreational activities. Therefore, particularly when financial constraints are an issue, “involvement in sport and recreation is not seen as a high priority,” (Keogh 2002, p. 6). Where children are concerned, this can translate into a lack of parental support for children’s involvement in sport programs, creating an additional barrier to participation.

Refugees also often lack access to sporting facilities, due to difficulties in both accessing transport and meeting transport costs. This is particularly the case for refugee young people. Keogh (2002, p. 7) notes that young people from CALD backgrounds “tend to rely on public transport because of the lack of parental support in recreational activities.” Sporting facilities which are not located close to public transport are thus likely to be inaccessible to many refugee young people.

4.3.3 Lack of Culturally-Appropriate Programs

Chau (2007, p. 8) notes that there is an “apparent absence of current [sport] projects that target members of [CALD] communities specifically,” concluding that “CALD people may have been somewhat overlooked as main targets of physical activity promotion work in recent times.” Taylor’s (2003) study of cultural diversity policies in community sport organisations yielded similar results – many organisations “did not actively encourage cultural diversity” which resulted in low participation rates by CALD groups. CMY’s *Playing for the Future* study (Olliff 2007) likewise pointed to the lack of inclusive, accessible and culturally-appropriate programs for refugee and newly-arrived young people, and the difficulties in linking culturally-targeted programs with mainstream programs and competitions.

In order for sport programs to successfully integrate people from CALD backgrounds, it is essential for unique cultural needs to be taken into account. The Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health (CEH) has found that “transferring a program that seemed to work well for English-speaking communities, with little regard for underlying ethnic and cultural considerations...[is] problematic and often result[s] in unsuccessful program delivery,” (CEH 2006, p. 15). A lack of culturally-appropriate programs can therefore be expected to negatively impact on refugees’ ability to participate in sport.

4.4 The Policy Context

As Olliff (2007, p. 8) also found, the policy context relating to the involvement of refugees in sport is complex, as there is no single, specific policy, at either a state or Federal level, which specifically deals with this area. Instead, there are numerous government policies, in a variety of portfolio areas, which are relevant to the issue of refugees’ involvement in sport. These include policies relating to:

-  Refugee settlement
-  Social cohesion and inclusiveness
-  Sport and physical activity

4.4.1 Settlement Programs

At a national level, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) administers two main programs designed to provide settlement assistance to humanitarian entrants. The first of these is the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS), which “provides initial, intensive settlement support to newly-arrived humanitarian entrants,” (DIAC 2008b, para. 3). IHSS services include reception and assistance on arrival, information and referrals to other government agencies, housing services and short-term torture and trauma counselling.

The IHSS focuses on meeting refugees’ basic settlement needs, and services are available for only a short time period (usually six months). Although IHSS providers may be able to link refugees with sport and recreation services, it is not a core aspect of the program. Moreover, the IHSS providers for NSW – the Australian Centre for Languages (ACL) and Anglicare Sydney – do not include targeted sport programs as part of their IHSS services.

The second main program is the Settlement Grants Program (SGP), which “provides funding to assist humanitarian entrants and migrants settle in Australia and participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival,” (DIAC 2008c, para. 1). The SGP funds projects falling into three categories:

-  Projects providing orientation to Australia, with the aim of promoting self-reliance.
-  Community development projects, focusing on building the capacity of newly-arrived communities to work together towards common goals.
-  Integration projects, which promote inclusion and participation in Australian society.

Considering the role that sport can play in strengthening communities and promoting inclusiveness, sport and recreation programs could easily fall within the eligibility

requirements for the SGP (although they are not specifically mentioned as part of any currently funded SGP projects; see DIAC 2007b). However, the SGP does not focus on sport and recreation exclusively but a variety of settlement needs.

4.4.2 Programs Promoting Social Cohesion & Inclusiveness

There are two national social cohesion programs which have a specific focus on cultural diversity, both of which are initiatives of DIAC. The first is the Living in Harmony program, which aims to “[address] issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance by promoting respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging for everyone,” (Australian Government 2008, para. 1). The program offers Community Relations Funding to community organisations for projects which promote social cohesion, including sport projects.

The second program is the National Action Plan (NAP). Formulated in response to the “increased threat of global and religious terrorism”, the NAP aims to “reinforce social cohesion, harmony and support the national security imperative in Australia by addressing extremism, the promotion of violence and intolerance,” (Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs 2007, p. 6). One of the NAP’s priorities is to increase the participation of Australian Muslims in community life, and the plan makes specific reference to the importance of “*encourag[ing] more active participation in mainstream sporting, social and cultural activities* to lessen feelings of isolation and marginalisation in some communities,” (Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs 2007, p. 14; emphasis added).

The NAP offers grants to community organisations for projects which relate to the plan’s priorities, and in the past sport-based projects have received funding under the NAP. It should be noted, however, that the NAP has a particular focus on Muslim communities, rather than CALD communities in general. Furthermore, while both the Living in Harmony program and the NAP target communities which would *include* refugees (that

is, the CALD and Muslim communities), neither program has a specific *focus* on refugees.

At a state level, the NSW Community Relations Commission (CRC) manages an annual Community Development Grants program, with the aim of “encourag[ing] the participation of people from culturally diverse communities in all aspects of life in New South Wales,” (CRC 2008, para. 1). Past recipients have included CALD sporting associations, however since the program concentrates on “all aspects of life in New South Wales”, its focus is far broader than sport alone.

4.4.3 Health, Sport & Physical Activity Programs

At a national level, the Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants Program offers funding to not-for-profit community organisations to “conduct healthy eating and physical activity projects at the local level,” with the aim of increasing physical activity and healthy lifestyle habits in Australian communities (Department of Health and Ageing 2007, para. 1). Past grant recipients have included CALD community organisations such as ethnic community councils and migrant resource centres. However, this program does not specifically target CALD communities or refugees. Furthermore, its primary focus is on the physical health benefits of sport, while the mental and social impacts are equally important to refugees.

Also at national level, the All Australian Sporting Initiative (AASI), managed by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) aims to provide primary school-aged children with opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity, “with the aim of strengthening local communities and promoting involvement in quality and inclusive sporting and recreational experiences,” (Department of Health and Ageing 2008, p. 330) The AASI is funded by the NAP (see Section 4.4.2), and has a particular focus on children from CALD and/or socially disadvantaged communities, but does not specifically target refugees.

In NSW, the main government initiative focusing on sport and recreation is the NSW Premier's Council for Active Living (PCAL). PCAL works to promote greater involvement in physical activity "across all population groups in NSW," (PCAL 2007a, p. 3), however their current projects do not include initiatives specifically targeting the CALD or refugee communities (PCAL 2007b, pp. 3-4). Similarly, the NSW Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation offers a number of grants for sport and recreation groups, however none of the grants currently on offer specifically targets refugees or CALD communities (NSW Sport and Recreation 2008).

In summation, there are numerous government programs with the potential to support initiatives which aim to involve refugees in sport. However, there is no specific, targeted policy or grants program relating to this issue.

5. Approaches to Involving Refugees in Sport

This section contains information about approaches to involving refugees and/or CALD communities in sport across Australia.

5.1 Guidelines for Assessing Sport Programs

Due to the fact that research in this area has hitherto been limited, there are few criteria available for assessing sport programs targeted at refugees. The most comprehensive guidelines available are those developed by CMY (see Olliff 2007; Dykes & Olliff 2007). While CMY's research focuses on Victoria rather than NSW, their broad good practice recommendations for involving people from refugee backgrounds in sport do have applicability to the NSW context. CMY recommends:

- 🌱 Establishing sustainable and ongoing, as opposed to one-off or ad hoc, programs.
- 🌱 Designing programs which are culturally-appropriate.
- 🌱 Creating links between the sport, recreation, settlement and community sectors, to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach.
- 🌱 Embedding inclusive practices within the policies and operations of sporting associations.
- 🌱 Conducting sport programs in supportive and familiar environments such as schools and ethnic organisations, rather than mainstream clubs.
- 🌱 Implementing strategies to overcome barriers to participation (for example, overcoming language barriers by employing bi-cultural workers or using visual aids).

DIAC's *Good Practice Guide to Humanitarian Settlement* (2007c) includes profiles of two sport programs which are specifically tailored to the needs of refugees:

- 🌱 *The Refugee Youth Soccer Development Program, or Football United*, a program managed by the University of New South Wales School of Public Health and Community Medicine. This program “provides advice and assistance to

existing soccer programs to facilitate the recruitment and participation of refugees,” (DIAC 2007c, p. 12; see also pp. 12-17).

- 🌱 Lutheran Community Care’s *New Arrivals: A Sporting Chance* program, which aims to help integrate newly arrived refugee families into their community through sport and recreational activities,” (DIAC 2007c, p. 97; see also pp. 97-100).

Since both programs are proven examples of good practice, they can offer useful suggestions for establishing similar programs. Suggestions in the *Good Practice Guide* include:

- 🌱 Employing a dedicated program coordinator.
- 🌱 Building relationships between government departments, community organisations, mainstream sport clubs and refugee communities, to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach.
- 🌱 Developing programs from the grassroots, in consultation with target communities.
- 🌱 Ensuring that sport officials are aware of the potential barriers refugees may face in becoming involved in sport.

The guidelines from CMY and the *Good Practice Guide* provide a starting point for assessing the sport programs surveyed for this report. However, further in-depth consultation will be necessary in order to build comprehensive and broadly applicable good practice models for NSW.

5.2 Government Departments

The programs profiled in this section fall into three categories:

- 🌱 **State Government Policies** or portfolio areas specifically relating to the issue of refugees’ involvement in sport.
- 🌱 **Local Government Initiatives** which are instigated, overseen or sponsored by a local council.

- 🌱 **Other Government-Sponsored Programs** in which a government department is heavily involved as a sponsor, key partner, service provider, etc.

5.2.1 State Government Policies

Multicultural Affairs Queensland

Multicultural Affairs Queensland has recently released the *New Futures: The Queensland Government's Engagement with African Refugees* report, which contains a section on involving African refugees in sport and recreation. According to the report, “the Queensland Government is committed to supporting African refugees to participate in sporting and recreational events and activities,” (Queensland Department of Communities 2008, p. 23).

Initiatives mentioned in the report include:

- 🌱 The ECCQ/QPS Cup (see Section 5.4.1).
- 🌱 Bridging the Gap, a soccer match played between the Queensland police and a Sudanese Youth Soccer team in February 2008.
- 🌱 A Meet and Greet project, which aims to encourage African refugee groups to use facilities at Police-Citizens Youth Clubs (this project has now ended).
- 🌱 The Queensland Roars Against Racism campaign (see Section 5.3.2).

WA Department of Sport & Recreation

The WA Department of Sport and Recreation has a portfolio dedicated to the issue of involving people from CALD backgrounds in sport. Current projects supported by the department in this area include:

- 🌱 A community grants program.
- 🌱 The South East Corridor CALD Children and Youth Sport and Recreation Project, which aims to address a lack of sport and recreation services in the South East Corridor, and to provide cultural competence training in order to create more

inclusive sport and recreation services. The three-year project, beginning in 2008, focuses on five local government areas, all in metropolitan Perth.

 The Young Women's Healthy Lifestyle Program, which uses sport and recreation as a means to address young women's wellbeing, with a focus on issues of poor self image and mental and physical stress. The program is delivered after school at targeted schools.

 Several projects run in conjunction with the City of Stirling (see Section 5.3.3), Edmund Rice Centre (see Section 5.4.2), Football West (see Section 5.3.2) and the WA AFL (see Section 5.3.1).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the fact that these policy areas are relatively new, it will be difficult to fully evaluate their effectiveness. However, they are unique examples of targeted government approaches to involving people from CALD backgrounds (including refugees) in sport. Out of the state government departments contacted as part of this project, Multicultural Affairs Queensland and the WA Department of Sport and Recreation were the only two with specific policies in this area. Therefore, these departments (particularly the WA Department of Sport and Recreation, whose policies are more comprehensively formulated) could serve as models for designing and implementing such policies.

In addition, since the projects with which the departments have been involved are a result of partnerships between governments, sporting bodies and service providers, they could also serve as models for building effective linkages between these agencies.

5.2.2 Local Government Initiatives

Auburn Council Soccer & Basketball Programs

Auburn Council's Youth Services section runs a number of programs for newly arrived and refugee communities. In 2007, the Council ran a soccer program which involved

subsidising players' registration fees to enable them to participate in local clubs. Additional activities included gala and "come and try" days, and referee training. The program attempted to involve parents in the sport through training and coaching clinics, however this was not entirely successful. Auburn Council also runs a bi-annual soccer tournament for newly-arrived communities during the school holidays.

Around 180 participants were assisted through the subsidies scheme, and a further 200 were involved in the "come and try" days. The program was open to participants from 6 years with no upper limit, however the majority of participants were school-aged (6-17 years old). While the program was open to both men and women, the vast majority of participants were male. The bi-annual soccer tournament is also dominated by male participants.

The Council has recently established a similar basketball program for Sudanese youth aged 12-16, which involves subsidising registration fees to enable participants to take part in a basketball tournament. The basketball program has been run by the Council in the past, and has been revived as a result of funding from a government crime prevention initiative. While the program has only recently been begun again, it is expected to involve both girls and boys.

Auburn Council is also planning to introduce two new sport programs for CALD communities – a self-defence program for Afghan boys, and a swimming program for Sierra Leonean boys.

City of Casey

The City of Casey's multicultural youth team is a member of the Multicultural Youth Action Group (MYAG), a coalition of agencies which focuses on engaging CALD youth with the broader community. While initially involved in direct delivery of programs and services, the City of Casey team has since found that providing support to existing agencies and programs is a more effective approach. They aim to establish links and

partnerships with service providers, schools, churches, sport clubs and other groups which work with the CALD and refugee communities, so as to remove some of the barriers to the CALD community's participation in sport and other activities. The City of Casey team is currently focusing on the Sudanese and Afghani communities.

Examples of the City of Casey's initiatives include holding multilingual information nights on sport programs; providing minibuses for transport to sport venues; using school principals as a link between service providers and CALD families; and using schools as a venue for the delivery of sport programs.

Darebin City Council Leisure Network Soccer Programs

The City of Darebin Leisure Network is part of a committee of community volunteers and local organisations, including Football Federation Victoria and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (see Section 5.4.2). The committee supports a range of soccer programs in metropolitan Melbourne through promotion, providing information and encouragement to participants, offering training for referees and coaches, and organising equipment and venues.

Current programs include:

-  The Strengthening Multicultural Communities Through Soccer Participation program. This program aimed to involve members of the Sudanese community with an existing football club. Participants learned about running a soccer club and playing in competitions, and have since formed their own club. The program ran for one season over 8 months in 2006, involving 35 male participants.
-  The All Nations Football Cup, an annual soccer competition involving both men's and women's teams. The men's program, involving 80 participants, has been running for five years, while the women's competition, involving 60, has been running for two years.
-  A weekly indoor soccer program for young people, designed for those who cannot access other sporting programs due to family and/or economic reasons. The

program, which has been in operation for three years, involves 20-30 participants. Separate programs are run for girls and boys.

-  The Social Soccer program, which will run as a pilot project from October to December in 2008. This program focuses on creating a non-competitive, social atmosphere for participants. It is open to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, and will involve 30-50 participants. Both men and women will be involved in mixed groups.

Refugees from small and newly arrived communities are one of the main target groups for the soccer programs, along with young people and those who do not currently belong to a soccer club or play in a regular competition. Participants belong to a range of CALD communities, including Sudanese, Iraqi, Iranian, Turkish, Saudi Arabian, Somali and Lebanese. Participants are usually aged over 16 for boys and men's programs, and 12 and over for girls and women's programs.

All programs are offered on an ongoing basis, due to the cooperative partnerships formed between partner organisations and local communities. Funding for the programs is derived from a variety of sources – the Strengthening Multicultural Communities Through Soccer Participation program was funded by grant from Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and Football Federation Victoria, while the other soccer programs are funded by City of Darebin Community Grants Scheme, Football Federation Victoria and Merrilands Community Centre.

City of Port Adelaide Enfield Girls Tennis Program

The City of Port Adelaide is part of the network created by Lutheran Community Care's *New Arrivals: A Sporting Chance* program (see Section 5.1). However, since the funding for this program is soon to expire, the Council recognised a need to create other opportunities for newly arrived youth to participate in sport.

Using the partnerships developed through the *Sporting Chance* program, the Council has established a girls' tennis program for new arrivals (particularly refugees). The program aimed to break down the barriers to participation in sport faced by girls from these communities. A pilot tennis program was run in April 2008 during the school holidays, with participants recruited from local schools. It then evolved into a weekly tennis program delivered at Clearview Tennis Club, in partnership with MCCSA (see Section 5.4.2).

The Council has recognised a lack of individual funding opportunities available for refugee young people who wish to participate in sport, and is hoping to create further opportunities for participation in the future. The Council has been in contact with the state and federal ministers of Sport and Recreation in relation to this issue.

City of Stirling CALD Youth Sport, Recreation and Leisure Project

This project aims to increase the participation rate of CALD youth (aged 10-21) in sport and recreation activities, through partnerships with mainstream clubs and facilities, in the City of Stirling (metropolitan Perth). The project is run in partnership with the WA Department of Sport and Recreation and the WA Office of Multicultural Interests.

The three-year project aimed to link 30 youths to clubs each year. While now in its final year, the program is likely to continue beyond its original timeframe. Additionally, the project has run various sports events and programs which have involved hundreds of CALD youth. The primary target group for the project is African youth. While the program is open to both males and females, a disproportionately large number of males have been involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As with the state government policies, these local government initiatives are among the few examples of government approaches to involving refugees in sport. As such, they

could serve as models for implementing these targeted policies at a local level. Additionally, partnerships between the local governments, sporting bodies and community organisations are fundamental to these initiatives, thus they may also serve as models for building and maintaining such relationships.

5.2.3 Other Government-Sponsored Programs

ACT Sport and Recreation Services Primary Introductory English Centres (PIEC) Junior Sport Cluster Project

ACT Sport and Recreation Services coordinated a project in partnership with ACT Cricket and AFL NSW/ACT. The project aimed to introduce the two sports to students from Primary Introductory English Centres (PIECs) and to “increase opportunities and pathways for young people in the Australian sporting system,” (ACT Sport and Recreation Services 2008, p. 1). Half-day skill development clinics were conducted at three PIECs, as an introduction to the basic skills of cricket and AFL. An instructional DVD was also supplied.

The project concluded with a Gala Day at a local indoor tennis centre, involving round robin games of AFL and cricket. The Gala Day involved 20 teachers and 180 primary school-aged students (both girls and boys) from the three PIECs. Participants were given a tennis ball, cricket bat and Auskick football to take home at the conclusion of the day.

Club details and registration information were provided to the PIEC teachers to translate and disseminate to the students’ parents. However, the primary focus of the project was introducing new arrivals to and increasing awareness of the two sports – registration was seen as a longer-term goal.

NSW Sport & Recreation – WimSWIM

WimSWIM is a combination of a learn-to-swim and leisure swimming program, in a women-only environment. Four 8-week programs are run per year, each involving about 80 participants. The program operates in metropolitan Sydney and has been running for three years.

WimSWIM is open to all women aged 4½ and over, and does not target either refugees or the CALD community. However, WimSWIM has appealed to women who, for cultural and/or religious reasons, cannot swim in front of men. Women from Arabic communities (including the Lebanese, Egyptian, Iraqi and Iranian), as well as women from Chinese and Korean backgrounds, have been involved in the program.

The NSW Department of Sport and Recreation supports the program, but does not provide funding for it – participants must pay to take part in the program. The Department is hoping that the program will eventually become self-sustaining (that is, the community will take over administration of the program). However, since pool rental and swimming instructors are very expensive, this is unlikely to occur in the near future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While the PIEC project is limited in that it was (at this stage) a one-off event, it nonetheless has the potential to serve as a model for introducing refugees to sport in a familiar environment, and raising awareness of sporting opportunities amongst the CALD and refugee communities. Additionally, as this project is an example of a partnership between a government department, sporting bodies and a service provider for the CALD community, it could also serve as a model for creating effective linkages between these different groups.

As WimSWIM does not specifically target refugees or the CALD community, it is not an ideal model for involving these groups in sport. The cost of the program may also be a

limiting factor for refugees' involvement. However, the program is significant in that it has successfully engaged with women from CALD and refugee backgrounds. Given that gender is a significant barrier to participation in sport for many CALD girls and women, WimSWIM may offer important insights into increasing the participation of girls and women from refugee and CALD backgrounds in sport.

5.3 Sporting Bodies

The programs profiled in this section fall into three categories:

- 🌐 **National Programs** which are coordinated by a national sporting body and operate in multiple states and/or territories.
- 🌐 **State Programs** which are coordinated by a state sporting body and operate in a single state and/or territory.
- 🌐 **Local Programs** which target a single local community. While they may be overseen by state sporting bodies, these programs operate on a smaller scale than state programs.

5.3.1 National Programs

Australian Football League (AFL) National AFL Multicultural Program

The AFL is the national governing body of Australian Rules football.

The primary objective of the AFL Multicultural Program is to assist migrant and refugee communities to access Australian Football at various levels – as players, fans, administrators and/or umpires. It aims to introduce young people from CALD communities to AFL, and to encourage mainstream ALF clubs to embrace cultural diversity and inclusive practices.

A range of resources and programs have been developed to support local leagues and clubs in implementing inclusive policies and practices. In addition, Multicultural

Development Officers based in AFL clubs in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia, assist clubs in delivering programs aimed at encouraging CALD people to participate in AFL. The program operates in metropolitan Victoria, Adelaide, Fremantle and some rural areas, and is currently being expanded into Sydney (with a particular focus on Western Sydney). Further rural programs may also become available, depending in demand.

The program has a very broad focus – it is open to people from all cultural backgrounds, all age groups and both genders. Furthermore, there is no limit to the number of participants, with the result that a very large number of people have been involved since the program's inception in 2005. Over 8 300 students have participated in the AFL Multicultural Football Schools Program, and 21 000 people from CALD backgrounds have attended AFL games as part of the program.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) On the Same Wave Program

SLSA is the corporate body for surf life saving in Australia.

Launched in 2006, this project aims to increase CALD people's access to surf life saving. It is designed in a number of phases, beginning with water safety and beach activities, moving on to training and eventually recruitment.

Originally developed in response to the 2005 Cronulla race riots, the program was initially NSW-based and targeted people from Middle Eastern backgrounds. Around 1700-2000 people were involved in the NSW pilot project, with both girls and boys participating in fairly even numbers. Participants were mainly school-aged children, due to the fact that many were recruited from intensive English schools. However, adults have been involved as parents, and through an adult female Muslim resuscitation program.

The program has extended into regional areas as well as metropolitan Sydney, and is not necessarily limited by the lack of a coastline (for instance, SLSA's "Beach to Bush" water safety education program specifically targets inland regional areas). It has also recently been expanded to WA, SA and Victoria, and will soon expand into Tasmania and NT as well. As a result of this expansion, a larger variety of CALD groups has become involved (for example, people from Sudanese and Islander backgrounds).

The project is funded by a major grant through the Living in Harmony program (see Section 4.4.2), which expires at the end of this year. Without additional funding, the program will not continue in its present format. In the absence of funding, SLSA is attempting to increase its capacity to engage with CALD communities, for example through working in partnership with local clubs, and working with the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) to introduce surf life saving to new arrivals. Additionally, SLSA has developed a variety of resources which promote inclusiveness and provide information on how to engage with CALD communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Both the AFL Multicultural Program and the On the Same Wave project have limitations in terms of acting as models for increasing refugees' participation in sport. Refugees are not a specific target group for the programs (although they may be involved by virtue of being members of the CALD community), and the programs are relatively new, thus it is difficult to evaluate their long-term effectiveness. Additionally, many of the agencies which run sport programs for refugees (eg. local governments and community organisations) would simply not have the resources or the reach to implement programs on this scale.

However, out of the sporting bodies surveyed for this project, the AFL Multicultural Program and the On the Same Wave project were the only examples of large-scale CALD sport programs coordinated by major sporting bodies at a national level. They are

therefore unique as models for major sporting organisations in terms of encouraging increased participation by CALD groups (including refugees) in sport.

Additionally, as they are run by major sporting bodies, the programs are well situated to act as bridges from introductory activities to more formal participation, and thus could serve as models both for introducing CALD groups to sport, and increasing participation in mainstream clubs. The On the Same Wave program's success in attracting female participants also suggests that the program could serve as a model for overcoming gender barriers to participation.

The fact that the AFL and SLSA have formally introduced inclusive policies and have developed resources to support these policies indicates that their programs could act as models for embedding inclusive policies and practices within national sport organisations.

Finally, the expansion of the programs into rural and regional areas is significant, considering that many NSW refugees initially settle in regional areas. Since there are few sport programs for refugees currently operating in regional areas, the ALF Multicultural Program and On the Same Wave could provide insights into implementing programs in these areas.

5.3.2 State Programs

Football West Outreach for Diversity Program

Football West is the representative body for football (soccer) in Western Australia.

The Outreach for Diversity program aims to engage CALD communities in football through introductory football clinics. It endeavours to involve children (aged 5 to 16) as players, and adults as coaches and officiators.

50 participants from a diverse range of communities are currently involved in the program, with large numbers from the Ethiopian and Sudanese communities. The program is open to both men and women, however more males than females tend to be involved, particularly in the coaching component.

The program has been in operation for two years in the central suburbs of Perth, and is about to undergo a major expansion phase in response to positive feedback from participants. It is currently funded by Football West, the WA Department of Sport and Recreation and through the “Smarter than Smoking” grants program.

Queensland Roars Against Racism

Queensland Roar FC is a Brisbane-based football (soccer) club, competing in the Australian domestic football competition.

This campaign is a partnership between Multicultural Affairs Queensland and Queensland Roar Football Club. The campaign uses football events and activities as vehicles to “challenge racist attitudes and stamp out racial intolerance,” (Queensland Department of Communities 2008, p. 18).

The campaign involves:

-  An annual “Roar Against Racism” football match, involving Queensland Roar playing against a team from a different country in a friendly match (a non-competitive, exhibition match). The match also involves multicultural promotional activities (for example, a Latin dance party was held when Queensland Roar played against a Brazilian team). Tickets to the match are distributed to refugee groups.
-  Supporting multicultural events, such as multicultural festivals, through advertising and offering player appearances.

 Football programs (such as coaching clinics) for CALD community groups, particularly primary school students. The programs involve both genders, and operate in both metropolitan and regional areas.

SA Women's Soccer Association NESB Program

The SA Women's Soccer Association is the representative body for women's soccer in South Australia.

This program aims to provide opportunities for young women from NESB (the majority of whom are refugees) to participate in soccer. The project is organised in two stages – the first involves coaching clinics, and the second focuses on linking participants with local clubs.

The program has been operating in some form for approximately 4 years. In 2008, around 40 young women, all from African communities, participated in the program. Although it does not officially target a particular age group, participants are aged between 13 and 17. The program is conducted from a central location in metropolitan Adelaide, to ensure that transport to and from the venue is available for participants.

The program is funded through the SA Office of Recreation and Sport, and will continue as long as funding is available.

Tennis Victoria Multicultural Tennis Program

Tennis Victoria is the representative body for tennis in Victoria.

Tennis Victoria's strategic plan has identified a need to involve non-traditional participants in tennis, therefore increased involvement of CALD communities in the sport is seen as a core concern.

The Multicultural Tennis Program aims to create tennis opportunities for new arrivals in the Dandenong and Sunshine areas of metropolitan Melbourne. Tennis Victoria is linked with partners in tennis clubs, schools and language schools (such as the Western English Language School and the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program – see Section 5.4.3). The program has involved multicultural “come and try” days, and Tennis Victoria is in the process of developing a multicultural resource for introducing people from CALD backgrounds to tennis. The program began in 2007, and is funded for four years through the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth).

The program has a current focus on the Sudanese community, however it is open to all CALD communities including migrants, new arrivals and refugees. The overall aim of the program is to make tennis more accessible to people from all cultural backgrounds.

455 participants are involved in the Multicultural Program overall, mostly from affiliated schools. As such, most participants tend to be school-aged children. Both genders participate in fairly even numbers.

Cricket Victoria All-Embracing Program

Cricket Victoria is the governing body for cricket in Victoria.

Launched in 2001, the All-Embracing Program aims to make cricket accessible to all groups within the community through the implementation of inclusive policies and practices. The program targets five groups which are currently under-represented in cricket: people with disabilities, Indigenous people, people from CALD backgrounds, older adults and socio-economically disadvantaged groups (Oliver 2007, p. 75).

The CALD component of the program involves cricket clinics at English as a Second Language (ESL) schools and CALD community centres. Participants come from a wide range of backgrounds, including Sudanese, Burmese, Iraqi and Horn of Africa nations. The program is open to both men and women, and both genders tend to participate fairly

evenly. Participants are mainly school aged children, though the program does not target a specific age group and aims to involve adults as well as children. The program currently operates in metropolitan Melbourne, however Cricket Victoria is currently attempting to expand the program into regional areas.

A range of resources which promote inclusive practices has also been developed as part of the program.

Queensland Cricket Multicultural Cricket Program

Queensland Cricket is the governing body for cricket in Queensland.

The Multicultural Cricket program began as a result of a Federal government grant for an anti-racism project in 2003. Since the funding expired, the program has continued on a small budget with a primarily volunteer staff.

The overall goal of the program is to increase formal participation of CALD children in cricket. Participants are taught the basic skills of cricket over a five week period, with the aim of linking participants with local cricket clubs at the end of this time. The program costs \$15, and participants receive clothing and cricket equipment which they are allowed to keep after the program ends.

150 children are currently involved in the program. The target group is children under the age of 10, with a specific focus on cultural groups which are not heavily involved in cricket, such as the Vietnamese, Chinese and Samoan communities. However, children from other cultural groups and non-CALD backgrounds are also involved. Both boys and girls participate and, while significantly fewer girls than boys are involved, there is a higher than normal percentage of girls involved compared to Queensland Cricket's mainstream programs – 30% of participants in the multicultural program are girls, compared to 10% in mainstream programs.

The program has also attempted to involve parents in the sport as coaches, for example through running coaching clinics. However, there has been a very limited response to such initiatives

The cricket program operates after school in the western and southern suburbs of Brisbane. There has been a recent attempt to establish the program in Toowoomba to target the Sudanese community, however this has been challenging due to a lack of support from within the community. Queensland Cricket has recently joined the Ethnic Communities Council of QLD (see Section 5.4.1) in an effort to establish stronger links with CALD communities and thus enhance the effectiveness of the program.

Queensland Cricket is planning to hold a multicultural and indigenous cricket day at the Gabba in December, which will involve participants from the Multicultural Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All of the programs profiled in this section (with the exception of Queensland Cricket's Multicultural Cricket Program) could serve as models for involving refugees in sport. While they tend to target CALD or NESB communities in general rather than refugees specifically, all programs involve participants from the major refugee communities in Australia (such as the Sudanese and Iraqi communities).

There are several additional features of these programs which may be relevant for further consultation:

-  The Outreach for Diversity program is currently undergoing expansion as a result of positive feedback from participants, suggesting that it has successfully engaged with CALD communities.
-  The Queensland Roars Against Racism campaign is quite comprehensive in that it combines introductory and awareness-raising events (eg. exhibition matches) with skill development programs. The campaign is also notable in that it:

- operates in regional as well as metropolitan areas, thus it could serve as a model for regional program delivery.
- is the result of partnership with a government department, and therefore could act as a model for establishing such relationships.

 The Women’s Soccer program is specifically designed for women, and the Queensland Roars Against Racism campaign, the Multicultural Tennis Program and the All-Embracing Program have attracted relatively even numbers of male and female participants. As such, these three programs (particularly the Women’s Soccer program) could serve as models for involving CALD women and girls in sport.

 Tennis Victoria and Cricket Victoria have both developed linkages with CALD community agencies, and officially adopted inclusive policies and have developed resources for involving CALD groups in sport. Therefore, they may serve as models for implementing inclusive policies and practices in sport, at a state level.

In comparison, Queensland Cricket’s Multicultural Cricket Program has a limited ability to act as a model. The program does not presently involve members of the major refugee communities in Australia, and has had difficulty in involving people from refugee backgrounds. Gender remains a significant barrier to participation, and the program is only beginning to develop linkages with CALD communities. Additionally, the cost of the program, although inexpensive compared to the cost of mainstream sport programs, may also be a limiting factor for refugees’ involvement.

As such, the Multicultural Cricket Program is perhaps less relevant for consultation for this particular project. If Queensland Cricket is able to develop more effective relationships with refugee communities as it is currently attempting to do, the program could serve as a model at some stage in the future.

5.3.3 Local Programs

Basketball SA New Arrivals Basketball Program

Basketball SA is the governing body for basketball in South Australia.

This weekly basketball training program targets new arrivals, including migrants, refugees and international students in the Thebarton/Torrensville area (north west Adelaide). The program focuses on training and basic skill development but does not have a formal structure, and is open to anyone who wishes to play basketball. The program also provides opportunities for more experienced and skilled players to compete at higher levels through mainstream clubs. As well as skills training, the program has included additional activities such as nutrition courses, fitness testing and training of referees.

The New Arrivals program originally targeted the Sudanese community, and participants are still primarily from African backgrounds (including Senegalese, Congolese and Somali). However, participants from a variety of other backgrounds (including Russian, Irish, Serbian and Afghani) have also been involved. Around 25-30 participants are involved in each session. The program is open to both men and women over 14 years of age, but tends to be dominated by male participants.

The program has been in operation for around 4-5 years. Originally funded by the SA Office of Sport and Recreation, it has since obtained Federal Funding through the Healthy Active Australia grants program (see Section 4.4.3). However, the program does not have guaranteed ongoing funding, and largely relies on volunteers. For this reason, the current program administrators are attempting to find individuals or groups within the local community to take over administration of the program in the long term.

Netball Victoria – The Ravens

Netball Victoria is responsible for the management and development of netball across Victoria.

Earlier in 2008, Netball Victoria ran a come-and-try day for Sudanese youth (both boys and girls) in Dandenong, Melbourne, to introduce participants to netball. With the support of CMY (see Section 5.4.2), 11 participants were recruited from the day to form a women's netball team. Called the Ravens, the team involves Sudanese, Nigerian and Liberian young women aged between 15 and 22. The team is supported by funding from VicHealth, however in the long term Netball Victoria is hoping for the team to become self-funded.

Netball Victoria is planning to form similar teams in other areas of Victoria, as well as a mixed-gender team, in 2009.

Grange Lawn Tennis Club Advantage Refugees! Tennis Bridging Program

This coaching program involves children between 3 and 16 years old, the majority of whom are from refugee backgrounds. The program operates for five weeks in each school term. Participants were originally recruited through schools, however the club has had more success recruiting participants through agencies which work directly with refugees (such as migrant resource centres).

Around 20 participants are consistently involved in the program, a number of whom have formally joined the tennis club. The program is open to both boys and girls, and tends to have more female participants than male. Originally dominated by Afghani participants, the program now includes participants from a variety of African and Eastern European backgrounds (including Burundian, South African, Liberian, Serbian and Croatian).

While it primarily involves children, the club has also attempted to integrate parents into the program. For example, they have run community open days involving participants, their parents and other relatives, from both the mainstream and refugee coaching programs.

The program began in 2008, and operates at the tennis club in Grange (metropolitan Adelaide). It is funded through a grant from the SA Office for Recreation and Sport.

Life Saving Victoria Swimming Program

Life Saving Victoria is the organising body for surf life saving in Victoria.

Along with the On the Same Wave project, Life Saving Victoria runs a pool-related program in Hoppers Crossing (metropolitan Melbourne). The program involves teaching (predominantly) new arrivals how to swim, along with other aspects of pool safety. The program targets the CALD community generally, however around 95% of participants are from the Karen community (an ethnic group from Burma and Thailand).

Around 70 children aged between 5 and 15 years are involved in the program each week, with relatively even numbers of boys and girls participating. The program, which began in 2008, is funded by DIAC and will continue for around 3½ years.

Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club Foundation for Young Australians

This program aimed to incorporate young people from NESB (including refugees) into surf life saving, with participants learning how to swim and perform first aid scenarios.

Participants were recruited from the Perth Modern School for new migrants, and came from a variety of cultural backgrounds, including Asian, Middle Eastern, Eastern European and African. Around 8 participants were involved in the program consistently, however more than 40 were involved over a 2 year period. Most participants were

between 14 and 18 years old. The program was open to both men and women, but was dominated by young males.

The 2-year program, funded by Lotterywest (the official state lottery for Western Australia), was completed in 2005 as a result of low numbers and the exhaustion of funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The New Arrivals basketball program, the Ravens netball team, Life Saving Victoria's swimming program and the Advantage Refugees! tennis program could all provide insights into involving refugees in sport on a small scale, at a local level. All involve significant numbers of refugee participants (particularly the Advantage Refugees! program, which is specifically designed for refugees), and their focus on coaching and basic skill development suggests that they could act as models for introducing refugees to sport.

Netball Victoria, since it has successfully created a pathway from informal to formal participation in sport, may act as a model for establishing such pathways. The New Arrivals basketball program and the Advantage Refugees! tennis program, which are similarly designed to act as bridges to more formal participation in sport, could also act as models in this sense.

The Foundation for Young Australians program is less relevant as a model for involving refugees in sport. Since SLSA is currently implementing a national strategy to increase the involvement of CALD groups in sport, it is likely that this strategy will supersede individual club initiatives. In this context, consultation with the national surf life saving body may be more efficient than consultation with individual clubs, particularly considering that the Foundation for Young Australians program has not been sustainable.

5.4 Non-Government Organisations, Settlement Service Providers & Community Organisations

Programs profiled in this section fall into four categories:

-  **Annual Competitions**
-  **Capacity-Building Programs**, which aim to increase the capacity of refugee and/or CALD communities to participate in sport, particularly formal, structured activities.
-  **Recreational/Educational Programs** whose primary purpose is to provide recreational and/or educational opportunities.
-  **New and Emerging Programs** which have been implemented only recently or are still in the planning stages.

5.4.1 Annual Competitions

Companion House Annual Soccer Day

Companion House is a rehabilitation agency providing services and support to survivors of torture and trauma in the ACT.

Companion House's soccer day involves around 400 participants from the Mon (another ethnic group from Burma and Thailand), Karen, Sudanese and Sierra Leonean communities. It is open to both men and women, however the soccer teams themselves are composed of men only. Women are involved in other activities on the day, such as dancing on the sidelines. Both young people and adults are involved.

Companion House has also attempted to coordinate a regional competition, however due to adverse weather and organisational constraints, the competition was not entirely successful.

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) – ECCQ/QPS Cup

ECCQ is a representative body for CALD communities in Queensland.

The ECCQ/QPS Cup is an annual multicultural football tournament run in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Originally designed to involve Sudanese young people in sport, the 2008 competition involved men's teams from 32 countries, including Vietnam, India, Scotland, Greece and Afghanistan. The competition is now in its fourth year, and is funded through sponsorship.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since these competitions take place only once a year, they do not provide regular, ongoing sport activities for refugees and thus cannot serve as models for a long-term, targeted sport programs. They are also limited by the fact that they primarily involve male participants.

However, through providing a forum for social interaction and encouraging cooperation between participants, the competitions offer an opportunity to build links and trust both within and across CALD communities, and may act as models in this sense. The competitions could also serve as models for introducing refugees to sport in familiar and supportive environments.

These recommendations are also applicable to the All Nations Football Cup, organised by Darebin City Council (see Section 5.2.2), and the MRC of Southern Tasmania's African Cup (see Section 5.4.2).

5.4.2 Capacity-Building Programs

Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) Multicultural Sport and Recreation Project

CMY is a community-based organisation which engages in research and advocacy on behalf of CALD young people, with a particular focus on refugee and newly arrived communities.

CMY's Multicultural Sport and Recreation Project has been in operation since 1998, evolving over time as sport has increasingly become recognised as a positive settlement tool. The program focuses on newly-arrived young people, particularly those within the first 7 years of arrival. The project currently involves:

-  The Central Highlands Active Migrant Program (CHAMP) in Ballarat, which aims to engage people from Sudanese, Togolese and Chinese backgrounds in sporting opportunities, through identifying barriers to participation and formulating strategies to overcome these barriers. As part of this program, CMY also works with sport and recreation providers, providing cultural awareness training and facilitating linkages with CALD communities.
-  Managing a coaching and officiating project in Sunshine, Melbourne, which aims to involve young people in administration roles, such as coaching and refereeing.
-  Providing training for state sport associations in relation to working with multicultural youth and implementing inclusiveness strategies.
-  Establishing partnerships with recreation providers and liaising with community groups to increase young CALD people's involvement in sport.
-  Advocating on behalf of young people.

CMY's role is primarily that of an adviser, consultant and advocate, rather than a direct provider of sport programs. Because CMY does not have sufficient resources to run sustainable long-term sport programs, they assist other agencies in establishing their own multicultural sport programs.

The project is funded through grants from numerous government departments and programs, including VicHealth, Sport and Recreation Victoria, the ASC, the Department of Community and Development, the Go for Your Life initiative, and the Department of Youth and Sport.

Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Multicultural Sports and Recreation Program

The Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka supports refugee and indigenous families through the provision of a range of educational and community services.

The program aims to introduce and promote structured sport and recreation clubs to CALD youth with a focus on refugees (specifically the Sudanese community) and Indigenous young people. The Centre designates a “sport of the month” and runs weekly “come and try” sessions in the northern suburbs of Perth, attempting to integrate any interested participants into registered sport and recreation clubs.

Around 35 young people aged between 11 and 18 years are currently involved in the program, although numbers can vary from week to week. Both male and female youth are well represented in the programs. The program, which is funded through the WA Department of Sport and Recreation, has been in operation since 2005, and will continue at least until 2010.

Jesuit Social Services Horn of Africa Youth Project – Soccer Program

Jesuit Social Services is a Christian organisation which provides services to disadvantaged individuals, families and communities, with the aim of promoting health and wellbeing and addressing social exclusion.

Jesuit Social Services’ soccer program targets young people aged between 9 and 15 years, from Horn of Africa nations (specifically the Somali, Eritrean, Ethiopian and Oromo communities). Separate programs run for each gender and as such, both girls and

boys participate; however, male participants (120) far outnumber female participants (30). The girls' program has been in operation for 18 months, while the boys' program has been running on and off for several years. Both programs operate in metropolitan Melbourne.

Core funding for the program is provided by DIAC and the Community Health Centre. The girls' soccer program is also supported by a committee of agencies including the City of Melbourne council. The boys' program is run by the African communities themselves, with Jesuit Social Services providing assistance in maintaining club infrastructure and obtaining funding through various grants.

Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia (MRCSA) Sports Subsidy Program

MRCSA provides settlement support to newly arrived migrants and refugees across South Australia.

MRCSA's Sports Subsidy Program offered financial support to young people from new and emerging communities, to assist them in becoming involved in formal sport and recreation through mainstream clubs and organisations.

The program was funded by Office for Sports and Recreation from 2002, and concluded in 2007 due to a lack of funding. 85 participants were involved in the program, including both girls and boys, however boys outnumbered girls by a 5:1 ratio.

Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) of Southern Tasmania Soccer Program

The MRC of Southern Tasmania provides settlement support to newly arrived migrants and refugees in Tasmania.

The MRC links participants from its youth program with Hobart United Football Club's under 19s soccer team. The participants involved are young men usually aged 17 or 18,

the vast majority of whom are refugees. An annual African Cup is run by the MRC, with teams from African countries (including Sudan, Ethiopia and the Congo) playing against each other.

The MRC is also involved with Hobart Police and Community Youth Club's (PCYC) Mobile Activity Centre (see Section 5.4.3). The MRC provides logistical support and advice to the PCYC, and acts as a liaison between the PCYC and the broader community (for example, through publicising the PCYC's activities).

Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia (MCCSA) Sharing Through Active Recreation

MCCSA is the peak organisation representing and supporting CALD communities in South Australia.

Sharing Through Active Recreation is part of MCCSA's community development activities, and has been operating in various forms since 2004. It aims to create opportunities for newly-arrived youth to participate in semi-structured sport programs, ideally in partnership with local sporting clubs or associations. It also endeavours to assist local clubs and sporting associations in developing culturally-appropriate programs and policies for newly-arrived youth.

While activities are open to all youth, the primary target group is newly-arrived youth. Activities which have been a part of the Sharing Through Active Recreation program include:

-  A cricket program, run in partnership with Kilburn Cricket Club, which targets young people up to 14 years of age. This program has attracted participants from Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern countries, and southern Asia. The program is supported by the SA Cricket Association, Lutheran Community Care, the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the Prospect District Cricket Club, as part of the *New Arrivals: A Sporting Chance* program (see Section 5.1).

- 🏀 The 3-Ball basketball competition, a 3-on-3 competition run in partnership with Basketball SA (see Section 5.3.3). The program involves 14 to 20 year olds, and is very popular with African youth. Both 3-Ball and the Kilburn cricket program tend to be dominated by male participants.
- 🎾 The Advantage Refugees! Tennis Bridging Program, run with Grange Lawn Tennis Club (see Section 5.3.3).
- 🎾 A girls' tennis program, run at Clearview Tennis Club with support from Port Adelaide Enfield Council (see Section 5.2.2).

NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) Soccer Programs

STARTTS is a rehabilitation agency which assists refugees in NSW to recover from experiences of torture and trauma.

STARTTS manages two soccer programs for refugee young people aged between 14 and 18, who have been in Australia for less than five years:

- 🏀 Soccer Camps, which consist of training and skill development clinics. Up to 60 participants are involved in the camps. Some camps have been run in partnership with other agencies, such as Auburn Migrant Resource Centre and Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre.
- 🏀 Soccer Tournaments, involving as many as 130 participants. One of the core aims of these tournaments is to raise awareness of opportunities to participate in local clubs. Since participants in metropolitan areas are often already linked with local clubs, tournaments are primarily run in regional areas where these linkages are absent.

Both programs have been in operation since 2006, and involve male participants only. Participants come from a variety of CALD backgrounds, including African, Asian and Middle Eastern. The programs operate in metropolitan Sydney as well as regional areas such as Newcastle and Tamworth.

In addition, STARTTS also supports a range of other soccer programs by providing:

- 🏆 Support and advice to an African Soccer Team in Newcastle, including organising professionals to advise on fitness, drills and general life skills, and assisting the team to access gyms and voice concerns.
- 🏆 Transport and uniforms to the Western Sydney Burundian Soccer Team.
- 🏆 Transport, advice and support for a Soccer Gala Day run by the Horn of African Relief and Development Agency (HARDA).
- 🏆 Advice and support (as a member of the steering committee) for the Auburn Football (Soccer) Cultural Diversity Project, run by Auburn Council (see Section 5.2.2).

Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT)

QPASTT is a Queensland rehabilitation agency providing services and support to survivors of torture and trauma.

QPASTT does not have a structured program relating to refugees' involvement in sport. However, they do attempts to facilitate linkages between refugee young people and the broader community, including sport organisations. Initiatives have included:

- 🏆 An information session for young people and service providers which outlined how to apply for grants/sponsorship and how to get involved in local clubs.
- 🏆 Assisting a team of young basketball players to write a grant submission so that they could register and buy uniforms.

Some of QPASTT's school holiday activities also include a sport component.

Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC) Youth Led Sport Tournament

SEAAC provides a range of services for young people from CALD backgrounds, including migrants, refugees and those from new and emerging communities.

Based in Bundoora, Melbourne, this soccer tournament is organised and run by CALD youth, with assistance from SEAAC. It aims to enable young people aged 15-26 from CALD backgrounds to participate in soccer at a community level. The program currently involves 10 soccer teams (8 boys teams and 2 girls teams) with 15 participants each. Participants come from a variety of backgrounds including Burmese, Sudanese, Afghan and Brazilian. The program is funded by the VMC, and will be ongoing so long as funding can be obtained.

Since registration fees at mainstream clubs can be prohibitively expensive for CALD youth, the program endeavours to create pathways to formal participation by focusing on skill development and providing financial support. SEAAC also facilitates involvement by providing transport to and from soccer games.

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (SMRC) Bridging the Gaps with Basketball Program

SMRC provides settlement services for migrants and refugees in Victoria.

This program aims to engage young people, aged between 12 and 20, in organised sport and leadership initiatives, through mentoring, training and team-building. SMRC also supports participants by providing uniforms, coaching, equipment and transportation to and from games.

Originally designed to target refugee youth, the program now involves participants from many (including non-CALD) backgrounds. However, participants still primarily belong to refugee/CALD communities, particularly the Sudanese, Somali and Thai communities. Additionally, there are five CALD basketball teams involved in the program, with young people from Somali, Tongan, Vietnamese, Samoan and Sudanese backgrounds.

45 young people participate in the program on a weekly basis, with a further 30 involved on a sporadic basis. It is open to both genders, with both males and females participating fairly evenly. The program operates in northern Melbourne, specifically in the City of Darebin, and has been running since 2003. It is currently funded by DIAC, however the program was initially funded by VicHealth and has also received financial assistance from Variety Children's Charity.

Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau (SCAAB) Youth Links Sport Program

SCAAB is a community information and support service which provides a range of services to the Springvale community.

This program, run in partnership with peak sporting bodies, uses sport as a vehicle through which to develop life skills, with a broader aim of creating pathways to participation in mainstream sport clubs. The latest program involved a partnership with Football Federation Victoria, and used soccer to improve participants' problem-solving, planning and leaderships skills, and create social networks.

The soccer program targeted the African community in Springvale, Melbourne, and involved 16 participants (the number required to form a soccer squad) aged between 14 and 18. Because it was not possible to field a mixed-gender team in soccer competitions, the team was composed of male participants only.

SCAAB's sport programs are funded by DIAC through the SGP (see Section 4.4.1), and will be ongoing so long as the funding continues.

Whittlesea Community Connections Community Soccer Program

Whittlesea Community Connections provides services to support and assist disadvantaged members of the communities within the City of Whittlesea (northern Melbourne).

The Community Soccer Program engages young people from CALD backgrounds, particularly refugee communities, in soccer training and tournaments, with the aim of linking participants with established local community sport clubs. The program also aims to work with local clubs to address access barriers for newly arrived refugee youth.

Around 80-100 participants are involved in the program, including members of the Liberian, Sudanese, Burmese, Sierra Leonean and Iraqi communities. The program is open to both genders, however it has been dominated by male participants.

The Community Soccer Program began in January 2008, and is funded until December 2008 through the Living in Harmony program (see Section 4.4.2).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The programs in this section all attempt to increase the capacity of the refugee and/or CALD communities to participate in sport, through removing some of the barriers to participation faced by these groups (for example, through providing transport or financial assistance, assisting in skill development and creating linkages between participants and local clubs). As such, they may serve as models for overcoming these barriers. The following programs in particular appear to have a strong focus on surmounting barriers to participation:

-  Edmund Rice Centre
-  MCCSA
-  SMRC
-  STARTTS

 SEAAC

 Whittlesea Community Connections

Furthermore, many of the above programs involve partnerships between government agencies, sporting administrators, service providers and refugee communities. Since such relationships are central to ensuring an integrated approach to involving refugees in sport, these programs could serve as models for successfully building and maintaining these relationships. Partnerships are a particularly prominent feature of the programs run by:

 CMY

 Edmund Rice Centre

 Jesuit Social Services

 MRC of Southern Tasmania

 MCCA

 STARTTS

 SCAAB

 Whittlesea Community Connections

There are several additional aspects of these programs which are relevant for further consultation:

 The Edmund Rice Centre, Jesuit Social Services, SCAAB and Whittlesea Community Connections are involved both in direct service delivery and in establishing relationships with other agencies, thus they have experience in two key areas of involving refugees in sport.

 The programs run by the Edmund Rice Centre, MCCA and SMRC have attracted relatively even numbers of male and female participants, therefore they may provide models for involving refugee women and girls in sport.

 STARTTS' soccer programs have expanded in regional areas, and may be able to provide insights into implementing programs in these areas.

 CMY, while not heavily involved in direct service provision, is noteworthy due to its years of experience in the field and extensive knowledgebase. While the lessons learnt in Victoria may not be applicable to NSW in every case, it is highly

likely that CMY can provide valuable information on the most effective strategies for involving refugees in sport.

Compared to the other agencies profiled in this section, MRCSA and QPASTT are less relevant for further consultation:

-  MRCSA's program was primarily based on providing financial assistance, whereas other agencies in this section have adopted a wider range of strategies to overcome barriers to participation.
-  QPASTT's initiatives are relatively informal and are not part of a broader, targeted program. As such, QPASTT's initiatives are unlikely to emerge as a prime example of a targeted sport program for refugees.

5.4.3 Recreational/Educational Programs

Australian League of Immigration Volunteers (ALIV)

ALIV provides a range of recreational and development programs which aim to assist children and families who are on Bridging Visas, or living in Community or Immigration Detention.

Sport is one aspect of ALIV's development program, which operates in the Sydney area. The program targets people on Bridging Visa E, those who have recently been released from detention, and special cases. The program began in 2002, with a focus on children in immigration detention. Due to the fact that children are no longer held in immigration detention in Australia, the focus has shifted to Bridging Visa E holders. The future direction of ALIV's sport program is thus likely to be largely determined by future government policy (for instance, if Bridging Visa E is abolished, ALIV's clientele will again change). ALIV's programs are funded through grants, however they receive no government funding.

ALIV's current sport programs target children up to 18 years of age, although adults are also involved through family programs. The number of participants varies, with around 10 children usually involved in smaller programs, and up to 50 involved in larger programs. The programs are open to both girls and boys, with both participating in relatively even numbers when children are young. However, as girls grow older it becomes more difficult to involve them in the sport programs.

A variety of CALD communities is involved in the programs. People from Asian backgrounds tend to predominate in ALIV's programs, however a program run in conjunction with STARTTS (see Section 5.4.2) has mainly African and Iraqi participants.

Hobart Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYC)

Hobart PCYC is a community service organisation which provides social and recreational opportunities for young people.

Hobart PCYC manages a number of programs which aim to involve refugee young people in sport and recreation:

-  The Mobile Activity Centre (MAC), a bus and tandem trailer which carries sports equipment to the various venues around Hobart, to set up sport activities for young people. These activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, hockey, cricket, football, tennis and tug-of-war. In inclement weather, participants from the outer suburbs of Hobart are transported to the PCYC for indoor activities.
-  Special welcoming and community days for the refugee and migrant community. Over 200 members of the CALD community attend these days.
-  Teen Vacation programs including excursions to sport activities such as ten pin bowling, indoor golf, ice skating and swimming.
-  An in-house program which aims to increase refugees' access to PCYC's mainstream sport activities, such as gymnastics, weight training, cheerleading, basketball, and other indoor games. For example, the PCYC provides a special weight training and self-defence program for Muslim women.

The PCYC also collects young people from the club or from their homes and provides transport to sport venues. Activities at these venues can include competitions against other teams.

Hobart PCYC's programs involve between 400 and 500 members of the refugee and migrant community in the Hobart area. Participants belong to at least 31 different national groups, with most coming from North African countries (such as Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burundi and Ethiopia). An increasing number of participants come from Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern countries, and Burma. Membership fees are waived for members of the refugee and migrant communities, and a \$1 fee applies to some classes only if members can afford it. The club also assists young people to organise fundraising programs for sport-related expenses such as uniforms and transport to competition and coaching clinics.

The programs predominantly target young people between 6 and 25 years of age, although they are open to the whole community, and whole families participate in community days. Both boys and girls are involved in the activities, however some activities are dominated by one gender (eg. weight training is dominated by men, while cheerleading is dominated by women).

Additionally, Hobart PCYC provides special cultural training for police officers. As part of training, officers attend and participate in activities at the PCYC with refugee teenagers.

Hobart PCYC's refugee programs are funded through the Living in Harmony grants scheme (see Section 4.4.2). Their programs are largely reliant on external funding, as in the absence of financial support the PCYC cannot cover the costs of instructors, buses, drivers etc. The club has recently obtained extended funding which will support the MAC program for the next eighteen months.

Melaleuca Refugee Centre Water Safety Program

The Melaleuca Refugee Centre provides settlement services and torture and trauma rehabilitation to refugees and asylum seekers in the Northern Territory.

This program aims to introduce young people from refugee backgrounds to the basics of water safety. It targets young people between the ages of 8 and 25 who have arrived in Australia within the previous 12 months. In 2008, 50 participants were involved in the program, with both males and females participating in even numbers. Participants came from African and South East Asian backgrounds, including Sudanese, Congolese, Liberian, Somali and Burmese.

The program, now in its second year of operation, operates in the metropolitan areas of Darwin and is supported by the Royal Lifesaving Society and Darwin City Council. So long as this support continues, it will continue to run annually

Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Program – SAIL Xtend

The SAIL Program provides a variety of free educational and community services to the Sudanese community.

The SAIL Xtend program provides extra-curricular short courses for school-aged SAIL participants in Dandenong, Braybrook and Footscray in metropolitan Melbourne, and Seven Hills in western Sydney. Courses available through SAIL Xtend include dance, soccer, tennis, AFL, athletics and krumping (a form of dance), as well as painting and cooking. Across all locations, around 60-70 students participate in the program, with fairly even numbers of boys and girls participating in the sport courses.

The SAIL Xtend program receives no government funding – all funding comes from private philanthropic donations and grants from private funds.

South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre Afghan Girls Indoor Soccer Program

The South Eastern Region MRC provides a range of services migrants and refugees in the south eastern region of Melbourne.

This program provides young refugee women with an opportunity to participate in sport in a culturally-appropriate environment. It aims to encourage young women from Afghan (and, more broadly, refugee) backgrounds to participate in sport, and to educate families about the mental and physical health benefits of sport. The program currently involves 12 participants aged between 12 and 25 years old, in the Greater Dandenong region of metropolitan Melbourne. The program has been in operation for 6 months, and is funded by DIAC and the City of Casey (see Section 5.2.2).

In addition, the MRC runs one off sporting events, such as soccer tournaments, and is currently planning several other sport programs:

-  A Women's Sports Leadership Program, beginning in 2009, funded by the Australian Sport Commission.
-  A Women Only Swimming Program, run in partnership with CMY (see Section 5.4.2) and the City of Casey.
-  Involvement in basketball programs run by the City of Greater Dandenong.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These programs primarily focus on providing recreational and educational opportunities, rather than creating opportunities for long-term, formal participation in sport or establishing links with mainstream sporting associations. However, the programs may still serve as models for involving refugees in sport, as they provide contexts in which refugees can be introduced to and experience a range of different sports.

Furthermore, the programs each have features which may warrant further consultation:

- 🏆 ALIV's programs are specifically designed for refugees who have come to Australia as asylum seekers, and thus have special needs among refugees. Out of the programs surveyed, ALIV's is the only one which provides a specific model for involving asylum seekers in sport.
- 🏆 Hobart PCYC is notable for the strategies it has implemented to overcome barriers to participation, for example providing transport to venues, waiving fees and offering a variety of programs which appeal to a range of groups.
- 🏆 Melaleuca Refugee Centre works in partnership with a sporting body and a government department, thus it could serve as a model for building relationships between agencies.
- 🏆 SAIL Xtend is unique in that it is specifically tailored to the needs of one of the major refugee communities in Australia. Since many refugees in NSW belong to the Sudanese community, and especially considering that one of SAIL's campuses is located in NSW, the program has significant applicability to the NSW context.
- 🏆 The Afghan Girls Indoor Soccer Program is specifically designed for women, and thus could act as a model for overcoming gender barriers to participation in sport (Hobart PCYC, Melaleuca Refugee Centre and SAIL's programs, which have successfully attracted numerous female participants, could also serve as models in this sense).

5.4.4 New & Emerging Programs

Diversitat Out of Africa, Into Soccer Project

Diversitat (the trading name for Geelong Ethnic Communities Council) is a community organisation which provides a range of services for the CALD community in the greater Geelong and Colac areas of Victoria.

This emerging project, funded by VicHealth, aims to enhance the settlement of the emerging African refugee community by facilitating and supporting their participation in sporting activities. The project also endeavours to develop the leadership skills of community members through mentoring with existing local sporting clubs.

OnSide Victoria Life Skills Through Sport Program

OnSide Victoria aims to provide a range of sport and recreation opportunities for CALD communities and other disadvantaged groups. One of their core aims is to assist refugees and new arrivals to overcome the barriers they may face to participating in sport.

This program is designed to provide CALD youth an opportunity to develop life skills through becoming involved in sport. It aims to increase CALD young people's participation in all levels of community sport and active recreation, including direct participation, leadership, coaching, officiating, administration, governance and volunteering. The program will involve skill development activities, leadership and coaching programs, and cultural awareness training for local clubs.

The program, funded through VicHealth, plans to target the Sudanese community in the cities of Casey and Greater Dandenong, but is currently still in the planning stages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since these programs are still emerging, it is difficult at this stage to evaluate them in a meaningful way. As such, it is unlikely that they will be able to serve as models of best practice at the present time.

However, OnSide Victoria is noteworthy in that it has made a specific commitment to increasing refugees' involvement in sport. Since OnSide has in the past run sport programs for the CALD community, they may be able to offer some insights into designing sport programs for CALD groups, including refugees.

6. Additional Recommendations

6.1 Consultation with a Range of Agencies

The programs profiled in this report adopt a range of approaches to involving refugees in sport. These include introducing refugees to sport, raising awareness of sporting opportunities, building links between refugees and the broader community, and creating opportunities for formal participation. Since all of these approaches are important elements in overcoming the barriers to refugees' participation in sport, it is unlikely that any single program will serve as a comprehensive model of best practice. Rather, investigating a variety of approaches will be necessary to build good practice models, as each approach will yield unique information about involving refugees in sport.

Additionally, the results from this project suggest that there are few sport programs which have an exclusive focus on the refugee community. Many of the programs profiled in this report target CALD communities in general, rather than refugees specifically. However, the results also indicate that undertaking consultation only with agencies which specifically target refugees would be unnecessarily restrictive. Since refugees are members of CALD communities, many of the programs designed for CALD groups are also relevant to and involve refugees. Moreover, programs which involve participants from a variety of backgrounds (including refugees and migrants as well as people from non-CALD groups) may play a key role in building relationships and trust between refugees and the broader community.

6.2 Key Focus Areas to be Addressed

The focus areas identified here will not be relevant to every program profiled in this report. For instance, investigating the strategies used to involve women and girls in sport is only relevant to programs which have overcome (or attempted to overcome) gender barriers to participation. Additionally, some focus areas are more relevant to practical

measures rather than policies. The profiles in Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 and the summary in Section 5.5 will indicate which focus areas are most relevant to each program.

Strategies used to tailor programs/policies to the needs of refugees

A lack of culturally-appropriate sport programs for refugees, and the dearth of specific policies relating to refugees' participation in sport, are major barriers to involvement. Investigating the strategies used to design programs and policies which take a diverse range of cultural needs into account will thus be central to building models of best practice. Given that refugees have unique needs which differ from other migrants and CALD groups, this focus area is particularly relevant to agencies which specifically target refugees.

Strategies used to overcome barriers to participation

Overcoming the barriers to participation (such as language and a lack of access to transport) is crucial to increasing refugees' participation in sport. As such, information about how agencies have overcome these barriers will be fundamental to building models of best practice.

Strategies used to involve women and girls from refugee and CALD backgrounds

The findings in this report confirm that gender is a major barrier to the participation of refugee and CALD women and girls in sport. In many of the programs profiled, women and girls had a lower participation rate than men and boys. Therefore, programs which have even participation rates by both genders, or are specially designed for women and girls, may offer critical information about overcoming gender barriers to participation.

Strategies used to expand programs into regional areas

The vast majority of programs profiled in this report operate in metropolitan areas. However, many refugees in NSW initially settle in regional areas, and are thus unable to access sport programs in rural areas. The few agencies which have successfully implemented regional programs may therefore offer important insights into expanding

metropolitan-based programs into regional areas, and delivering programs in this unique context.

The importance of linkages between various agencies

Both CMY and DIAC point to the importance of linkages between various agencies in ensuring an integrated approach to involving refugees in sport (see Olliff 2007; Dykes & Olliff 2007; DIAC 2007c). The findings in this report also attest to the significance of such linkages, as many of the programs profiled are based on the sharing of resources and expertise between different agencies. As such, examining how agencies have established these linkages, and the role such relationships play in sport programs, is likely to be a core aspect of building models of best practice.

Challenges faced in designing and implementing programs/policies

Information about the potential difficulties agencies may face in involving refugees in sport, both in terms of designing policy and delivering programs, is likely to be significant in building models of best practice. Enquiring about the challenges agencies have faced may offer useful insights into avoiding potential complications when designing and implementing sport programs for refugees. Additionally, information about how agencies have attempted to address or overcome these challenges may assist others in confronting similar challenges in the future.

6.3 Consultation with Refugee Communities

As well as consulting with service providers, it will be necessary to consult directly with the refugee community. Due to the fact that they will directly affect the refugee community, any policies or programs relating to refugees' participation in sport should take into account the refugees' perspectives towards issues such as:

-  Participating in sport.
-  Access to and ability to participate in sport.
-  Barriers to participation.
-  How the sport sector could be made more inclusive for refugees.

 How sport programs designed for refugees could be improved.

As they work closely with refugee and/or CALD communities, the agencies profiled in this report will likely be able to assist in organising consultations with refugee communities.

7. Conclusion

Since this report is intended as a foundation for further research, rather than a complete project, it is difficult at this stage to draw any comprehensive conclusions. Further consultation in relation to the key focus areas identified will be necessary before detailed and meaningful conclusions can be drawn.

However, the initial results confirm that the sport programs currently available for refugees in NSW are extremely limited, and are thus insufficient to meet the needs of the entire NSW refugee community. This report is thus further evidence of the need to increase the opportunities for refugees to participate in sport, attesting to the necessity of further consultation.

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9. Appendices

9.1 APPENDIX 1: Survey Questions

The following questions were utilised in the informal survey of state government departments, sporting administrators and non-government organisations. Contacts were asked the questions verbally over the phone, or via e-mail. The profiles in Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 were compiled using evidence from these surveys.

The Refugee Council of Australia is conducting research into the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement, and I am researching current approaches to involving refugees in sport around Australia.

Does your department/organisation offer/fund any programs designed to involve people from refugee backgrounds OR culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in sport?

If YES:

Do you have a few moments to answer some questions about the program(s)? The information I'm gathering will be used to compile profiles of these approaches, with the ultimate aim of developing models of best practice. As I am undertaking this research as part of a student placement, the information may also be seen by my university tutor, so please let me know if this will be an issue.

1. What is the nature of the program, ie. what does it involve?
2. Does the program target refugees, people from CALD backgrounds in general, or both?
3. How many participants are involved in the program?
4. Is the program open to both men and women? Does it tend dominated by one gender?
5. Does the program target a particular age group?
6. To which cultural/linguistic communities do participants primarily belong?
7. In which area does the program operate (ie. metropolitan/regional, how large an area does it cover)?
8. How long has the program been in operation?
9. Is the program likely to be ongoing?
10. How is the program funded?
11. Can we contact you in the future for further consultation in relation to this project?

Thankyou for your time!

9.2 APPENDIX 2: Contact List

The agencies below were all contacted, via telephone or e-mail, throughout the course of the project. Agencies in **bold** are profiled in Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

9.2.1 Government Departments

Australian Sports Commission
ACT Sport and Recreation Services
ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs
NSW Community Relations Commission
NSW Department of Health
NSW Sport and Recreation
Auburn Council
NT Department of Local Government,
Housing and Sport
Multicultural Affairs NT
Queensland Department of Sport and
Recreation
Multicultural Affairs Queensland
Sport and Recreation Victoria

Victorian Multicultural Commission
VicHealth
City of Casey
Darebin City Council Leisure Network
City of Greater Dandenong
SA Office for Recreation and Sport
Multicultural SA
City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Multicultural Tasmania
Launceston City Council
WA Department of Sport and Recreation
WA Office of Multicultural Interests
City of Stirling

9.2.2 Sporting Bodies and Administrators

Basketball Australia
Basketball SA
Basketball Victoria
Cricket Australia
Cricket NSW
Queensland Cricket
Cricket Victoria
Australian Football League (AFL)
Football Federation Australia (FFA)
Football NSW
Football Federation Victoria
Football West
Queensland Roar
SA Women's Soccer Association
Australian Little Athletics
Little Athletics Association of New South
Wales

Netball Australia
Netball NSW
Netball Victoria
Australian Oztag Sports Association
Australian Rugby League (ARL)
National Rugby League (NRL)
Australian Rugby Union
Surf Life Saving Australia
Life Saving Victoria
Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club
Swimming Australia
Tennis Australia
Tennis NSW
Tennis Victoria
Clearview Tennis Club
Grange Lawn Tennis Club

9.2.3 Non-Government Organisations, Settlement Service Providers and Community Organisations

Australian League of Immigration Volunteers (ALIV)

Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre
Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre

Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) Companion House

Diversitat

Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ)

Hobart Police and Community Youth Club

Jesuit Social Services

Launceston Migrant Resource Centre
Lutheran Community Care

Melaleuca Refugee Centre

Migrant Resource Centre of Canberra and Queanbeyan

Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia

Migrant Resource Centre of Southern Tasmania

Multicultural Communities Council of SA

Multicultural Youth Services

NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)

OnSide Victoria

Queensland Police and Community Youth Clubs

Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT)

RecLink

South East Region Migrant Resource Centre

Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC)

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre

Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau (SCAAB)

Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Program

Whittlesea Community Connections