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PCYC Nations of Origin Promotes Reconciliation and Cultural Identity through Sport

PCYC (Police Citizen Youth Clubs) NSW's annual Nations of Origin tournament is set to take place from July 11th-14th, 2023 in Western Sydney. This four-day sporting event will bring together over 910 Indigenous youth from across NSW, representing 25 Indigenous Nations, to celebrate and promote reconciliation, cultural identity, education, and sport.

The tournament aims to empower Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth by encouraging them to celebrate the rich diversity of Aboriginal culture and its profound impact on our history. Now in its 9th year, Nations of Origin has grown from strength to strength, bringing together young boys and girls from PCYC with NSW Police and the community to compete in 5 different sports to build skills, character, leadership and encourage cultural respect and connections among young people.

The annual Nations of Origin tournament is a multifaceted program which is an opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills, forge lasting friendships, and leave a legacy that honours the elders whose custodianship of the land and culture we respect and acknowledge.

Good behaviour, 70% school attendance and connection to culture through an Elder is rewarded with participation and the right to proudly wear their respective Nation's jersey.

PCYC NSW CEO, Dominic Teakle, believes that earning the right to represent your nation through sport is a powerful tool for social change and inclusion. "Rewarding hard work and discipline gives young people something to aim for. Providing them the opportunity to represent their nation provides them with a place to belong and connect with culture." he says.

"Sport is really the tool. When the young people pull on the jersey to represent their nation, their mob, and most importantly, their elders; whom we respect as knowledge holders, survivors and leaders in our communities, the feeling of pride and achievement is palpable.

Mr. Teakle also notes the significant involvement of the Police in the Nations of Origin tournament, which helps to break down barriers that may exist between the Police and young people. "Relationship building extends to the significant Police involvement in Nations of Origin" he says.

About PCYC NSW: PCYC NSW is a registered charity established in 1937, whose mission is to empower young people to reach their potential through Police and community partnerships. With over 66 clubs across the state, PCYC initiates quality activities and programs in a safe environment. We work with at-risk youth to break the cycle of disadvantage through crime prevention, vocational education, youth capacity building and social responsibility programs to change the life outcomes of over 10,000 youth per year. **For information visit www.pcywnsw.org.au.**

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