Closing The Gap Through Sport and Recreation

Sport and Recreation Minister Karl Hampton has welcomed an increased commitment from his state, territory and federal counterparts towards Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

“Indigenous Territorians make up about one-third of our population and a strong focus on sport and recreation will help Close the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage,” Mr Hampton said.

“Physical activity plays a huge role in preventing or managing health issues and it is vitally important we do more to get Indigenous Territorians involved in sport and recreation activities.

“That’s why I welcome today’s commitment made by my state, territory and federal counterparts to improve the delivery of sport and recreation services to Indigenous Australians, which we have strongly been lobbying for.

“This commitment includes the establishment of a cross-portfolio working party to report on these increased opportunities by the middle of next year.”

All Ministers at today’s Sport and Recreation Ministers’ Council meeting in Melbourne also agreed that a holistic and strategic approach to the organisation and development of sport and recreation at both community and elite levels is crucial to our success.

“I enjoyed today’s presentation by the Rudd Government’s Independent Sport Panel on their recently released report called The Future of Sport in Australia,” Mr Hampton said.

“I met with the Independent Sport Panel last year where I promoted the Territory’s passion for sport and the need to provide access to those in remote and regional areas.

“One of the key recommendations from the Independent Sport Panel is measures aimed at increasing participation levels and reducing the cost of participating in sport.

“The Territory is proof that you can have high participation rates and produce successful athletes.

“We have the equal second highest participation per capita in sport and recreation activities and we will continue to deliver more facilities, infrastructure upgrades and major sporting events to encourage Territorians to be more active.

“Sport and recreation activities deliver major health benefits throughout the community and will play a particularly strong role in Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

“The Ministerial Council will meet early next year to finalise a joint position from all jurisdictions on the National Policy Framework and structural issues arising from the report.”

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