



WOMEN IN BASKETBALL

Case Study— Multicultural Schools Program

In 2005 Basketball Victoria (BV) received funding to increase participation of women in Basketball. A project worker was employed to deliver the outcomes of the funding over a 2-year period. A component of the Women in Basketball program was to increase the participation of CLD young women in Basketball. BV contact CMYI to assist them in engaging these young women into their program.

After consultation with Noble Park English Learning Centre a 4-week Basketball program was delivered at the school. English language Centres cater for all newly arrived young people who's first language is not English.

There are nine English language schools and centres in the metropolitan area. The four English language schools are stand-alone schools and cater for both primary and secondary students up to the equivalent of Year 10.

Five English language centres are attached to mainstream primary and secondary schools. Four English language centres cater for secondary students in years 7-10 and one English Language centre caters for primary students in year 6.

The majority of students attend an English language school or centre for two terms.

The small classes and the high number of contact hours enable ESL qualified teachers to deliver an intensive English language program tailored to the differing needs of students, helping them to adapt as quickly as possible to the Australian education system and society. ESL is taught through the content areas of the key learning areas.

The issues

For young people who are new to Australia, navigating there way around the structured sport system can be confusing and intimidating. The program hoped to provide an opportunity where the young women could participate in an environment that they felt comfortable and confident in. Sport provides young people with many physical benefits as well as social skills for newly arrived young people the chance to participate in a structure competition can also provide a sense of connection and assist with resettlement issues.

The strategy

It was decided to run the course over 4 weeks. 29 secondary school girls and 19 primary school girls participated. This gave us enough time to build a relationship with the young women, but also ensured that the program did not seem over exceed the interest of the young people.

As the aim of the program was not merely to deliver a Basketball program, but to also link the young people back into the community BV provided the participants with some information on how to join a club and where they could play Basketball after the competition of the program and after school.

The final session was conducted at the local Basketball Stadium so as to give participants link back to a mainstream existing structure rather than just an isolated sports experience.

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The Challenges

As we had consulted with the school and had their co-operation for the commencement of the program there were few issues that arose during the sessions.

While we thought that at first language could be a barrier we soon realised that there were many ways of communicating with our language. With the support and help of the teachers and some excellent coaches the language issue was easily addressed by using visual demonstrations or finding new ways of delivering messages

On the final day of the program the young people were taken by bus to the Dandenong Local Basketball Stadium. BV hired a private bus company and transported the young people and their teachers to the venue.

The young people enjoyed a training session at the centre followed by a friendly game. Staff at the centre then gave them a tour of the facility and some information about how to join a team and play in a league.

The Outcomes

Hi Allison,

I have spoken to some very excited girls who have just come back from your training session at the stadium. They had a ball. Most of our students are from a disadvantaged background and new to this country.

The teacher who accompanied the students confirmed how well the session went. All goes well for their involvement in basketball for the future. Several of the girls asked how they can join a club. It is a great program you are running.

On behalf of the girls and all the staff at Noble park English Language School, thank you for organising and running such a successful program. Hopefully we can incorporate it into the school in the near future.

Thanks again Allison.

Physical Education Co- coordinator

Other outcomes

- Improved self confidence
- New physical skills
- Improved language communication
- Improved knowledge of local facilities

Contacts



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