

## Refugee Youth Soccer Development Program

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### Program Update

After the initial year of development, the program has accomplished the activities listed in the development phase of the program presentation and is working with a number of Councils on area-specific programs. Councils included in this are Liverpool, Blacktown, Farifield and Auburn Councils.

It is evident from the first year's activities that for long-term development of program foundations, sustainability and integration activities, the community-mapping components are crucial. As of March 2007 the UNSW program convener will have a designated intern responsible for this activity over the course of 2007.

The initial development year has highlighted the need for human resources to enable coordination and forward moving of the program: the necessary meetings, negotiations, discussions involved in the community development aspect of this program in addition, on to coordinating activities, are impossible to maintain with an efficacy otherwise. It is desirable thus, that each council delegates either funding or person-power to assure this element of the program. In addition, given that the program is designed with a capacity-building element, it is also suggested that a small amount of funding be allocated to support a community liaison person, from among the young people in the community, to assist the coordinator. This will enable the program to build links within the community and also build capacity by offering work experience with the program.

In keeping with the two pillars of activities, the council program groups will work with soccer clubs within the respective council areas to develop means for young people and families to join in their seasonal happenings : “enhancing existing opportunities”. Under the second pillar, “creating opportunities”, a “typical” year of would involve holding :

- coaching clinics
- referee clinics
- regular opportunities to play (for example after school training possibly linked to homework support)
- special opportunities ( for example, gala days, vacation camps).

Costing of each activity will depend on the number of participants involved, and the extent to which in-kind donations and volunteers are mobilized. It is important to keep in mind that all work to recruit and support volunteers, and to negotiate donations requires significant human resources thus costs involved as well.

The initial development year has indicated high enthusiasm for the program from the within the many diverse communities consulted. We are looking forward to a second year of increased activities and engagement.

### First Year Highlights

- Program Launch Gala Day, Aug 20, 2006
- Sudan Youth Soccer Gala Day, Merrylands, Sept 16, 2006; (with Sudan Unite association)
- Refugee Week Gala Day, Liverpool, Nov 5, 2006; (with Liverpool MRC)
- Level 1 Coaching Clinic, Dec 2006 (12 coaches certified); (with Auburn MRC)
- Support to African Australian Summer Tournament (Sept – Dec 2006); (with African-Australian Youth Social Club)
- Residential Camp for boys ages 14 – 16, scheduled 8-11 Jan 2007 (with STARTTS and Auburn MRC)