



Human Rights are Aussie Rules

Newsletter Spring 2010

Human Rights are Aussie Rules goes to Garma!

In early August 2010 the HRaAR program was invited by the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and the Yothu Yindi Foundation to attend the Garma Festival in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory to present our workshop as part of the festivals education program.



Garma
FESTIVAL

The theme of the 2010 annual indigenous cultural exchange festival was "Indigenous Education and Training". Adapting our workshop for an indigenous audience, Team Garma - Michael Smith, ECLC CEO, Amy Johnstone, ECLC Community Development Co-ordinator, Ali Abachi, HRaAR volunteer and Natasha Stojanovich, DLA Phillips Fox pro bono lawyer — presented the workshop to indigenous and non-indigenous youth. The workshop was highly successful and culminated with a fitting game of AFL on the traditional 'bunggal' or dance grounds.



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Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project

Eastern Community Legal Centre
Suite 3, Town Hall Hub
BOX HILL VIC 3128
Phone: (03) 9285 4822
Fax: (03) 9285 4833
Email: tanjak@eclc.org.au
www.humanrightsareaussierules.org.au

Human Rights are Aussie Rules is a project of Eastern Community Legal Centre





Human Rights are Aussie Rules

Garma Festival!

State Government Funding

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Our work at Garma also involved staffing a small expo tent which provided information to the general public about human rights and the HRAAR program. Without a doubt the highlight of the expo was the Handballs for Human Rights competition, one of the most popular activities amongst local youth, as evidenced from the photo above.

The expo also provided us with an opportunity to network with other human rights and indigenous services in the Northern Territory and the rest of Australia. We received great support for the HRaAR program, identifying future partners for the program to be extended into regional Australia.



On behalf of the Garma Team we would like to thank the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, DLA Phillips Fox, the Nordia Foundation and the AFL Northern Territory for helping make this trip possible. It was touch and go whether we would have sufficient funding to meet the travel costs to attend this event. Without your support we couldn't have done it.

The ECLC is happy to announce that the State Government of Victoria has awarded the Human Rights are Aussie Rules project a \$100,000 state government grant to help develop the program across metropolitan Melbourne.

Speaking at the Australian Athletes' Alliance conference, Mr Hulls said the *"Human Rights Are Aussie Rules project had been successful in promoting positive messages about social inclusion, reducing racial, religious and cultural bullying and intolerance among children."*

"Sport does so much for the expression and promotion of human rights and this project leverages off the goodwill of sport – a fundamental part of the Australian way of life," Mr Hulls said.

"The program teaches young people that just as we expect fair play on the sporting field, human rights protect fairness on the playing field of life."



"Just as we expect to be able to wear our team colours to the football, so we should have the freedom to express cultural differences. And making banners and chanting slogans to support our team is just another form of freedom of expression."

Minister for the Respect Agenda Justin Madden said the project was developed by the Eastern Community Legal Centre and partly funded through a Respect Agenda partnership grant and the Department of Justice.

The increase in funding will allow the program to help gain greater recognition in and across Mel-



Human Rights are Aussie Rules

Volunteer Wins Community Legal Award

Ali Abachi, volunteer on the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project has won an Award for Community Service and Development from Deakin University Law School in recognition of his involvement in the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project.

Ali has been involved in all aspects of the project, including administration, schools liaison, community development, research and lobbying. He is also a community educator, regularly delivering a one hour, interactive workshop on human rights to young people in schools. Working on this project was highly coveted by volunteers. Ali has exceeded the high expectations we had of him. His research, written and oral skills are excellent and his keenness to learn is boundless.

Most importantly, his genuine commitment to human rights education means he is constantly looking for opportunities to leverage the project - from linking us with the Deakin University Law Students Society, cold calling corporations for inkind donations to trawling the web for ideas and innovations



Schools Fully Booked!

With support from the Helen MacPherson-Smith Trust, Multicultural Foundation and Whitehorse City Council, the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project commenced its schools program, taking FRED's Fair Play, the Human Rights workshop and Handballs for human rights competition into schools.

Our first ever mailout to schools yielded a **20%** response rate! The schools we visited covered the entire geographic area serviced by the Eastern Community Legal Centre - from Catholic schools in the leafy inner east, to rural and isolated schools in Healesville, to schools in the city of Whitehorse with high levels of young, new arrivals to Australia.

Schools where we visited include:

- Blackburn English Language School
- Great Ryrie Primary School
- Badger Creek Primary School
- Warranwood Primary School
- Parkmore Primary School
- Sacred Heath Primary School
- Belle Vue Primary School
- Marlborough Primary School
- Mount Pleasant Road Primary School

The challenge in 2010 has been to also meet the demand for our project outside the geographic focus of the Eastern Suburbs. We welcomed support from the Federation of Community Legal Centres and the Sports Without Borders Foundation for helping us to deliver the project in the south east of Melbourne (Hallam Valley Primary School) and in Shepparton (Bouchier St Primary School).





Human Rights are Aussie Rules

International Conference

Tanja Kovac, Co-ordinator of the HRaAR Project presented a paper at an International Human Rights Conference at the University of Western Sydney. The paper, entitled *More than a Game: using sport and fair play to promote human rights education* examined our own project, along with Play by the Rules and the AFL's peace team as three cutting edge Australian examples of how to use sport to promote human rights, development and peace.

Performances and

Bookings!

Bookings for 2011 will begin commencing shortly. For more information on the program and possible dates in early 2011, please contact the Eastern Community Legal Centre, (Boronia Office) on 9762 6235.

Please note that this is a FREE program offered to primary schools across metropolitan and inner regional Melbourne. For more information please contact :

Tanja Kovac	Ali Abachi
HRAAR Coordinator	HRAAR Volunteer

DLA Phillips Fox joins the human rights coaching team!



HRaAR is excited to announce the support of DLA Phillips Fox in the ongoing work of our project. DLA Phillips Fox has built a significant reputation in the legal field for its commitment to Human Rights, providing secondees to the Human Rights Law Resource Centre and undertaking hundreds of hours of pro bono work in prominent human rights cases.

"The DLA Phillips Fox offer to provide staff pro bono when we visit schools will enable the growth of the Human Rights are Aussie Rules project and its expansion into other states and territories."

We welcome the opportunity of working with Nick Patrick, Partner Pro bono and Natasha Stojanovich, to expand our services to other states and territories." says Michael Smith, Manager of the Eastern Community Legal Centre.

We also thank Natasha Stojanovich for her assistance during the Garma Festival and Jessica Bush, Sarah Caraher and Scott Buchanen of the Intellectual Property and Technology Team for their advice and counsel.

Thanks To

The ongoing support of these financial and other partners is gratefully acknowledged.

