***REPORT ON EVALUATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PCYC IN WOORABINDA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA –***

***SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE***

***Task:*** *Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.*

Many regional and remote Indigenous communities located in Queensland, Australia were originally established as Aboriginal reserves under the colonial government policies of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The impacts of removal, dispossession, and colonisation on these communities is ongoing more than 90 years after their establishment.

One such regional community, in collaboration with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and other youth support services, proposed to fund and run a Police Citizen’s/Community Youth Centre (PCYC) as a key feature of a youth precinct. The precinct would provide local youth aged 12-25 years with focused support services to disrupt and deter youth crime through targeted community re-engagement programs, sports and other activities.

The QPS and the community approached the Office of Indigenous Engagement, CQUniversity, suggesting the university walk alongside the strategies and conduct research over the three-year implementation of the PCYC. The research gauged community perceptions and evaluated the impact that PCYC activities have on youth crime and community harmony.

**Proposed outcomes**: The program aimed to improve youth wellbeing and self-perceptions, reduce offending behaviours, increase community harmony, and enable better quality of life and future choices. Tangible outcomes of the program included improved social and emotional wellbeing, increased confidence in both staff members of the program and the youth attending the program, and youth feeling supported.

**Lessons learnt/the way forward:**

* community encouraged young people to attend the PCYC;
* there was inherent value in attending the PCYC Program even though sport was the main priority, youth also learnt routine and structure through attending the PCYC program;
* social support arising from the program is an important benefit of the sports and activities;
* youth participants linked the benefits of attending the PCYC program to improvements in their general wellbeing; and future benefits and potential career aspirations were able to be discussed and appreciated; and
* for its continuing success, the PCYC Program needs a facility that has room for sport, family, culture, and health activities as well as a space to “chill out”.

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* |
| * Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)
 | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
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| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
 | * Conflict prevention/peace building
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| * Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination
 | * Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology
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| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions
 | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
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| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace
 | * Other – Incorporating communities’ strengths into progression of sport as a means to create more resilient communities
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| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?* * Improving youth health and wellbeing
* Providing alternative productive lifestyles among disenfranchised youth
* Lack of (local) opportunities for young people
* Addressing youth crime and providing options for peaceful sporting activities to overcome deviant behaviour
* Promoting value of sport as a medium to engage young people in conflict resolution.
* Promoting relationships between indigenous communities and law enforcement agencies
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| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?* * Formal agreement between the QPS, the Aboriginal Shire Council to establish the precinct; formal and informal agreements between the precinct staff and the local community to encourage engagement of the youth in the PCYC programs; and formal and informal agreement with the university research team to regularly monitor progress and outcomes under community-led, clearly set objectives.

*What are the main deliverables/activities involved?** Sport activities
* Safe spaces
* Discussion circles (yarning)
* Peer support
* Professional support services

*What is the time frame of implementation?* * January 2020 – June 2023
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| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?* * Young, Indigenous men and women, between ages of 12–25 years residing within the local Indigenous communities.
* Local Indigenous community members and families of the youth participants.
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| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles? What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?** Queensland Police Service and Queensland Police Citizens’ Youth Club provided support and funding to establish the PCYC program.
* The local Aboriginal Shire Council provided funding and precinct location, and sporting equipment.
* BHP Billiton/Mitsubishi Alliance (BHP/BMA) Social Investment Program provided funding support for the Office of Indigenous Engagement, CQUniversity, Australia research team to evaluate the program impacts and outcomes.
* Additional support was provided in-kind by the local community and elders, local enterprises; all working in unison with the Queensland Police Service (QPS).
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| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?** SDG 16 – Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive Institutions at all levels. (Enhancing the role sport plays in bringing people together)

*Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.** CQUniversity Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (2022-2024)
* Reconciliation Australia – Action Plan Framework
* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
* National Reconciliation Week – 2023 theme for reconciliation week is ‘*Be a voice for generations’*.
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| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?** The program contributes to the WHO Objective 1 – Create active societies, and Objective 2 – create active environments by:
	+ Facilitating inclusive and transparent processes for enhancing wellbeing of young people, especially disenfranchised youth.
	+ Providing culturally safe spaces sensitive to local norms, traditions and culture.
	+ Creating infrastructure for positive lifestyles and wellness.
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| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?** Thematic Area #2: Policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programs and policies.
* Thematic Area #3: Resource mobilization, programming and implementation
* Thematic Area #4: Research, monitoring and evaluation (previously “evidence of impact and follow up”)

*To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?* * Facilitated research capacity building for co-implementation and/or co-monitoring of the impact of sport-based and sport-related initiatives across Justice, Education, Culture, and research for the youth participants.
* Encouraged multi-stakeholder program development and implementation
* Strengthened partnerships between education, sport and other civil society stakeholders
* Strengthened access to sport-related data for Indigenous communities in relation to the outcomes of PCYC programs for youth health and wellbeing.
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| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?** The program aimed to improve youth wellbeing and self-perceptions, reduce offending behaviours, increase community harmony, and enable better quality of life and future choices.
* Outcomes included improved social and emotional wellbeing, increased confidence in both staff members of the program and the youth attending the program, and youth feeling supported.
* The community-led research enabled an examination of the impact of the PCYC on youth behaviours in the community, including impacts (both qualitative and quantitative) on crime rates, youth engagement, youth health and wellbeing, and community harmony.
* Evidence generated able to influence policy on youth and social development especially within communities on the margins.
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| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?** Community Discussion Groups
* Engaging the Office of Indigenous Engagement, CQUniversity to support the community-led evaluation aims.
* Face-to-face interviews and workshops with community participants
* Workshops facilitated with audience response technology with youth program participants.

*What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?* * Questionnaires
* Focus Groups and workshops
* Written Reports
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| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?** Mobilizing sufficient resources to sustain the initiative over the long-term
* Accessibility of location
* Weather hazards

*What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?* * Ensuring continual cross-sectional representation from local community in design, roll out and evaluation of project initiatives.
* Expanding and diversifying funding channels.
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