



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Getting a Sporting Chance

Professor Rhonda Craven and Dr Alex Yeung from the Centre for Educational Research are exploring the benefits of participation in school-based sports academies on the personal development of Indigenous Australians through funding for the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).



'In an effort to improve educational and life outcomes for Indigenous high school students, the Australian Government has set aside over \$19 million dollars for an innovative 4 year sports academy and sports education engagement strategy called the *Sporting Chance Programme*,' says Professor Craven. 'Under the scheme, school-based sports academies for Indigenous secondary school students have been set up in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas, with the aim to improve the personal and educational development of Indigenous adolescents in areas such as school engagement, self-esteem, self-identity and self-concept. Our research project will design an assessment tool kit to measure the success of the *Sporting Chance Programme* and use the tools to analyse the current and future benefits of engagement in sporting activities through the academies.'

The research team will adapt an existing self-concept questionnaire to specifically measure personal development concerns for Indigenous participants, and use this scale to analyse the sports academy student's beliefs and attitudes about themselves in relation to such attributes as physical ability, relationships, emotional stability, academic ability and self-esteem. Other tools will also be applied to measure other important attributes such as sense of belonging, cultural identity, resilience and motivation.

This research project will provide DEST and the sports academies' administrators with a set of standardised tests that can be used to measure the baseline personal skills and beliefs and ongoing progress of Indigenous school students who participate in the *Sporting Chance Programme*. In providing evidence for the expected benefits of such programs, the project may ultimately lead to an extension of the scheme into other schools, and an improvement in general life skills and future expectations of Indigenous Australians.

Project Title: *The Sporting Chance Programme*

Funding has been set at: \$16,319

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Contact Details:

r.craven@uws.edu.au

<http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchcentres/cer>