

## *“Get into the Game” on Football Fun Day*

August 20<sup>th</sup> is the day that launches a new program that involves building social and community cohesion through Soccer.

Initiated by University of New South Wales (UNSW) researchers, the program has long term goals of assisting refugee youth and families in their integration into the current world of soccer in Australia and contributing to building racial harmony and social integration across communities within the New South Wales area, through support for youth soccer development.

Two of Australia's most respected football personalities, Andy Harper and Craig Foster are co-patrons of the program and actively involved in its development.

The program is designed around two pillars of activity : creating new opportunities and enhancing existing opportunities. Program development plans include skills training, referee and coaching clinics, after school and holiday camps, and workshops on fundraising, club, team and sports management. It will also work to support current initiatives such as the Africa -Australia All - Age Summer Tournament.

Anne Bunde-Birouste, University of New South Wales (UNSW) researcher and lead developer of the program says, “This program is different because it will be ongoing and will link with existing social networks but also build new ones. That’s important because young refugees are particularly vulnerable due to the difficulties of transition to a new country and may have had potentially traumatic experiences before they left their home country and don’t have the ‘normal’ challenges young people encounter in their development.”

### **Details of the Launch:**

When : Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup>- 11am-5pm

Where : Granville Park, near Merrylands Station, off Woodville Road

### **Program**

Registration : 11 am.

12 noon Opening Ceremony/ Welcome : special guest, Craig Foster

12:15 – 14:00 1) Mini World cup

- boys, girls groups, from under 5 - under 12 age groups

2) Skills competitions : (12 and over)

- Goals Shooting comp
- Juggling Comp
- Speed Competition
- Dribbling course
- Free-kick competition

1.15 pm Women’s Community All-Star tournament

2.30 pm Men’s Community All-Star tournament

3.45 pm Break / Quick clean up

4pm Awards Presentation : special guest, Andy Harper

For more information :

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### **With Sincere Appreciation and thanks to the following who have provided support for this day:**

Migrant Resource Centres (Auburn, BHHP, Blacktown, Fairfield, Liverpool);

Sydney Soccer Academy ; Parramatta Council ; STARTTS ; Parramatta Lions Club

Addidas; Coca-Cola ; St. Ives Soccer Club ; St. Johns Ambulance ; Football Federation Australia (FFA) ; Soccer NSW ;

NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation; Australia Sports Commission ; NBR Mechanical Services ; Sydney United ;

Blacktown Demons; Sydney Sporting Supplies, Australian Institute of Sports, Pymble Public School, Soccer Warehouse,

UNSW Institute of Languages, Milo, and all the volunteers who make it a great day !

*Special thanks to the late Professor John Hirshman for his belief in this program and his valuable support.*