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Media Release

Finals fever for fair play

The Eastern Community Legal Centre will launch the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project, an innovative program teaching children about human rights through principles of fair play and good sportsmanship. Using theatre and sport, the project will coach kids about the importance of Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity.

“Each year, the outer east of Melbourne welcomes thousands of kids from different countries. The one language common to young people from all cultures is sport. said Michael Smith, Manager of the Eastern Community Legal Centre and Chair of the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project. “This is why we believe the key to teaching kids respect for racial and religious difference is through sport”.

“Our project compares human rights principles to rules on the sportsfield. We show kids that the right to wear a team scarf is no different to the right to wear a headscarf”

The project will be launched today by the Attorney-General Rob Hulls at Eley Park, 87 Eley Rd, Blackburn between 1.00-2.00pm. The launch will feature a live performance of FRED’s Fair Play, by Carp Productions and students from the Blackburn English Language School.

“At school, all kids learn the rules of fair play on the sportsfield. But they should also understand the rules for fair play in life.” Said Michael “Human rights education is important to the wellbeing and inclusion of young Australians.”

“It is no mistake that we have chosen to launch our project during finals fever. In 2009 the last week in September has extra significance as the country waits for the final recommendations of the National Human Rights Consultation.”

For all inquiries contact

Michael Smith on 0421 437 883 or Tanja Kovac on 0419 910 577

*Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project
Eastern Community Legal Centre
Suite 3, Town Hall Hub
BOX HILL VIC 3128
www.eclc.org.au*