

• INTRODUCTION •

There is growing momentum for sport for development in Australia. This collection of case studies is a first attempt at presenting some of the innovative approaches from Australian organisations that use sport to unite communities and empower individuals to create sustainable social change across a range of thematic areas.

Access to sport and physical activity is a human right. Sport is well recognised internationally as a development tool and a powerful agent for social change. It is a culturally accepted activity that unites families, communities and nations - like nothing else.

Sport Matters is an NGO based in Australia that aims to make a positive and long-lasting impact on development in Australia and developing countries with a focus on the Pacific, Asia and Africa. We see enormous value in bringing together representatives from the aid and development sector, and from national and regional sport federations to present sport as a unique low-cost and high-impact tool for development and emphasise its potential for innovative development partnerships.

These case studies highlight how sport can be applied in a meaningful way to achieve targeted development objectives. Sport matters in Australia and a number of case studies showcase how sport is used to promote social inclusion and deliver health and education outcomes for indigenous Australians. Featured case studies also show how sport is being applied around the world to achieve outcomes in health and gender equality, and to empower children and youth and people with disabilities.

There is a growing body of evidence to underpin sport for development approaches and we are pleased to include the latest research from the Australian Sports Commission on international sport for development programs across the Pacific. A list of acronyms is also included to help you navigate the landscape as programs and organisations.

This is by no means an exhaustive collection of case studies, but rather a first attempt at showcasing the depth of activity in sport for development and its impact in Australia and around the world. It is a pleasure to introduce "Why Sport Matters" and showcase Australia's efforts towards sport for development in Australia, the Pacific and Asia.

The wheels are turning - join the Sport for Development movement!



Jackie Lauff
CEO, Sport Matters

