



EXAMPLE :: 02

LOCATION

Papua New Guinea

Pacific Sport Ability Programme

EXAMPLE

To demonstrate how sport can contribute to the building of inclusive communities through including people with a disability.

INITIATED

April 2004.

PARTNER

Papua New Guinea Sports Commission, with the support of the Australian Government.

TARGET

Children with a disability.

OUTLINE

The majority of children with a disability who attend school are absorbed into the mainstream education system. Church and community groups run several schools specifically for children with a disability and these are spread throughout Papua New Guinea. There are no systematic programs in private schools for children with a disability and those attending mainstream schools are often isolated from school sport programmes.

The Pacific Sport ability initiative is an inclusive sport programme delivered by facilitators from each region who are trained to deliver a workshop to teachers and the roll out of the program continues as the trained facilitators from each region travel to the districts of each of the four provinces to introduce the programme to schools. Teachers and representatives from churches, community groups and sports organisations are trained to modify sports and games to make them inclusive (Three Paralympic sports: boccia, goalball and seated volleyball are also introduced). Local area experts are trained to deliver a programme in which both able-bodied and disabled people can participate. Local social norms and misconceptions are challenged and greater acceptability of people with a disability by the community at large is achieved.

One component of the training teaches participants to be creative in developing sporting equipment. Providing sporting equipment to every organisation in each country can be cost prohibitive. Explaining how sports equipment can be modified and made from local ingredients – bocce balls made from coconuts filled with sand for example is both cost effective ensures that the delivery of the program is not dependent on expensive and hard to find sport equipment.

OBJECTIVES

- To assist schools, community groups and sports federations to improve the quality and quantity of sports participation opportunities that are available to people with a disability
- Raise awareness of the importance of access to physical activity for everyone in the community
- Provide sports practitioners in the community with ideas and strategies on how to include more people with a disability in their activities
- increase opportunities for people with a disability to participate and enjoy sport
- Establish an internal support network.

CONTACTS

Phil Ruff
Executive Officer
Australian Sports Commission
Tel: (02) 6214 1261
Fax: (02) 6214 1485
Mob: 0408 433150