



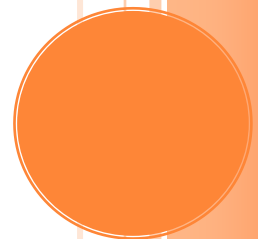
REPORT ON THE 2010 TORRES STRAIT ISLAND AND NPA REGIONAL HOCKEY COMPETITION

2010 Migi Kokan Competition

The 2010 Hockey program being delivered across the NPA communities and Torres Strait Islands culminate in a regional competition to highlight new skills developed by the young people and support leadership and mentor programs designed to meet community needs and support the sustainability of hockey across the region

Julie McNeil – Remote Hockey Program Manager

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2010 Migi Kokan Competition

Background

The Torres Strait Island and NPA Regional Hockey Competition is the culmination of the annual hockey program designed to bring opportunities across healthy activities, skill development, competition, community engagement and pathways.

Hockey as a sport has been delivering in this region for 3 years only. Hockey is not a traditional NPA or Torres Strait Island community sport however it appears that the more informed and comfortable the community members become with hockey, the more supportive of its continued development they become.

This competition is part of the Hockey Queensland Remote and Indigenous Communities Hockey Development Program which delivers hockey into some of the most isolated and disadvantaged communities in Queensland. A number of basic pillars create the foundation on which all hockey programs are developed and these are:-

- (a) Active Participation
- (b) Skill Development
- (c) Competition and Pathway
- (d) Community Engagement
- (e) Facility and Development

The flexibility built into the program allows these basic pillars to be delivered in different ways taken into account local considerations such as isolation, available facilities, population, culture and language.

The Torres Strait Island and NPA Hockey program is an example of how the flexibility in delivery has been a significant factor relating to the ongoing growth and development.



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION HOCKEY PROGRAMS

Our community partners across the Torres Strait Island and NPA deliver active hockey participation programs as part of the overall community support programs. Our partners include

- (a) Active After School Communities Program
- (b) School Physical Education Programs'
- (c) Community Sport and Recreation Programs

The hockey programs are designed to take into account the local facilities available, population restrictions and access to equipment. These programs are coordinated during a period of up to 4 months prior to the competition.

Learning new skills, increasing physical activity, leadership and developing team work are all elements supporting the

- (a) Individuals personal growth and
- (b) The increase of medium to long term community capital

The participation programs are all based on the national hook in2 Hockey programs modified to reflect the community needs and requirements.

In 2008 there were no regular school or community hockey active participation programs being delivered in this Region. 2010 data indicate that communities now participating include –

- (a) NPA Communities (4 separate areas) through school, AASC and PCYC programs
- (b) Thursday Island, Horn Island, Badu Island, Moa Island, Mabuiag Island, Murray and Darnley Islands through school and AASC programs with some community support programs

It is anticipated that over 20 hockey sessions are delivered in each of the communities by local community deliverers as part of the overall program. The hockey program has gone from 0 involvement to over 120 sessions with an average of 15/20 people each session in under 3 years.



HOCKEY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ongoing consultation with community participants and supports as well as schools, Sport and Recreation Officers and AASC deliverers indicated that if this program was to expand, extensive community training and engagement needed to be coordinated to increase the knowledge of the local deliverers and support them in becoming more comfortable and confident to deliver the hockey sessions.

Factors like

- (a) Remoteness of Communities
- (b) Travel Costs
- (c) Local facilities and equipment
- (d) Local limitations – lack of space and flat land
- (e) English as 2nd and 3rd language in most communities

needed to be considered when developing programs that would provide effective and practical training to the people involved.

Undertaking these type of programs without community partners makes little sense and will ultimately reap little reward for effort. Partnering these training programs with existing local community support programs allow direct community engagement and encourage a greater variety of people to be come involved.

In 2010 the hockey program partnered with the AASC deliverers to develop a training program that supported the AASC community coach training and development and with certain modifications, allowed hockey to deliver a hockey specific community hockey coaching course recognized nationally. The coordination, management and organization of this type of program required commitment from many areas but with the requisite support, the training program was delivered with overwhelming success.

Over 45 local community people across 8 communities successfully completed the training and gained a greater understanding of the game of hockey and were comfortable with being involved in the local delivery of hockey programs. There is little doubt that this training program was effective and succeeded in creating and maintaining the momentum which culminates in the regional hockey competition.



EQUIPMENT RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

No training or participation programs will ultimately succeed unless there is access to reasonable equipment and facilities to support it.

Engaging community and discussing the facilities available and supporting them in the development of specific local programs can be more challenging in the remote and isolated communities. Some of the more restrictive environments available cannot be underestimated and impacts significantly.

Issues that need to be addressed in this program may on the surface appear quite extraordinary but nonetheless, unless identified and addressed would provide overwhelming barriers to any program introduction. Specialized programs were designed to counter the lack of flat available areas to conduct programs, specialized programs were designed to counter the low populations in some communities. Through-out the program wet season programs are designed to ensure that activities can be played regardless of climate challenges.

Hook in2 Hockey programs are used to support the transportation of basic hockey equipment and as this is a national based program, longer lead in times must be considered and budget pressures come into play with added transport costs.

We look at supporting equipment and facilities that are transportable rather than fixed and an example of this was the recent delivery by sea ferry/barge of 3 sets of portable hockey nets to Thursday Island for the regional hockey competition. These nets can be transported around the Torres Strait and NPA region via the sea ferry/barge if required. More traditional goal nets would be bulky and transportation costs significantly higher.

A new training resource has been designed and delivered to ensure a quality control and minimum standard of hockey coaching being delivered regardless of which community in the program. This allows training and education to become portable and a recognition of prior learning across many community support programs reduces duplication and acknowledges the time commitments that volunteers give to the hockey programs.



COMPETITION AND PATHWAYS

The Migi Kokan Hockey Competition is the regional hockey competition played across the Torres Strait and NPA areas. The competition is designed to provide a vehicle to highlight new skills learned in the hockey program, support leadership and teamwork skills and encourage the individual's self confidence and self esteem.

In 2010 young people from the following communities travelled to Thursday Island to take part:-

- (a) Thursday Island – 2 teams
- (b) Horn Island – 2 teams
- (c) NPA – 1 team (unavailable to attend due to conflict with swimming carnival)
- (d) Badu Island – 1 team
- (e) Mabuiag Island and Moa Island – combine team
- (f) Murray Island and Darnley Island – combine team

6 charter flights, bus and ferry coordinated travel were just a small part of the overall event planning and delivery. Costs of travel and access to charter flights are some of the restrictions that were addressed. Additional young people who are involved locally were keen to participate however the program and community did not have financial or logistical capacity to involve any more people at this time.

In 2008 the first carnival was held and 4 teams attended – a total of 32 players. In 2010 the number of participants has doubled with the number of coaches, officials and community support tripling.

A Torres Strait island and NPA regional hockey talent squad was selected invitation to the Youth Hockey State Indigenous and Remote Championships. This allows for additional training, development and opportunities.



HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ ***Highest number of participants since the Torres and NPA Program's inception***
- ✓ ***Greatest number of participating communities covering the largest single program area within Queensland***
- ✓ ***Largest number of coaches, parents and other community people involved in the individual teams involvements***
- ✓ ***Each team was coached by members of the Torres Strait Island community who had undertaken the remote program coach training course***
- ✓ ***Standard of Hockey is improving with better trained coaches and community supporters***
- ✓ ***Leadership and Mentor Programs beginning to have effect with young people taking on coaching and training roles to support the team as a whole.***
- ✓ ***Local Island Radio coverage and interviews evidencing increasing community interest and support***
- ✓ ***Plenty of Family supporters attending with great community feedback***
- ✓ ***Program's indigenous Development Officers taking on greater roles and responsibilities and gaining community support as a result.***
- ✓ ***Feedback on ways to improve the program and competition was invited and all teams confirmed they would be interested in looking at ways to make the pathway opportunities available to more people.***

TALENT IDENTIFIED ATHLETES

A squad of athletes were identified from the competition to be part of the State Youth and Indigenous Hockey Competition scheduled to be held in Cairns in June 2011. These athletes will be encouraged to learn new and advanced skills and a local development camp might well be scheduled in the Torres Strait Islands early in 2011 to advance the players development and enable this team to be better prepared.

The Full Squad and all relevant details is attached and marked "Schedule A"

Conclusion

The results overall indicate that the consultation processes, the community engagement and strengthening of community partnerships have all attributed to the general increase of knowledge and understanding of the game of hockey in these communities.

This increased understanding with the game as a whole leads directly to the general increase in community comfort with the delivery and this comfort level converts into an increase number of community supporters and assists with the development as a whole.

Feedback received across all communities indicated a positive response to this type of development program and we will continue to discuss and develop complementary community initiatives to support the leadership, active programs and skill development.

In Schedule 2 we have compiled what we believe is a recipe for success based on all the relevant information.

Remote Program Manager

Julie McNeil

22.11.2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Queensland Government

"The Queensland Government provided \$128,000.00 to Hockey Queensland Inc to develop and deliver hockey programs across the Remote and Indigenous Communities Hockey Development Program to get more Queenslanders active through sport and recreation."

Schedule 1

Talent Identified Athletes

Community	Name
Thursday Island	Nathan Bob
	Theo Mosby
	Charlie Marrington
	Bradley Nixon
Horn Island	Tara Boyd
	Richard McKewon
	Inno McKewon
Eastern Islands	Garro Henry
	Tristen Gee
	Kaba Noah
	Roshan Saylor
	Jaye Tamwyn
Western Islands and Badu Island	Rita Houiex
	Rahnee Paipai
	Daniel Joe
	Babetta Nawai
	Tiana Furji
	Dabbie Babbia
	Oza Blanket

Schedule 2



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS –

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND AND NPA REGIONAL HOCKEY CARNIVAL

MAIEM, SEU NGAPA, WELCOME



Like any culinary success- preparation is essential.

- In July - join with community groups across the islands and undertake 2 weeks of community coaching to increase understanding of the game and train local community people to become involved. Incorporate language modifications to ensure better understanding

Remember using local ingredients is best

- Engage AASC local deliverers to include hockey in programs
- Work with schools to encourage hockey programs in activity times
- Ensure equipment is available locally
- Establishing and maintaining links across the community
- Regular and Effective communication and planning with local coordinator
- Identify grant funding and community partners to assist with travel
- Delivery of portable goal nets by barge from Cairns to be used across the region
- Providing ongoing mentoring support – coaching and officiating
- Travel and Coordination of Indigenous Development Officers and Cairns RCD attend competition
- Coordination of 6 charters flights, bus and ferry travel for travelling teams
- Local assistance with field establishment, healthy eating and sun protection and fluid availability
- Support with coaching and officiating to the emerging communities
- Competition designed to highlight the new skills and provide competition between communities
- Rewards for effort through participation medals, winners acknowledgements and talent identification programs



Method

- Through ongoing and regular planning and community consultation, identify and resolve local issues through the program
- Identify and Seek funding support from community support programs
- Design programs to meet local needs and be flexible to allow delivery to reflect different community circumstances
- Offering support and mentoring through-out communities and community support programs



Cooking

- Program delivery around 6 months to include training, local and regional competition
- Ongoing community planning and development is crucial

Serving

- Bring all community programs together for a one day competition
- Acknowledge the contribution by school, parents and community partners
- Acknowledge the contribution by students through school attendance and good behavior and application at school
- Have Fun showing personal growth, leadership and teamwork skills not otherwise recognized
- Provide opportunities for pathway programs and future development



