

Indigenous Participation

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) recognises the value of sport and recreation to the Indigenous community and is committed to increasing participation in physical activity and building community capacity.

Background

Indigenous Australians are identified as having a lower participation rate than the whole Australian population.

	2002
Australia ¹	62.4
Australia Indigenous ²	49.3
Western Australia ¹	74.9
WA Indigenous ²	52.6

DSR has adopted a targeted approach to increasing their participation through the Indigenous Sport Program (ISP). The ISP is based on an MOU between the Australian Sports Commission and the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts to provide cultural advice and guidance to Australia's sports industry through the employment of a national network of Indigenous Sport Development Officers; eleven Indigenous Sport Development Officers are employed across Western Australia.

It is essential that Indigenous people, particularly those in rural and remote locations, are encouraged to develop and manage their own sport and recreation activities. By supporting and developing people in the community, sport and recreation will grow and become a stronger component of every day life.

Contacts

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References

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2004). *Participation in sport and physical activities*. (No. 4177.0). Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2004). *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2002*. (No. 4714.0). Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author.

Useful Websites

Department of Sport and Recreation Indigenous Program

<http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/programs/aboriginalservices/emphasis.asp>

Australian Sports Commission Indigenous Program

<http://www.ausport.gov.au/isp/programs.asp>