

2023 PCYC NSW STATEMENT OF IMPACT



PCYC





OUR VISION & MISSION



PCYC NSW is Australia's pre-eminent youth organisation working with Police and the community to empower young people to reach their potential.

We get young people active in life. We work with young people to develop their skills, character and leadership. We reduce and prevent crime by and against young people.





Message from

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

To describe PCYC NSW as a 'State treasure', as Ben Hobby, PCYC NSW's new Chief Executive Officer, did recently, is to recognise the importance of Australia's pre-eminent youth organisation to over 120,000 young people and their families in our State. For too many young people, opportunities to play sport, to explore the arts and culture, and to develop personal skills, are few and far between. PCYC NSW is unwavering in its dedication to providing those opportunities - as can be seen in the 2023 highlights of PCYC NSW.

And what a year it has been! From leaping into action in April with the Annual Star Jump Challenge to welcoming His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh KG GCVO to meet with participants at PCYC Woolloomooloo, 2023 was a year of activity and achievement for all at PCYC.

In July, it was a great pleasure to open the Basketball tournament of PCYC Nations of Origin at Penrith. Over 900 young people represented 25 Indigenous Nations of NSW, and each displayed a wealth of pride and talent, as well as a commitment to friendship and 'fair play'.

In August, Guy Sebastian and NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb launched a revitalised, bespoke music studio at PCYC Blacktown to foster musical expression and talent and the creative skills of young people in western Sydney.

Also in August, as the Women's World Cup grabbed the world's attention, EA Sports launched the Sam Kerr Football Pitch in partnership with PCYC Auburn, to promote women's and grassroots football.

September saw the Haka Warriors workshop with 850 students and their family members, from 20 high schools across Western Sydney, the Central Coast, and Eastern Suburbs, explore Pacifica cultural identity and heritage. With the finale at Sydney Olympic Park, this program only grows in popularity and importance.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being Patron of PCYC NSW is listening to the insights, as well as the hopes and dreams of young people. This year has again affirmed the importance of Police and community partnerships to connect young people to their communities and to change lives.

Congratulations and thank you, PCYC NSW, on a stellar year!

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

Mr Dennis Wilson

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CHAIR'S REPORT

I'm honoured to present our 2023 Statement of Impact Report, highlighting the inspiring life-changing work that PCYC NSW has once again delivered over the past 12 months in pursuit of our mission to empower young people to reach their potential.

Against a backdrop of growing demand for our activities and facilities, our people have been busier than ever, but, together with our partners, we once again rose to the challenge of equipping the next generation of Australians with the skills and attitudes fundamental to navigating the challenges they face.

As the largest provider of sport and recreational facilities in NSW, our 66 clubs provide safe and inclusive environments and dedicated sports and recreational activities that support young people to develop their skills, character, and leadership.

Nations of Origin, our multifaceted sport, cultural, education and leadership program, was this year attended by over 900 young sporting stars representing 25 Indigenous Nations from across the state, while the values-driven Haka Warriors Program was attended by 850 students from 20 high schools.

We have continued to deliver our Rise Up and Job Ready programs, which support vulnerable, at-risk, and disadvantaged young people. We have expanded GRIT, our mental resilience and wellbeing program, and the U-Nites diversionary program to increased numbers of young people. New programs were launched throughout the year; Stepping Up was implemented, to help youth gain work experience while providing positive career and life choices. In November, PCYC Blacktown launched a program called The Upbeat Project in collaboration with the Sebastian Foundation. The program aims to establish a safe and secure space for musical expression for all young people in the local Blacktown area and potentially provide them an opportunity to engage with music industry experts.

Demand for our school holiday activities and before and after school care have increased significantly. I am pleased that we have been able to grow these programs and support families at a time of increased challenge, while expanding our connection with youth and fostering social resilience.

Our ability to deliver all of these sporting, cultural, education and leadership programs would not be possible without the unique and valued partnership we have with NSW Police. I remain immensely grateful to Commissioner Karen Webb, Deputy Commissioner Paul Pisanos, and Assistant Commissioner Gavin Wood for their ongoing commitment, enormous contribution and invaluable support.

We are now two years into our aspirational five-year strategy, Better Together. This aims to further grow our evidence-based, life-changing programs while building our future sustainability through improved commercial operations, grant funding and, importantly, fundraising and corporate support.

By 2027, we aim to be a network of 69 clubs, impacting over 10,000 young people through our Rise Up, Job Ready and GRIT programs, and over 20,000 young people in early diversionary programs. We have made great progress - but there's more to do.

The appointment of our new CEO, Ben Hobby, who joined towards the end of this year, will help catalyse the work underway to meet the ambitious goals we've set ourselves. Ben brings extensive relevant experience to the role, both from a successful business career and as a lifelong volunteer - and regular PCYC user - and I look forward to working with him.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to thank and recognise the contribution of the PCYC management team, our staff, volunteers and members who give so much, and to our generous benefactors without whom our impact would not be possible.

PCYC was founded to provide safe, supportive, empowering environments that give young people a chance in life. When I look back at just how much we have delivered and achieved over the past 12 months, I feel immense pride and hugely honoured to be leading an organisation continuing to deliver on that legacy.



Nicole Sorbara
CHAIR

CEO'S REPORT

Reflecting on the journey of PCYC NSW in 2023, it is a great honour to have been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer in November 2023. Progress over the past year has been marked by significant milestones and cherished partnerships that have propelled us closer to attaining our aspirational mission – positively impacting the lives of an increasing number of the young rising generation in NSW.

Two days before officially commencing, I attended the annual PCYC NSW Charity Gala Ball. This was a unique opportunity to observe the depth of support spanning NSW Police, many in NSW Government and the corporate sector. I was most inspired to listen to the sobering journey told by one young man and his family, regarding how he transformed his life through the interactions offered by PCYC NSW and NSW Police within our programs. Nothing short of legendary.

I enjoyed the immense privilege of hosting HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, who was the guest of honour at the ceremony for graduates of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, at PCYC Woolloomooloo. Travelling across Metropolitan Sydney to visit 13 PCYC NSW clubs inside three weeks provided invaluable insights into the diverse and growing needs of our local communities.

Our successes and challenges of 2023 have been profound learning opportunities. The dedication and diligence of our thoroughly diverse team is a constant driving force behind miraculous accomplishments, happening so frequently that it almost seems commonplace.

Looking Forward – 2024 and beyond

Having identified areas for improvement, we have already set a clear course ahead for 2024, aligned to the PCYC Better Together Strategy. We will continue to be guided by our vision of creating lasting impact and positive change, whilst making alignment changes that will realise acceleration towards this destination.

Our focus for this year is succinctly captured in three words – PEOPLE, EXPERIENCE and MISSION. We will empower our people to achieve greater heights through clarity of engagement and seeking development opportunities. We are eager to uplift the experience that members, volunteers and donors have through their variety of interactions with us. Crucially, we will achieve more mission-related outcomes by tirelessly driving towards our sustainability goals.

Building on established credibility in the community and continuing to develop diverse income streams and partnership activity, we aim to be unequivocally recognised as NSW's leading youth charity.

I thank NSW Police for our rewarding partnership and their commitment to the Youth Strategy for 2023-2025. Our partnership extends in so many valuable directions, for those ongoing and new, I am eager to foster growth this year.

I offer a heartfelt thank you to the resilience of the entire PCYC NSW team. Your dedication, passion and hard work are the foundation of our success. I look forward to achieving new heights together.

It is motivating to contemplate that with 86 years of rich legacy to stand upon as a sure foundation, early observations signal that through the collective commitment of our team, NSW Police and dedicated partners, the best for PCYC NSW is yet to come! We will continue to be a beacon of positive change for communities across the state. Please join us and become part of the next phase in this magnificent evolutionary journey.



Ben Hobby
CEO



NSW POLICE YOUTH COMMAND REPORT

Over the last year, NSW Police has maintained a focus on prevention and diversion of young people from contact with the criminal justice system. This focus aligns closely with the NSW Police Commissioner's Our Focus Our Future strategy which includes Next Generation (Youth and First Nations) as one of its top five priorities. Over the last 12 months there has been a raft of initiatives delivered through the Youth Violence and Anti-social Behaviour Steering Committee which was successful in securing \$6.5 million additional funding for PCYC programs. I am proud to say that this type of commitment towards the work of Youth Command, the NSW Police and PCYC illustrates our relevance to, and impact on the community.

The strength and success of our Youth Command, as always, is underpinned by the strong relationship between NSW Police and PCYC. This partnership forms the basis of many of the youth initiatives implemented state-wide and provides the ability for Police and PCYC staff to continue to deliver bespoke programs and service to individual communities.

The success of the Youth Action Meetings (YAMs) pilot sites last year allowed us to secure funding to expand YAMs to 11 sites across the state. Dedicated YAMs coordinators are managing a whole of government and community response to local youth issues at those sites.

During July this year, I was excited to announce the release of the NSW Police Force Youth Strategy 2023-2025. This strategy builds upon the achievements of

our previous Youth Strategy in the areas of prevention, intervention and partnerships and recognises the importance of working with the community to reduce violence, crime, and fear.

Fight for Success was a diversionary initiative arising from the Youth Steering Committee that oversees the development and delivery of the Youth Strategy. It aims to reignite a passion for boxing in remote NSW communities. It recognises the long term NSW Police partnership with PCYC clubs and the grass roots sport of boxing as one that instils routine and discipline. Fight for Success was launched in Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Kempsey in September 2023, with significant community engagement involving Police Districts and specialist commands. The launch was supported through a significant donation of equipment by No Limits Boxing (Matt Rose) and community engagement involving NRL players Latrell Mitchell, Cody Walker and Jack Wighton.

These examples are a snapshot of the achievements of the NSW Police and Youth Command throughout 2023. I appreciate the hard work, ingenuity and resilience of our NSW Police and PCYC teams and look forward to maintaining the momentum into 2024 and beyond.



**Gavin Wood
(APM) Assistant Commissioner,
Youth Command**

Youth Command continued to develop opportunities for engagement, diversion and early intervention with young people, in partnership with PCYC.

Critical to this has been developing the service delivery model to ensure efficient deployment of our resources and expansion into areas where resources and services are not present. The Youth Hub and Youth Team deployment pilots are proving successful, with Youth Command able to adapt and respond quickly to localised community needs. Numerous Activation Precincts were established across the state; a collaboration between NSW Police, PCYC, and the Department of Education to deliver outreach programs from suitable regional NSW school premises. They are operational in Boggabilla, Wee Waa, Casino, Ballina and Camden.

Youth Command continues to forge relationships and work with partner agencies to develop and deliver meaningful programs. Partnership initiatives currently being delivered include:

Project Community – delivering programs in Youth Justice Centres to support the transition of young people back into the community after release from detention.

Project Pathfinder – a partnership with National Rugby League and Youth Justice to provide an opportunity for small cohorts of young people to be embedded into an NRL team and receive mentoring.

The Upbeat Project – a partnership with PCYC, The Sebastian Foundation and Sony Music to provide a safe space for young people to express themselves artistically.

Youth Command will continue to look for opportunities, in partnership with PCYC to develop and maintain meaningful relationships with government and non-government agencies to deliver community-based diversionary initiatives and support young people across the state.



**Sam Crisafulli
Youth Command Superintendent**

GUY SEBASTIAN AND NSW POLICE COMMISSIONER LAUNCH MUSIC STUDIO



The Sebastian Foundation, established by Guy and Jules Sebastian, collaborated with the NSW Police and PCYC Blacktown to open a state-of-the-art music studio in August 2023.



PCYC's mission intertwines with The Sebastian Foundation, in which it looks to guide young people toward the realisation that they are no different from their peers, and not to underestimate their own potential. Believing that these young individuals should step into the studio and feel confident, understanding that they are good enough, and dreaming big is entirely achievable.

The Sebastian Foundation has renovated the PCYC Blacktown music studio with state-of-the-art professional equipment. This "safe space" is an integral part of The Upbeat Project and is designed to create a secure and welcoming environment for students aged between 12 and 17, as well as at-risk youth in the Blacktown area. It allows them to express themselves and nurture their love of music.

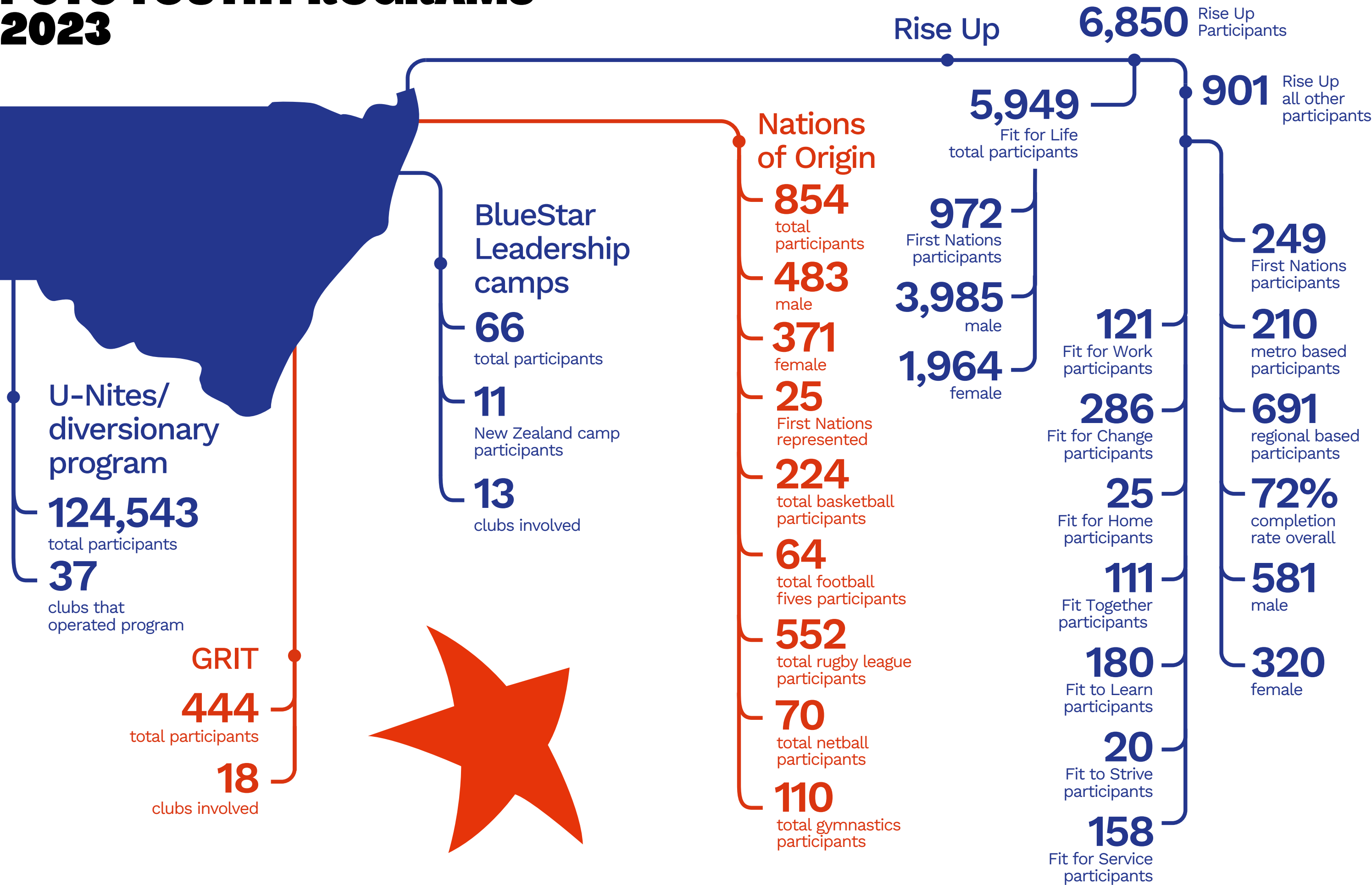
At the official opening, attendees were visibly moved, wiping away tears as members of the youth group joined Guy Sebastian to perform Bill Withers' classic Lean on Me, followed by a special haka, and spoke to the audience about the profound significance of PCYC in their lives.

Guy Sebastian passionately stated, "You don't need to think everyone else is better, more talented, or more worthy. You need to come in here and just play without any rules, realising that you can create some incredible music, and it's easier than you thought. That's my goal with this studio."

He hopes that this newly refurbished studio will provide talented young artists with the necessary tools, software, programs, opportunities, and confidence to produce and record their own music, ultimately changing lives in the process.

Commissioner Webb commended the efforts put into establishing The Upbeat Project and the enduring 86-year partnership between the NSW Police Force and the PCYC. She expressed her delight in being a part of this initiative and stressed the importance of connecting kids with their community, providing all children, from various backgrounds, with a place they can call their own.

PCYC YOUTH PROGRAMS 2023





The stage was set for an exhilarating four days of sport, culture, and empowerment as PCYC NSW hosted its 9th annual Nations of Origin tournament from 11 to 14 July 2023, for the first time in Western Sydney. This highly anticipated event united over 845 Indigenous youth from various corners of NSW, representing 25 Indigenous nations. The tournament served as a platform to foster reconciliation, celebrate cultural identity, promote education, and harness the power of healthy competition.

PCYC NSW'S ANNUAL NATIONS OF ORIGIN TOURNAMENT



The event brought together both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, urging them to embrace the rich tapestry of Aboriginal culture and its profound influence on Australia's history. The tournament did not merely focus on athletic prowess, it stood as a beacon for character-building, leadership development, and cultural respect.

The tournament was a collaboration involving PCYC, NSW Police, and the community, where youth participated in five different sports. It offered a platform for youth to cultivate leadership abilities and forge enduring friendships. It also paid homage to the wisdom and stewardship of Indigenous elders who have preserved the land and its culture. The involvement of NSW Police in the Nations of Origin tournament played a pivotal role in breaking down barriers that might have existed between law enforcement and young individuals.

Participation in the tournament is earned through good behaviour, consistent school attendance, and a connection to culture through interaction with an Elder. The reward? The honour of donning their respective nation's jersey with pride and distinction.

PCYC programs such as the annual Nations of Origin tournament are only made possible by the generosity of our donors, and the commitment between PCYC and the NSW Police to pursue our mission. We thank all those who generously donated their time and resources to make this program a success.



Nations of Origin Placings 2023

Rugby League Plate:	2023 Nations of Origin Plate Final Male Team Winner – Awabakal Black Eagle (Newcastle)
2023 Cup Winners:	Male Team Winner - Yuin Snakes (Shoalhaven) Female Team Winner - Dharawal Whales Black (Lake Illawarra)
Basketball U14 Winners:	Male – Darug Black (Penrith) Female – Wiradjuri (Mudgee)
Basketball U16 Winners:	Male – Wiradjuri Platypus (Bathurst) Female – Darkinjung (Umina)
TeamGym Winners:	1st Place – Darkinjung (Umina)
FreeG Winners:	1st Place – Wiradjuri (Lithgow)
Netball Winners:	1st Place – Awabakal Red (Morisset)
Football Five Winners:	Awabakal (Lake Macquarie)

JAIDEN'S GRITTY TRANSFORMATION

At 15, Jaiden was exhibiting behaviours known to be risk factors. He had no friendly connections and struggled with self-confidence. The resulting low self-esteem consequently led him to avoid group activities – a self-perpetuating downward cycle.

In addition, he also found it difficult to express his thoughts and feelings to others without anger and frustration. At these teenage crossroads, Jaiden's situation was made more precarious as he was also transitioning to a new school and environment. Luckily, his mother Sarah saw a flyer sent home from school for a program called GRIT, run at PCYC Lake Illawarra.

GRIT stands for Growth-mindset Resilience Intervention for Teenagers. It was developed by PCYC in response to the teenage mental health crisis and the pilot began rolling out in late 2021. GRIT is a 10-week mental resilience and wellbeing program which uses physical exercise, nutrition, education and evidenced-based strategies to cultivate emotional intelligence and teach resilience skills.

Sarah thought the program might be a good opportunity for Jaiden to make fresh connections since he was new to Lake Illawarra High School. She was initially unsure if GRIT would be suitable for her son, but she saw significant changes in him after every session. Jaiden was initially hesitant, but after attending the first session he could sense the benefits of the program. A significant change was his development of a growth mindset. He learned not to give up easily when something didn't work out for him. He learned to reflect on his actions and thoughts, which helped him develop a healthy mindset.

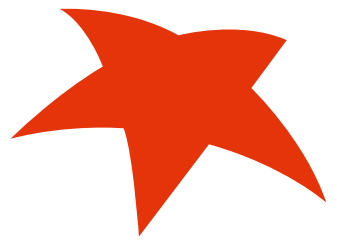
Jaiden now has connections with people outside of school and has become more confident in himself. Today, Sarah is a relieved mother as Jaiden is now more willing to talk about issues he is having rather than giving up or losing his temper. His self-esteem and confidence have grown tenfold, and he is now even starting to participate in public speaking opportunities.

Jaiden is an active member of PCYC, after completing his Blue Star Bronze Award, the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Level Award, as well as receiving the ADF Long Tan Award.

Jaiden's story is just one of many success stories of young people who have participated in the GRIT program and achieved significant changes in themselves.



TYRONE'S TALE: FROM ADVERSITY TO ACHIEVEMENT WITH FIT FOR WORK



Ema & Tyrone, Fit For Work graduation at PCYC Bankstown

At just 17-years old, Tyrone is quietly radiating an immense sense of pride, and rightfully so. Graduating from Bankstown PCYC's 10-week Fit for Work program with the prestigious all-round award - encompassing PCYC's core values of commitment, resilience, integrity, citizenship and respect - marks a significant milestone on Tyrone's journey.

Tyrone is an exceptional young man who has defied the odds, demonstrating remarkable resilience despite facing challenging circumstances. As the eldest of seven siblings raised by a single mother, he witnessed first-hand the sacrifices his mother made to provide for the family. Money was often scarce, and holidays like Christmas were a constant struggle. Yet, Tyrone fondly recalls, "Mum always did the best she could, but I could see how hard it was for her."

These early experiences instilled within Tyrone a deep-rooted drive to make a difference. At 14, he secured his first job at a local supermarket, a testament to his unwavering commitment to helping his family. However, Tyrone's journey toward self-discovery began even earlier, during his formative years when he spent valuable time assisting his grandfather, a dedicated groundskeeper. It was during this period that he discovered his passion for working with his hands.

As he advanced through his school years, Tyrone began to realise that conventional schooling might not be the way to his future but was unsure of what else he could do to progress. Ema, Tyrone's mother, could see that he was starting to go down the wrong path. Recognising the need for change, he seized the opportunity presented by the PCYC Fit for Work program, introduced to him by his career advisor at school. This program, offering an alternative path to traditional schooling, opened doors to new skills, diverse trades, and solidified his aspiration to pursue a career as a plumber. His enthusiasm is fuelled not only by the prospect of assisting his family but also by the realisation that he has found a career that genuinely excites and interests him.

Ema reflects on her son's remarkable journey with pride and gratitude, "I am so proud of where Tyrone is now. I was hesitant at first, thinking that traditional schooling was the only way, but this program has given him the opportunity to try a few different trades, and has helped him focus his mind on a career path. He is now the first out of the house ready for his day!" Despite the challenges Tyrone has faced in his childhood, including unfortunate exposure to violence, he has emerged a kind, caring young man who has triumphed against the odds.

Ema is so thankful for the dedication of PCYC staff, Police and the community. She said she would highly recommend this program in a heartbeat as an alternative to those kids that don't necessarily "fit the mould" at school. As Tyrone reflects on his 10-week journey with profound pride, he acknowledges that without the Fit for Work program, he would not have had the opportunity to walk this transformative path.



HAKA WARRIORS: INSPIRING PASIFIKA YOUTH THROUGH CULTURE AND UNITY

Led by PCYC Blacktown in partnership with NSW Police, Haka Warriors is a 20-week program that uses the powerful haka war dance to connect Pasifika youth with their heritage and instil a powerful sense of cultural pride.



The heart of Haka Warriors lies in creating a sense of positive identity and nurturing young leaders to become positive role models. Beyond teaching the technical execution of haka and the meaning of a Pasifika cultural performance, the program facilitates mentoring and leadership sessions, covering topics like resilience, identity, and decision-making. This comprehensive approach ensures that participants develop a positive sense of identity, and life skills that extend beyond the performance.

The program's impact has grown significantly. 3,500 people attended the 2023 Haka Warriors finale on 1 September at Sydney Olympic Park's Ken Rosewall Arena. This year saw 850 students and 20 high schools represented from Western Sydney, the Central Coast, and Eastern Suburbs.

The program's strength lies in collaboration. PCYC staff, local police, community leaders, and volunteers all work together to create an environment of growth and development. By visiting high schools and conducting sessions, Haka Warriors offers a unique blend of cultural connection and personal empowerment.

This unique approach has proven instrumental in nurturing the confidence for young people to find their voice, and be proud and knowledgeable in their cultural identity. The young people and schools trust the Haka Warriors leadership and delivery team because they are authentic.

The impact is evident. Teachers have noted a remarkable change in attitude and school engagement levels among participants. Positive attitudes, increased attendance, and enhanced engagement have a ripple effect that spreads positivity throughout the student body.

Katherine Alfara, lead teacher for the Haka Warriors program at St Clare's Catholic High School, Hassall Grove in the heart of Western Sydney, attests to its profound impact on attitudes and engagement levels. "Our students' attitudes have become more positive. They're more engaged with school and their attendance is up. The benefit of having the students more engaged, and the flow-on effect of that to other students, is life changing," she shares.

Haka Warriors exemplifies the potential of cultural pride and collaboration. It is a movement that celebrates Pasifika culture, fosters unity, and shapes future leaders. As the Haka Warriors program continues to inspire and make a difference, it stands as a beacon of hope for communities and youth alike.



PCYC NSW YOUTH LEADERS SHINE AT BLUE LIGHT INTERNATIONAL CAMP

A group of 11 young individuals and 3 dedicated staff members proudly represented PCYC NSW at the Blue Light International Youth Leadership Camp in Auckland, New Zealand. These enthusiastic participants hailed from across NSW, including Eastern Suburbs, Penrith, Blacktown, Parkes, Morisset, Wollongong, Glebe, Tamworth, and Far South Coast.

The PCYC Blue Star Leadership programs work with young people in NSW to develop their skills, character, and leadership. These programs are underpinned by the NSW Duke of Edinburgh International Awards. Blue Star Bronze & Silver Levels include three five-day camps where participants work through a range of individual and team challenges, as well as participate in leadership workshops.

The journey commenced on 30 July, when the group set out for Auckland from Sydney. The camp officially began the following day with great enthusiasm when the PCYC contingent was joined by 13 young delegates from Scotland and two youth representatives from the United States, which made for a dynamic group of individuals. The following day, young leaders from New Zealand joined the cohort.

The camp's four-day schedule was packed with engaging activities and meaningful interactions. The first day included a formal welcoming ceremony, followed by an afternoon dedicated to team-building games and life skills workshops. The group also had the privilege of learning valuable skills from the New Zealand Defence Force. These experts facilitated leadership and team-building activities, along with survival workshops such as raft building and knot tying.

The following days were full of diverse activities, including rock climbing, bike and scooter riding, and a fascinating 3D printing workshop, where participants designed unique tribal medallions for their necklaces. In the evening, an engaging drumming workshop captivated everyone's attention, emphasising the importance of effective communication, particularly attentive listening, leaving a lasting impression on the entire group.

The last official day of camp was particularly special, as participants prepared their songs and marched for the graduation ceremony, after they had the opportunity to explore Auckland's attractions. Notably, the group enjoyed the All-Blacks Experience and embarked on an enthralling tour of The Hobbit exhibition.

Finally, it was time to bid farewell to their newfound friends. As the group embarked on their journey back home, they carried with them invaluable lessons and experiences from their time at the Blue Light International Youth Leadership Camp that only the PCYC Bluestar Program can provide.



STEPPING UP INTO A CAREER

In the heart of Sydney, a cohort of 32 ambitious young minds eagerly embarked on a transformative journey towards professional success. Among them was Emmanuel Daramola, a determined young man with lofty aspirations but a lack of clarity on how to navigate the world of employment. Enter the newly developed PCYC Stepping Up program, promising to equip students with crucial employability skills, ensuring a confident transition into the workforce.

With a dynamic 10-week curriculum, the program immerses participants in a comprehensive employability skills training regimen. Focusing not only on current prerequisites but also on the soft skills crucial for the evolving professional landscape, the program offers a holistic approach to career development. With individual catch ups, and meetings at various PCYC clubs convenient to the participant, this new program is very much tailored to the individual and their specific requirements.

Emmanuel, who arrived from Nigeria with his family some years ago, found it tricky navigating a brand new country, new friends, and a new culture. He joined the Bankstown PCYC, where he felt like he belonged, and then started to have a go at boxing. He met Youth Engagement Officer, Senior Constable Timothy Ray at the club, who mentored him through this period.

"Emmanuel has been a standout young person for the Bankstown PCYC and showed incredible commitment and attitude to all that he takes part in. When the Stepping Up program was discussed, I knew that Emmanuel was a perfect fit to be the most successful young person who would take the opportunity with both hands! He was also nominated as most Inspirational Young Person for the Bankstown Local Council in October 2023."

Guided by PCYC career mentors and assisted by youth workers, the program implements a personalised career pathway for participants. Practical workshops on resume writing and mock interviews give the cohort

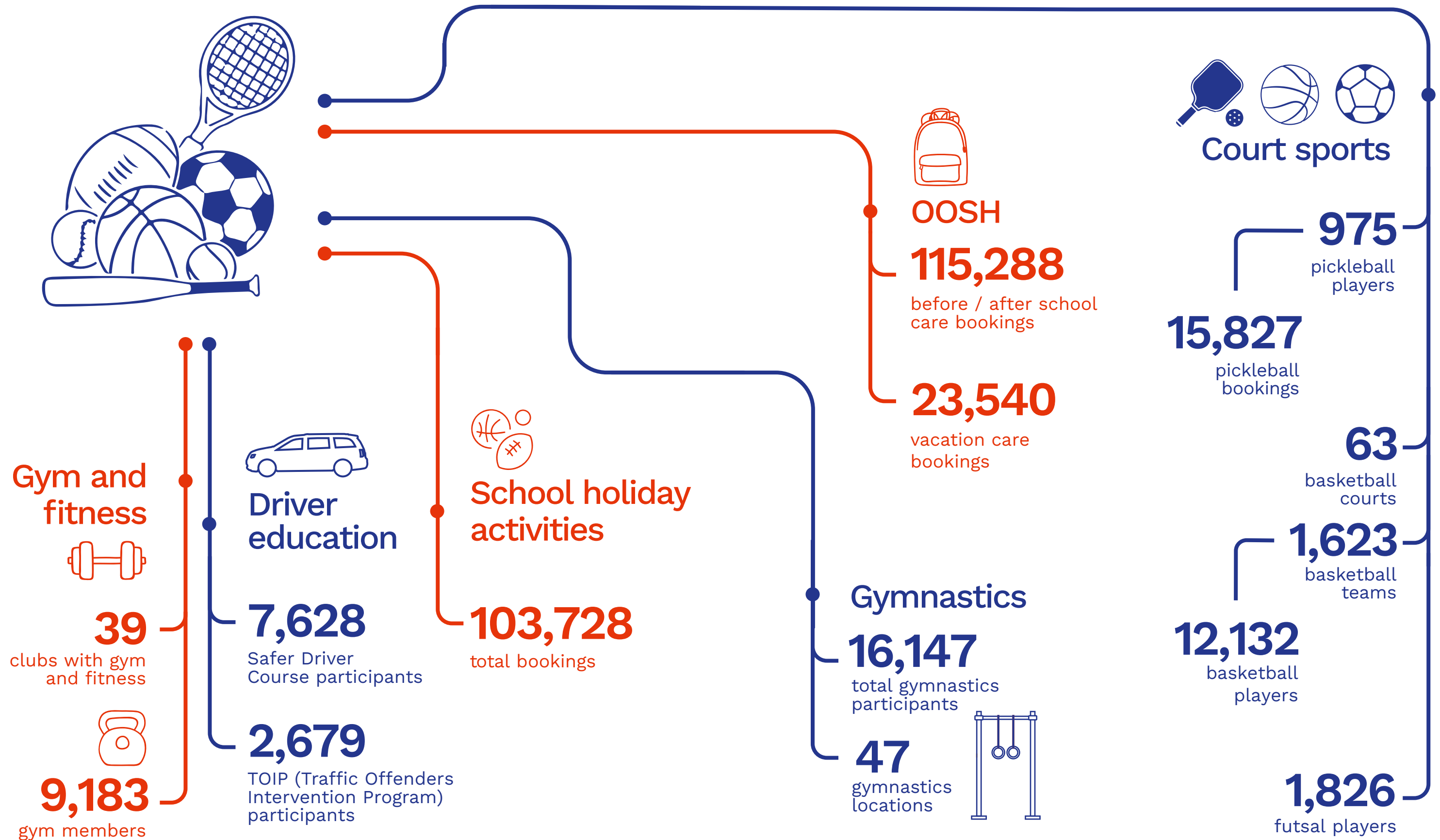
the ability to articulate their skills and experiences with confidence. Beyond the theory, the program ensures tangible support in the form of job application assistance, and its commitment to real-world exposure through work experience.

Emmanuel's mother, Olubusola Daramola is extremely thankful for the inclusivity of the program. "No matter his race, the PCYC still accepted him for who he is. This program has really changed him, and it has really taught him discipline."

The program's support does not conclude with the completion of the 10-week intensive. Participants, including Emmanuel, have benefited from a year-long one-on-one mentoring program, ensuring a seamless transition into full-time work. Emmanuel has a clear pathway he wants to pursue as an Artilleryman in the Australian Defence Force. With the support of PCYC staff and this new program, he says, "I am so excited for my future, and without the help I received from PCYC, I would not have known how to get to this stage. Waiting for the call on whether I have made it is nerve-wracking but so exciting!"

The inaugural PCYC Stepping Up program has helped its participants gain employment not only in the Australian Defence Force but within various fields such as cheffing, IT services, nursing, policing, architecture and will continue to empower the next generation as they step into a world of boundless possibilities.

PCYC ACTIVITIES 2023





A TRANSFORMATIVE GYMNASTICS PARTNERSHIP FOR AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NATIONS YOUTH

PCYC NSW, Gymnastics NT and Gymnastics NSW are excited to announce a ground-breaking new partnership to enhance remote gymnastics programs across the Northern Territory. The development of this partnership has seen the launch of a new Coach Development program, with a focus on Indigenous youth engagement.

Thanks to support from the Northern Territory Government, this collaborative endeavour will provide crucial on-the-job training to PCYC NSW gymnastics leaders during remote gymnastics programs. It aims to support the growth of the NT Remote Program while amplifying the capabilities and capacities of First Nations coaches within the PCYC NSW network.

Ben Hobby, CEO of PCYC NSW, is excited about the partnership. "This represents a unique opportunity for our team to collaborate with talented First Nations youth, while gaining valuable insights regarding how we can create meaningful engagement with First Nations communities."

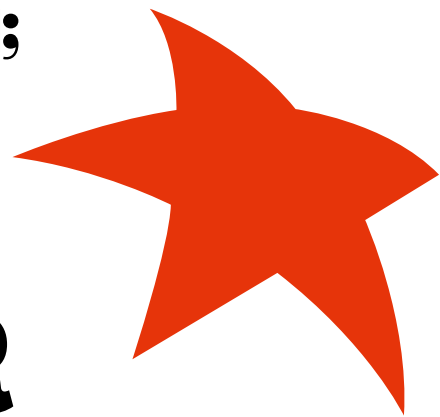
The Remote Program Scholarship has PCYC coaching team members travel to the Northern Territory and teach gymnastics and movement programs over a week in remote Indigenous communities. The project aims to provide a greater understanding of coaching styles, and for the team to explore ways to increase Indigenous youth engagement in the sport of gymnastics. Upon returning to NSW, these individuals will employ their newfound skills and knowledge to become leaders within their local communities, adapting gymnastics programs to cater to local indigenous participants' specific needs and interests.

Rebecca Shaw, CEO of Gymnastics NSW acknowledged PCYC NSW's contributions to the community. "With established programs such as Rise Up and events such as Nations of Origin, PCYC NSW has long supported our First Nation's participants," she said.

Gymnastics NT Executive Director Jayde Martin warmly welcomed the incoming NSW coaching team, saying, "This partnership is not only a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our new coaches to expand their gymnastics skills, but also a chance to deepen their understanding of culture and land, ultimately enabling them to serve their communities better back home."

This initiative is a significant step in promoting access to and growth of gymnastics in remote regions, with the potential to greatly enhance local communities' cultural enrichment and participation in sports. With positive reports from PCYC NSW coaches, planning is underway to continue the program again next year, with promotion of this amazing opportunity set to be pushed throughout the entire PCYC NSW coaching network.

PCYC OOSH EXPANDS MISSION; UNVEILING FOUR NEW SERVICES FOR OVER 10 YEARS



PCYC has operated out of school hours (OOSH) childcare services for over 10 years, providing before school, after school, and vacation care to thousands of children across NSW.

PCYC currently delivers 22 OOSH services across NSW in regional locations and across Greater Sydney, as well as operating school holiday programs in over 60 clubs across NSW. Four new services opened in 2023, servicing approximately 180 additional families across NSW.

PCYC OOSH continues with our mission of empowering young people no matter their circumstance, and as a result, some of our newer OOSH locations have opened in small rural and regional communities. Thanks to the Service Establishment Grant and Transport Grant from the Department of Education, services in OOSH locations in Ilford, Mudgee, Ben Venue and Cudgong Valley have been funded for 12 months.

Ilford Public School, established in 1868, serves the local farming community with 28 students and has a connection to its historic roots. PCYC Ilford OOSH provides After School Care exclusively on school grounds, Monday to Friday.

Cudgong Valley Public School, in a rural setting, has 13% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and 2% from an EALD background. The purpose-built OOSH Hub offers Before and After School Care during term time, with average daily bookings increasing significantly. Vacation care sees an average of 30 bookings.

Mudgee Public School, with 585 students, provides Before and After School Care during term time, and vacation care during school holidays.

Ben Venue Public School, the largest primary school in Armidale, caters to diverse backgrounds, with 14% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, 12% of students with a language background other than English, 4% new arrivals in the past three years and 10% of all students requiring related language support. PCYC OOSH operates from the school hall, offering before and after school care during term time and vacation care during holidays. Local transportation extends care to neighbouring schools, with increasing numbers in both care services.

Our before school programs include experiences and opportunities for children to develop self-help skills such as making their own breakfast alongside educators. We know the mornings can sometimes be slow, so we've developed our morning programs to really warm our children up to get ready for a big day of learning!

Our after school programs include Homework Club to assist children with any of their day's homework or school projects. PCYC knows that older children need more independence and challenging activities, so our programs are designed to support their ever-growing autonomy.

EA SPORTS LAUNCH FOOTBALL PITCH WITH AUBURN PCYC FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

EA Sports, in partnership with PCYC NSW, commemorated Matilda's captain and global icon Sam Kerr by launching the Sam Kerr Football Pitch. This permanent football pitch, officially unveiled in August, found its home in the heart of the football community at PCYC Auburn.

The partnership provides a high-quality facility with free access for youth in an area where it's needed most. Notably, fans can also experience the Sam Kerr Pitch in the new EA SPORTS FC24 game, an extension of the FIFA video game series that brings a taste of the pitch into the gaming world.


Stuart Coleman, Senior Director of Asia Marketing for Electronic Arts, expressed excitement, stating, "We're thrilled to announce the arrival of EA SPORTS FC in Australia, revealing a pitch dedicated to our global ambassador Sam Kerr as part of our FC FUTURES program. Partnering with PCYC to provide access to a pitch for the local community aims to inspire the next generation of grassroots players and contribute to the growth of football in this exciting era for Australian football."

The result a fully fenced, 3.6m high pitch with padding for player protection and advertising opportunities around the border.

During the official unveiling on 8 August at the PCYC Auburn, Arsenal legend Ian Wright, Australian football personality Craig Foster, and Matilda Emily Gielnik were present to assist. Sam Kerr was unable to attend due to World Cup commitments but expressed her appreciation, stating, "It's an honour to have a pitch inspired by and created in my name."

This initiative is part of EA Sports ongoing expansion of its FC FUTURES program, a grassroots program designed to support and advance women's and girls' football. The project aims to provide coaching clinics and training camps conducted by A-League clubs and star players, emphasising Sam Kerr's role as an inspiration for players worldwide and offering a well-equipped, high-quality facility with free access for young players.





EMPOWERING YOUTH: JOSEPH'S RESILIENT JOURNEY



Joseph first stepped into PCYC Walgett at the age of 14, drawn in by his friends and the promise of sports and activities. His motivation was simple yet profound — seeking a safe haven away from the complexities of his upbringing. Raised in a low-income family amid the shadows of domestic violence and substance abuse, Joseph faced obstacles that could have easily derailed his journey.

PCYC Walgett swiftly became Joseph's sanctuary, offering not only safety but a network of positive role models. It evolved into more than a club, it became his second home, with the staff transforming into a surrogate family. In the midst of adversity, Joseph found solace and support, gaining the confidence to make decisions, embrace independence, secure employment, and set ambitious goals for his future.

Participating in programs like REAL and Fit for Life, Joseph discovered a renewed sense of purpose. These initiatives encouraged him to rise early, engage in fitness, and even attend school regularly – a significant departure from his previous habits. The U-Nites program on Friday nights provided not just entertainment but a safe place, steering him away from potential trouble on the streets.

Joseph's journey at PCYC didn't end with participation, it evolved into a leadership role. Transitioning from a program participant to a volunteer and now an employed PCYC Activities Officer, he now contributes to the same environment that once rescued him. Joseph's newfound confidence and skills, from gymnastics coaching to activity planning, stand testament to the transformative power of PCYC in a young person's life.

Acknowledging the pivotal role PCYC played in his life, Joseph recognises Senior Constable Jay Murphy as his inspiration. Murphy's encouragement to step out of his comfort zone and embrace various activities provided Joseph with stability and reliability.

Reflecting on his journey, Joseph shares an important lesson: the realisation that he can overcome any challenge with determination and resilience. His personal growth speaks volumes about the life changing impact of a supportive environment.

Grateful for the opportunities he found, Joseph emphasises the importance of such establishments in small communities like Walgett. Now employed at PCYC, he is in a unique position to pay it forward, offering support and positive change to the young people in his community.

Joseph's story is not just one of personal triumph but a testament to the life-changing impact PCYC can have on young people and communities, providing a lifeline to those navigating the challenges of youth in less privileged circumstances.

PCYC 2023 IMAGE GALLERY



Our school holiday program participants enjoy a wide variety of activities that cater for all ages and abilities, designed to keep them active, make new friends and remain mentally stimulated. Activities include gymnastics, laser tag, ball sports, dance, science experiments, drama, craft and more.



PCYC runs regular netball competitions for juniors right through to seniors, for all abilities and fitness levels.



PCYC Tweed Heads on the water for the Fit for Service program. Hosted by The Water Police, the program is designed to assist young people with a keen interest in pursuing a career in policing, defence and emergency services.

The Rotary Adopt-a-PCYC initiative has a goal of every Rotary Club adopting their local PCYC, to support community networking and vital fundraising activities. Rotary also works to support PCYC's programs, ensures PCYC Members are made aware of Rotary scholarships and awards, and supports PCYC's annual StarJump Challenge community fundraiser.



Looking for a way to keep active during the sporting off-season? Want to meet new people in a sporting environment? How about a location where you can break a sweat, rain, hail or shine? PCYC offers great basketball competitions for all levels.



The NSW Police Boxing Competition was born out of a shared love for the sport. In its proud 10 year history, the competitions have raised more than \$650,000 for NSW Policy Legacy, a remarkable and much appreciated contribution to our communities.



In September, this incredible cohort of young people from Tamworth graduated from the GRIT program. Throughout this initiative these young individuals embraced challenges, confronted their fears and tapped into their inner strength whilst maintaining a growth mindset.

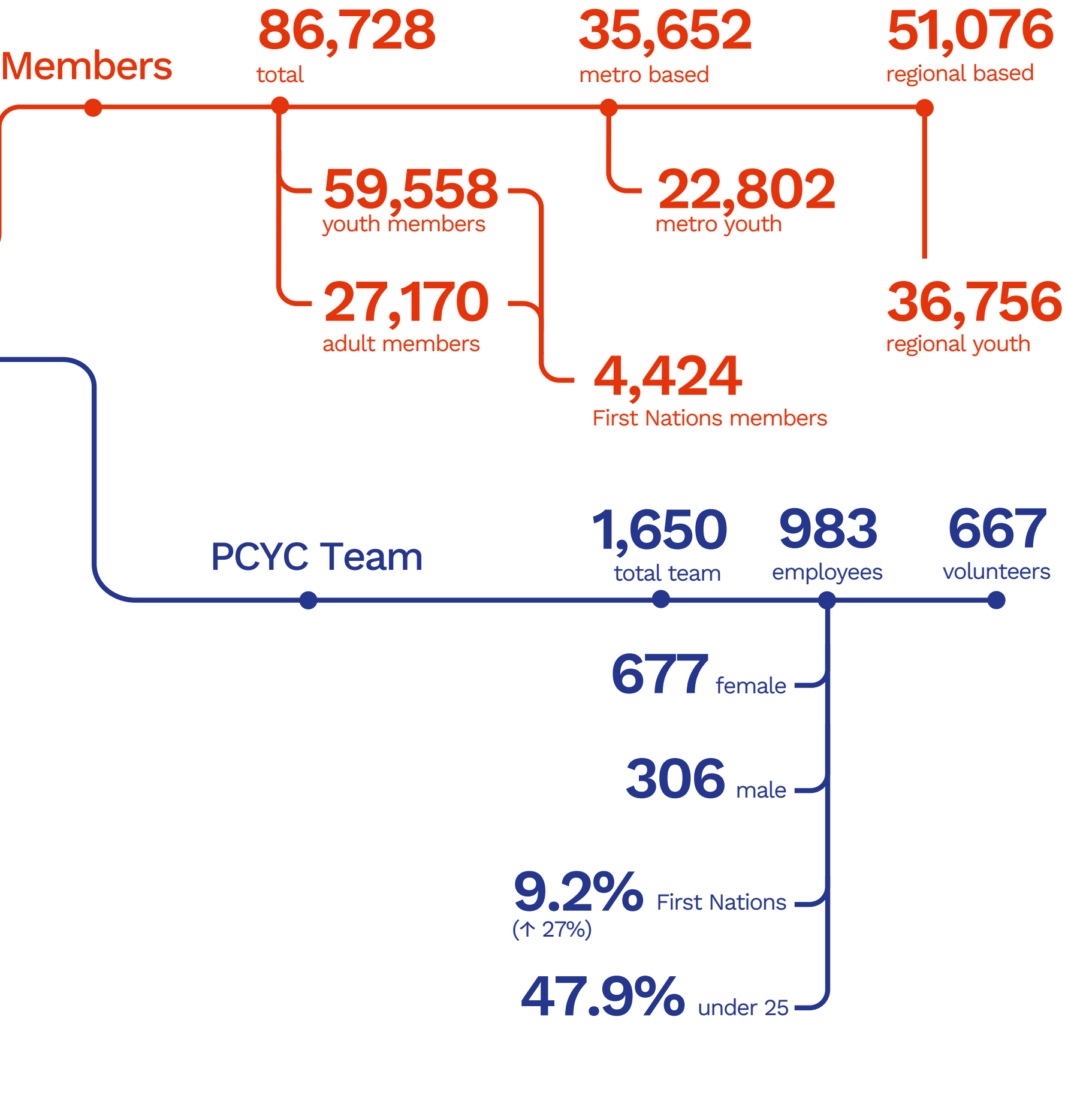
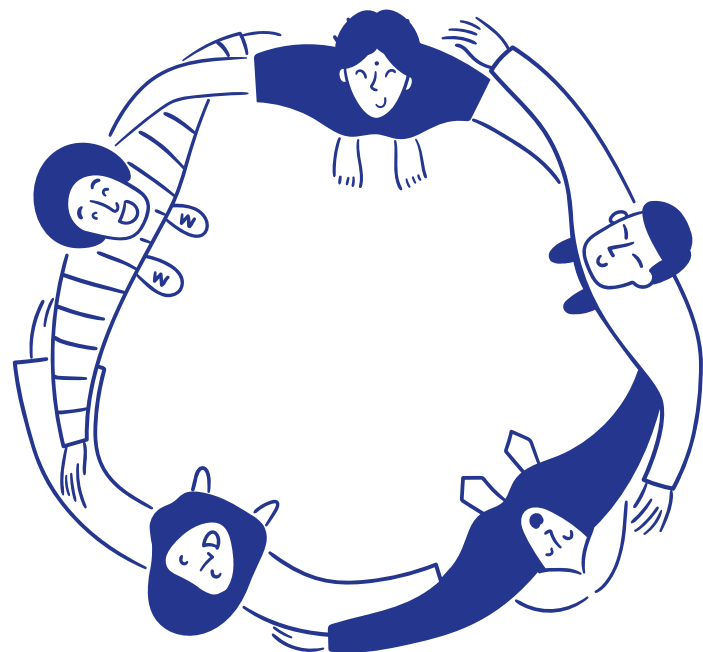


'Fight For Success', a youth-focused initiative kicked off in 4 locations across western and northern NSW in September. The program is now active in Walgett, Bourke, Brewarrina, and Kempsey, just like Fit For Life and Fit for Work, it's all part of the plan to help kids out and have some fun along the way.



PCYC NSW delivers a range of driver education programs in more than 100 locations state-wide.

PCYC COMMUNITY 2023



Reach

66 clubs

22 Sydney metro locations

11 Western Sydney

44 regional NSW locations

882,453 visitations

The annual PCYC NSW Charity Gala Ball, in November, featured the inspiring story of Troy, a Fit for Work graduate.



StarJump Challenge 2023. Clubs, members, schools, businesses and Twinkle star jumped to raise funds for PCYC's life changing programs.



Nations of Origin, in July. Snowy Hydro's support of PCYC and renewable energy on display.

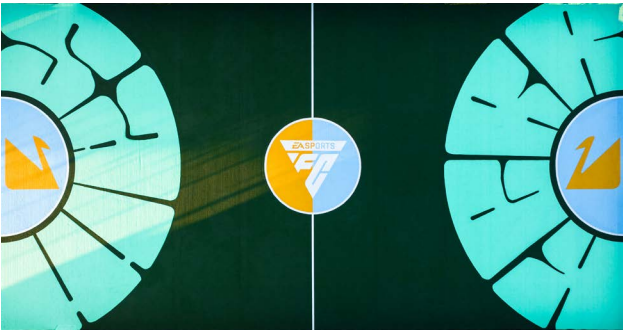


PCYC IS A CHARITY

THANK YOU TO OUR LIFE CHANGING SUPPORTERS



Nations of Origin in July, sponsored by Red Energy. Gamilaraay-Walgett girls Rugby League.



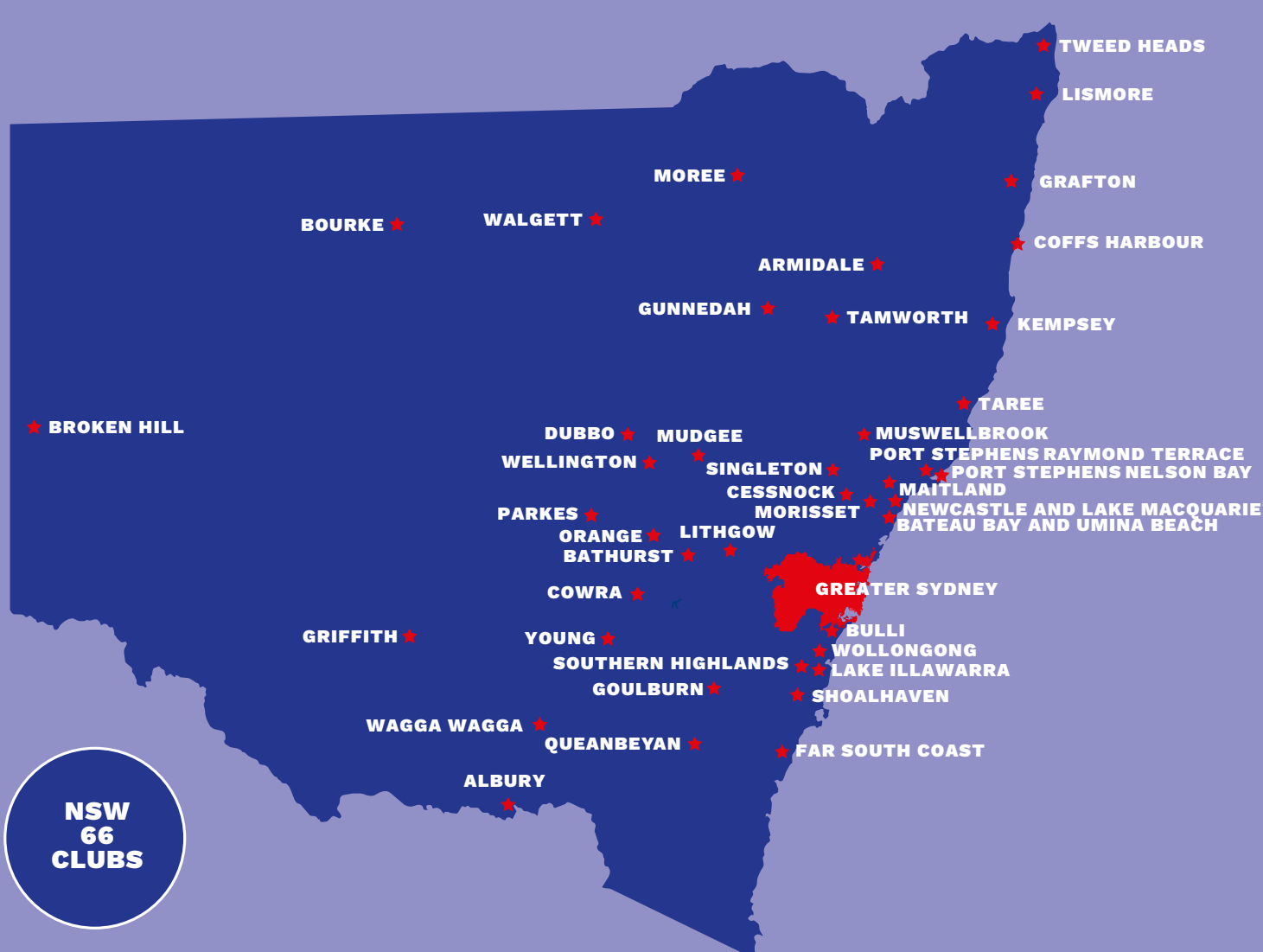
EA Sports launched the Sam Kerr Football Pitch at PCYC Auburn during the Women's World Cup.



Nations of Origin, in July, Efex joined the fun as a major sponsor, seen here at the Football Fives.



The Christmas appeal, captured in November/December, featured Savannah Pride, a homework and basketball program, based out of Mount Druitt.



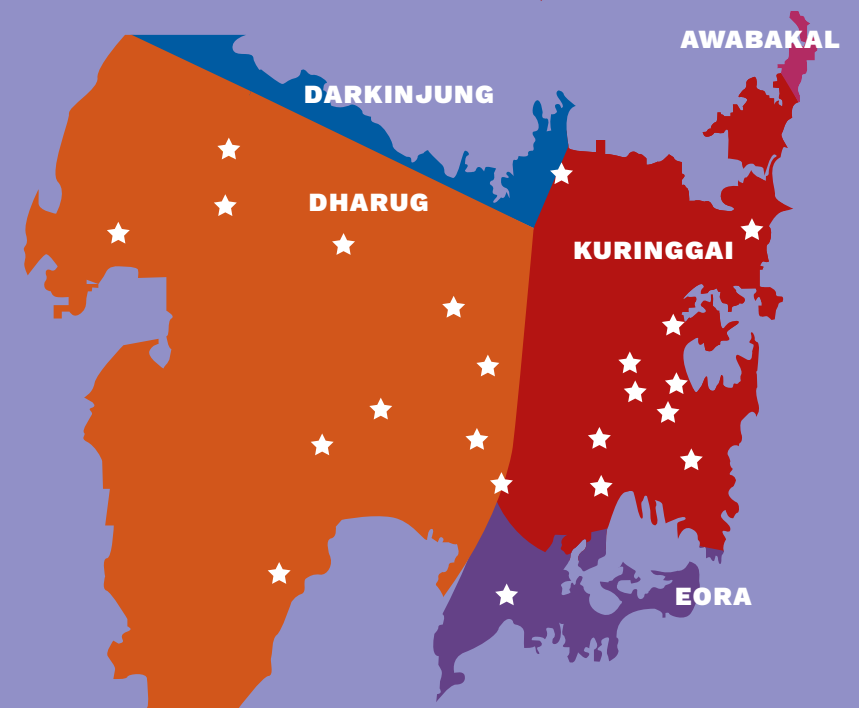
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