



**National Indigenous Sports Summit**  
**Korin Gamadji Institute – Richmond AFL Club**  
**Melbourne - 12-13 October 2017**

The Inaugural National Indigenous Sports Summit was proudly sponsored by:



## SUMMIT REPORT

### INAUGURAL NATIONAL INDIGENOUS SPORTS SUMMIT:

The inaugural National Indigenous Sports Summit was conducted at the Korin Gamadji Institute – Richmond AFL Club, Melbourne on Friday 13 October with welcome drinks held the evening prior.

**Welcome:** Wayne Coolwell, chair of the Summit Organising Committee welcomed over 70 delegates who had assembled from remote, regional and metropolitan communities from across Australia.

“The aim of the Summit is to finally deliver a national body which will advocate on behalf of Indigenous sports people and groups from across the country, so voices from a remote and isolated region will have the chance to be heard,” said Coolwell.



Summit Organising Committee chair Wayne Coolwell

**Delegates to the Summit:** The organising committee had hoped to attract the widest possible representation from organisations and individuals with an interest in indigenous sport.

Attending the summit were representatives from:

- Government departments and agencies responsible for indigenous affairs, health, community services and sport.
- Current and former indigenous sports men and women who had competed at elite and/or grassroots level.

- Representatives of non-government organisations delivering sport and physical activity related programs in remote, regional and metropolitan areas.
- National, state and local sporting organisations

An attendance list is attached as appendix 2.

**Welcome to Country:** Wurundjeri Elder, Perry Wandin welcomed delegates to Wurundjeri country.

### Political Support for the Summit:

The following political representatives spoke in positive terms about the ability of sport to engage, to provide healthy and enjoyable activity and to provide broader opportunities for indigenous communities and individuals:

- Hon. Ken Wyatt MP, Australian Government - Minister for Indigenous Health
- Hon. Linda Burney MP, Shadow Minister for Human Services
- Senator Don Farrell, Shadow Minister for Sport
- Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP, Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



Linda Burney MP formally opens the Summit “Sport is fundamental to Aboriginal people”

### PURPOSE OF THE SUMMIT

The major purpose of the summit was to bring a broad group of indigenous stakeholders together to discuss whether there would be value in establishing a National Indigenous Sports Advocacy body.

### Key Questions for the Summit

The following key questions were posed to the delegates:

1. Is there a need for a National Indigenous Sports Advocacy body? If Yes then:
2. What major issues would the organisation address?
3. What would be the major objectives and outcomes pursued?
4. What would be the structure, role and responsibility of the organisation?

### Presentations to the Summit

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- An historical perspective of indigenous sport in Australia – video highlights of Lloyd McDermott, John Moriarty, Charlie Perkins, Yvonne Goolagong and other pioneers of

indigenous sport

- Challenges and barriers facing young indigenous people striving to reach the elite levels of sport
- Challenges facing community level participation in sport and physical activity with perspectives from remote, regional and metropolitan Australia.
- Challenges in providing community level sport and physical activity in communities promoting a with a whole of life 'be active' approach.
- Case studies of successful programs being conducted across Australia
- The importance of access, equity and inclusion in sport for all indigenous people – particularly focusing on women and girls

## OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

From the presentations, group work, discussions and other input the following outcomes of the Summit are proposed.

The answer to the Key Questions:

### **Question 1: Is there a need for a National Indigenous Sports Advocacy body?**

Overwhelmingly "Yes" – there is a need for a national voice.

## Broad areas of Focus

The following are included as broad areas of focus and direction for the future organisation.

### **Advocacy**

- To advocate on behalf of Indigenous people and to also promote the great values of sport and recreation to all levels of Government and non-Government sectors.
- Work to ensure that ATSI people have access to suitable sports facilities and other sporting resources at a national level
- Work to ensure that ATSI people have access to suitable sports facilities and other sporting resources at all levels

### **Planning**

- To assist in the co-ordination of broad long term planning for Indigenous sport across Australia

### **Policy Development:**

- Work in collaboration with our state bodies and representatives in helping to formulate policies which will have a major benefit to Indigenous people through the collection and collation of information and views by our membership and supporters but also by the minority view.
- Being aware and responsive to the needs of our first nations people involved in the sports industry, who have a disability and also those who are restricted with some other form of health related problem. To ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and well-being plays a central role in our advocacy and promotional work across the country.

### **Promotion**

- Promote the wonderful values of Sport and recreation through the presentation of awards of merits or any other form of recognition at a National level

### **Communication**

- Being able to provide our membership and supporters around Australia with the opportunity to express their views and opinions at forums and on-line, as well to promote the exchange of information and views where appropriate
- Establish a Social Media network to seek views and provide information on the latest issues

### **National Network/Membership**

- Assist with all states and territories to formulate their own sporting bodies which will align with the work of the National ATSI Sports Foundation
- To ensure that the National body works in partnership with and always includes the views of Indigenous sport and recreation organisations in remote and isolated regions.
- To ensure we work in partnership with all levels of Government, the major and minor sporting organisations; the semi - governmental bodies; institutions; and the not for profit sector in an effort to give the greatest opportunity for Indigenous people to participate in sport and recreation
- To ensuring that indigenous people are available as options for leading roles – coaches, managers, board and committee roles – as well as athletes and players.

### **Recognition**

- Create a National Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame or Museum to acknowledge the significant contribution of our First Nations sports men and women

## **RANKING OF PRIORITIES:**

The Summit members were asked to indicate a ranking of priorities and issues that had been raised in the Pre-Summit Survey and from Summit presentations and discussions.

### **Question 2: Major issues for Indigenous Sport**

#### ***What major issues would the organisation address?***

1. Commitment to continuity of funding: not just one-off programs that last for a year and then lapse. Ongoing participation vs one-off experiences. Aboriginal communities are overloaded with programs and initiatives that are here today gone tomorrow. It is impossible to generate any momentum without continuity. (31 votes)
2. Access to programs and resources including provided greater access to adequate facilities and competitions. (26 votes)
3. High cost of participation in sport at all levels is a major barrier. Highlighted was the high cost of travel to get to competition both nationally and internationally (and indeed regionally). (16 votes)
4. Access to resources to allow regular competition – Long distances over unsealed roads makes transporting of teams a challenge – Vehicle repairs, licenced drivers, fuel costs (10 votes)
5. No Indigenous management on Australian teams including coaches. There is currently no discernible pathway for indigenous coaches, officials, management (8 votes)
6. Accessibility and efficient distribution of funding to recipient organisations. Ensuring that decisions on funding are made quickly so that the recipient community can access

funds in a timely manner that does not affect participation, enthusiasm and commitment to available resources including human resources. (7 votes)

7. There always appears to be much paternalism and resistance to our work - a perception that the major 'white' sporting groups will answer for us and look after our needs (6 votes)

### **Question 3: Priorities for a national indigenous sport advocacy body**

#### ***What would be the major objectives and outcomes pursued?***

1. Increase sports capacity funding at Grassroots level. A focus needs to be put on Grass Roots participation especially Management and Administration of sport including Coaching, Officiating and Administration education. Currently Indigenous participation is strong but when it comes to Coaching, Officiating and Administration the participation levels in these areas isn't comparable. (32 votes)
2. Strategic alignment, integration and connection to Government and the Australian sport and corporate sectors. (24 votes)
3. Support pathway programs for young talent. (14 votes)
4. Promote and advocate the value of sport and physical activity for all Australians, particularly focusing on Indigenous Australians. (11 votes)
5. Help local communities drive participation in sport. (11 votes)
6. Help attract and deliver more funding in the space that we are not covering currently i.e. individual and team support through minor funding opportunities, when teams want to compete but find barriers that restrict participation. (8 votes)

### **Question 4: Organisation Structure and Membership**

#### ***What would be the structure, role and responsibility of the organisation?***

In the discussion led by Margot Foster the following principles were agreed:

1. That the composition of the national advocacy body should be based on an Independent Membership structure rather than a representative structure to ensure the most appropriate individuals were appointed and a breadth of desirable skills and experience is made available.
2. The number of appointees to the national advocacy body to be kept at a level to ensure efficient decision making – suggested 7-9 members.
3. The underlying theme is to ensure that the body believes and can demonstrate that it has self-determination and provides a true representation of the views of the indigenous community

#### **Appointment of Working Party:**

It was decided that a National Indigenous Sports Working Party should be formed to take the issues forward to the next step.

Nominations were taken from the Summit attendees and a further call for nominations will be called post-Summit.

The initial role will be to consider the issues and direction raised from the Summit and to develop a Terms of Reference for future guidance.

## FUTURE WORKING PARTY - TAKING THE ISSUES FORWARD

The following group nominated as members of the National Indigenous Sports Working Party to take the work of the Summit to the next step.



From left to right: Margot Foster AM, Danny Morseu, June Bamblett, Rob Bradley, Belinda Duarte, Kyle Vander-Kyup, Wayne Coolwell (chair). (absent) Sean Allcock and Mick Albert

This report and all conference materials have been referred to the National Indigenous Sport Working Party.

***The inaugural National Indigenous Sports Summit was a great success and we sincerely thank all those who attended and those who supported the event. Our future is exciting but the work has only just begun!***

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## Appendix 1:

### Summit Program: Held at Richmond AFL Club Melbourne – 13 October 2017

Time	Session	Presenter
9:00 – 9:10	<b>Welcome</b> – introduction and housekeeping	MC - Shelley Ware (NITV)
9:10 – 9:15	<b>Welcome to Country</b>	Wurundjeri Elder, Perry Wandin
9:15 – 9:25	<b>Summit Opening Address</b> – <i>the importance of a National voice for indigenous sport</i>	Hon. Linda Burney MP, Shadow Minister for Human Services
9:25 – 9:35	<b>Shadow Minister for Sport Address</b> – <i>the Federal Opposition's perspective on sport and indigenous sport</i>	Senator Don Farrell, Shadow Minister for Sport
9:35 – 9:55	<b>Proposal to establish a National Indigenous Sports Association</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background and purpose of the summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is a national body needed?</li> <li>What would be its structure/role?</li> <li>Outcomes and next steps</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Wayne Coolwell - President of Indigenous Sport, Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include historical video footage</li> <li>introducing John Moriarty – first indigenous football player to represent Australia</li> </ul>
9:55 – 10:40	<b>Issues confronting indigenous sport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perspectives from around the nation – identifying high priority issues and challenges for high performance and community level participation</li> </ul>	Shelley Ware – introduces case studies and personal experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues confronting elite and potential elite sportspeople - Mat Stokes (AFL Diversity Lead)</li> <li>Issues impacting physical activity levels in indigenous communities – Mick Albert- (CEO Garnduwa Amboorny Wirnan, WA)</li> <li>Perspectives from other states</li> </ul>
10:40 – 11:05	Morning Tea	
11:05 – 11:25	<b>Key Note Address</b> – <i>The importance of sport to indigenous Australians</i>	Hon. Ken Wyatt MP, Federal Minister for Indigenous Health
11:25 – 12:20	<b>Maximising the knowledge available in the room today!</b>	Led by Belinda Duarte (CEO Culture is Life) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using small group interaction to highlight the opportunities presented by this Summit</li> <li>Explaining why ensuring access and equity within indigenous sport is so vital</li> </ul>
12:20 – 12:30	<b>Welcome to the Summit</b> - <i>by sponsor the Victorian Government</i>	Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP, Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
12:30 – 1:15	Lunch	
1:15 – 2:15	<b>Panel Session: What's already out there?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Profiling successful structures and programs that currently exist from government and the broader community</li> </ul>	Led by Robbie Miniter (Regional Manager Wirrpanda Foundation) highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Peoples Sports Foundation in Victoria – the business case for FPSF - Aaron Clark</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional and remote focused initiatives – successful strategies of the Wirrpanda Foundation</li> <li>• National Indigenous Basketball Academy – Danny Morseu (Pres)</li> </ul>
2:15 – 2:35	<b>Consolidating Major Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and ranking the major priorities for addressing in future</li> </ul>	Led by Rob Bradley – (CEO Confederation of Australian Sport) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting on feedback from pre-Summit survey results and from session input</li> <li>• Determine the major priorities and actions</li> </ul>
2:35 – 2:50	Afternoon Tea	
2:50 – 3:50	<b>Establishing a framework of the National Indigenous Sports organisation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desired organisational structure – representative or independent structure.</li> <li>• Organisational role, responsibilities</li> <li>• Membership, legal structure and processes</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Margot Foster AM (Talk the Talk Sport)
3:50 – 4:15	<b>Wrap-Up &amp; Next Steps</b>	Summary - Rob Bradley
4:30	<b>Thanks and Close</b>	Chair Wayne Coolwell



## Appendix 2:

### ATTENDANCE LIST FOR ATSI INDIGENOUS SPORTS SUMMIT -

Richmond AFL Club - Thurs12 and Fri 13 October 2017

First Name	Surname	Organisation	State
<b>Committee</b>			
Wayne	Coolwell	President Indigenous Sport QLD	QLD
Rob	Bradley	Confederation of Australian Sport	Nat
Margot	Foster	Talk the Talk Sport	VIC
<b>Government Representatives</b>			
Hon Natalie	Hutchins	Victorian Min for Aboriginal Affairs	VIC
Hon Linda	Burney	Shadow Min Human Services - ALP	NSW
Senator Don	Farrell	Shadow Minister Sport - ALP	SA
Hon Ken	Wyatt	Aust Govt - Min for Indigenous Health	WA
Tom	Zed	Adviser to Senator Don Farrell	SA
<b>Guests</b>			
Mick	Albert	Garnduwa Kimberley	WA
Sean	Allcock	Haileybury College	VIC
Lyall	Appo	QLD Jockey Club	QLD
Tony	Armstrong	AFL Players Assoc	VIC
Sam	Atkinson	Aborigines Advancement League	VIC
Nicole	Atkinson	VACSAL	VIC
Linda	Bamblett	Victoria Aboriginal Community Services	VIC
June	Bamblett	Victoria Aboriginal Community Services	VIC
Les	Bamblett	Victoria Aboriginal Community Services	VIC
Lionel	Bamblett	Victorian Aboriginal Education Association	VIC
Esme	Bamblett	Aborigines Advancement League	VIC
Ralph	Bamblett	Melbourne Stars Basketball Club	VIC
Andrew	Bennie	Uni of Western Sydney	NSW
Kylie	Bloodworth	Australian University Sport	QLD
Che	Bonini	RMIT	VIC
Rod	Briggs	Aboriginal Sport Development Officer	VIC
Tim	Burke	Housing, Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation Division	VIC
Caleb	Cantania	RMIT	VIC
Leanne	Carlon	VicHealth	VIC
Salv	Carmusciano	Football Federation Australia	NSW
Aaron	Clark	First Peoples Sport Foundation - Vic	VIC
Neil	Dalrymple	Bowls Australia	VIC
Belinda	Duarte	Culture is Life	VIC
Matthew	Dunstan	Basketball Victoria	VIC
Miranda	Edwards	Black Eagles Basketball Club	VIC
Syd	Fry	Sport and Recreation Victoria	VIC
Lawrence	Gillant	Australian Indigenous Football	NSW
Mark	Griffin	Nyoongar Wellbeing and Sports	WA
Brooke	Irvine	Gymnastics Australia	VIC
Julie	Jackson	Department of Sport and Recreation	WA
Brett	Johnson	AFL Players Assoc	VIC
Lisa	Joyce	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	VIC
Paul	Kiteley	Australian Paralympic Committee	NSW

Tim	Klar	Netball Australia	VIC
Emma	Lipscombe	Confederation of Australian Sport	Nat
Matt	Lucas	SA Office for Sport and Recreation	SA
Ashley	Mackay	ACSEP	VIC
Peter	McCue	NSW Office of Sport	NSW
Cory	McGrath	AFL Players Assoc	VIC
Robbie	Minter	Wirrpanda Foundation	WA
Peter	Mongta	GippSport	VIC
John	Moriarty	Balarinji Design Institute	SA
Danny	Morseu	National Indigenous Basketball Academy	VIC
Cienan	Muir	Koori Youth Council	VIC
Aunty Pam	Pedersen	Yorta Yorta Elder	VIC
Vicki	Reid	Tennis Aust	VIC
Leigh	Saunders	VACSAL	VIC
Paul	Stewart	Cricket Aust	VIC
Mathew	Stokes	AFL	VIC
Paul	Sutcliffe	Australian Sports Commission	ACT
Laura	Thompson	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	VIC
Lidia	Thorpe	First Peoples Sport Foundation - Vic	VIC
Kyle	Vander-Kyup	Schiavello International	VIC
Brent	Wall	Tas Govt	TAS
Shelley	Ware	NITV Marngrook Footy Show	VIC
Fiona	Young	Squash and Racquetball Victoria	VIC