



Cricket: *Cricket Australia*

‘The long term future of the game is dependent upon embracing all people irrespective of their age, gender, race, religion or ability’.¹

Much more than a game

Cricket is very much a world game. The International Cricket Council was founded in 1909 by Australia, England and South Africa. These three founding members have been joined by seven further full members, 32 associate members and 54 affiliate members. The game now boasts 96 member countries from all parts of the globe.

Cricket has been an important part of the Australian way of life for over a century. It is part of our national psyche and firmly entrenched in Australian culture. Famous players like Sir Donald Bradman and Steve Waugh are idolised and some of the great Test Matches – such as the infamous Bodyline series – have become important moments in our nation’s brief history.

Cricket is our nation’s main summer sport in terms of participants, spectators and media coverage. However, it is sometimes seen as an exclusive game, one reserved for certain groups in Australian society. Cricket Australia is adamant this is not the case and wants to change this perception.

Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Sutherland said: “Cricket is a genuinely national sport and for that to continue into the future, we must ensure it remains a game for all Australians to access, to participate and to be involved in”.²

Cricket Australia

Cricket Australia is the governing body of the game in Australia.

It is made up of six member associations: Cricket New South Wales; Queensland Cricket; South Australian Cricket Association; Tasmanian Cricket Association; Cricket Victoria; and Western Australian Cricket Association. The Australian Capital Territory Cricket Association and the Northern Territory Cricket Association are affiliate associations.

With the composition of Australia’s population rapidly changing, so too is the attention given to different sports in this country. While cricket may have a strong place in Australian culture today, it does not mean that it will remain that way unless the game evolves and continues to remain relevant to the broad community.

Cricket Australia understands that 25 per cent of Australians are born overseas and many have arrived in the country without any knowledge of cricket, its rules and its culture.³ Part of Cricket Australia’s Strategic Plan *‘From Backyard to Baggy Green’* acknowledges the need

for cricket to embrace the changing population, to encourage participation and involvement from non-traditional cricket groups, and to develop strategies to foster greater participation and inclusion.

In recognition of this fact, one of the most important areas of Cricket Australia is their Game Development Department, which is responsible for overseeing all cricket development activities. Among other things, one of the department's responsibilities is to increase cricket participation across the nation.

The annual Australian Cricket Census is an important tool to assess this support and a vital information system which is used for game development, setting targets, and monitoring successes and trends for the long-term enhancement of Australian cricket.

Who plays cricket?

To determine the number of players registered throughout Australia each year, Cricket Australia joins with the state/territory associations to send census forms to individual clubs. The Census results provide an insight into the demographics of participation in Australian cricket so that appropriate planning and programs can be set up.

The 2005–06 Australian Cricket Census showed that there were 4,094 cricket clubs, 35,189 club and school cricket teams and 543,433 participants in Australian cricket competitions and programs (of at least four games/sessions) in 2005–06. Of these participants, 486,639 (or 89.55%) were males and 56,749 participants (or 10.45%) were females.⁴

These figures do not include cricket matches or competitions arranged by organisations other than cricket clubs, associations, or schools, nor does it include participants in social/informal cricket activities.

In 2005–06 there were:

- 308,253 participants in traditional club cricket competitions (including women's competitions).
- 7,270 participants in non-traditional club cricket programs.
- 123,636 players in traditional school cricket competitions.
- 56,701 players in non-traditional school cricket programs.
- 47,573 players in entry level skills development programs, comprising:
 - 40,227 in the *Have a Go* Program,
 - 4,932 in *Kanga* Cricket,
 - 1,063 in *CricHit*,
 - 1,351 in other entry level programs.⁵

Table 1: Characteristics of Cricket Participation in Australia used in 2005–06	
JUNIORS	
In more than one team	7.03%
Club and HAG	17.07%
School	23.27%
Women/girls in clubs	2.49%
Indigenous	1.35%
Non-English speaking origin	11.25%
SENIORS	
In more than one team	11.45%
Women/girls in clubs	1.57%
Indigenous	1.94%
Non-English speaking origin	6.76%

SOURCE: *Survey of Cricket Clubs in Australia, 2004–05*.

The Census also presents the trends in cricket participation since the first national census in 2002–03, identifying 5.4 per cent per annum growth in total participation since 2002–03 and 13.61% growth in the most recent year (between 2004–05 and 2005–06).⁶

Cricket Australia does not, nor do any of the state and territory associations, collect data relating to socio-economic strata, disability, Indigenous or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people.⁷

At the launch of the Census in 2004, Cricket Australia’s CEO James Sutherland said: “The information provided by the Census enables us to be more strategic in our planning, and gives us an in-depth analysis of exactly who is playing cricket in Australia”.

“From this information, we can analyse cricket participation in specific regions and tailor our local programs accordingly. For example, statistics show us which regions need more coach education programs, which require more emphasis in schools, and where our Indigenous cricket programs will have the greatest impact.”⁸

Flagging the sport’s major challenge, Sutherland went on to say: “Cricket’s major battle is not winning the next Test or One Day International series. Our major challenge is overcoming inactivity amongst children, encouraging schools to keep playing cricket, having councils support more community cricket initiatives, ensuring more girls play cricket and helping make cricket accessible to Indigenous and minority groups”.⁹

Late last year Cricket Australia appointed a Senior Officer – Indigenous cricket. The new role, which is based in Darwin, was created to help drive Australian cricket’s strategy to substantially increase participation in cricket among Indigenous people.

The primary responsibility of this role is to develop and implement services and programs for Indigenous people to increase the current participation rate. The officer will also undertake significant work within the federal and Northern Territory cricket systems to work closely with the staff responsible for Indigenous cricket in the state and territory programs.¹⁰

The following report outlines strategies and projects that Cricket Australia (and state associations and cricket clubs) have implemented to achieve greater participation in the game from juniors, CALD groups and Indigenous people.

Youth and cricket

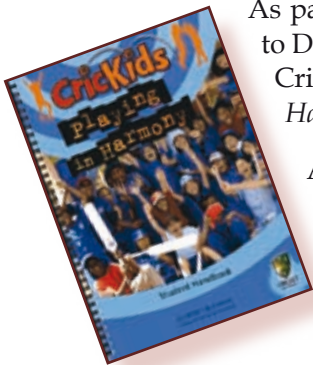
Cricket Australia, together with the state and territory cricket associations, run a comprehensive junior cricket program, which includes: *Milo Have-A-Go*, *Milo Have-A-Game*, *Milo Kanga Cricket* and *Milo Super 8's*. Over half-a-million young Australians participate in these development programs each year.

These cricket programs, which began in 1982, are conducted in a safe learning environment and teach children the fundamentals of the game, assist in developing co-ordination and ball skills, and maximise cricket participation for young boys and girls.

Cricket Australia's school education strategy has identified three goals:

1. A National Schools Cricket Strategy, which encompasses resources and programs to make cricket Australia's favourite sport.
2. The development of programs and resources to introduce and keep people in the game by building skills, participation levels and cricket pathways.
3. The retention of participants through the provision of a positive first experience of the game in whatever shape or form that may take.

CricKids Playing in Harmony program

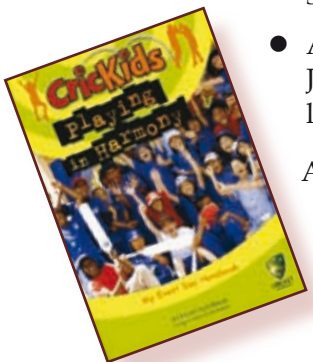


As part of the partnership with the federal Government, Cricket Australia's commitment to DIMA's Harmony Day initiative has identified some key links to their National Schools Cricket Strategy. As a result, Cricket Australia has developed the *CricKids Playing in Harmony* cricket resource.

A pilot of this program has recently been completed at specifically selected schools throughout Australia in 2006, with over 7,500 participants taking part in the initiative nation-wide. Cricket Australia's *CricKids* resources aim to introduce children to cricket through enjoyable and meaningful activities using tools available through the education sector. They include implementation using key learning areas, technology and alternative curriculum methodology.

The *CricKids* Playing in Harmony curriculum-linked resource includes:

- A Teacher's Handbook, a Student's Handbook and CD-Rom prepared for classroom activities: Topics within the module include bullying, anti-racism, harmony and respect.
- The Event Day Handbook: includes activities for students to work through with teachers, peers and parents about racism and respond to the reasons why we should say no to racism messages.
- A range of posters featuring Australian players such as Ricky Ponting, Brett Lee and Justin Langer, which highlight themes such as respect, racism, bullying, fair play, leadership and the spirit of cricket.

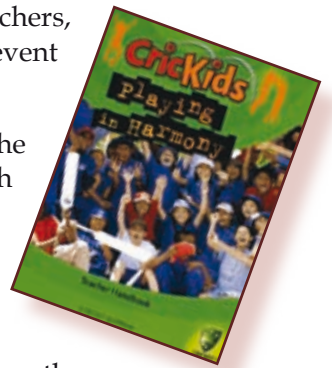


At a teaching resource and professional development day held in May 2006, the program was delivered to 26 pilot school representatives and officials from state cricket associations from around Australia. The program is endorsed by Cricket Australia's coach John Buchanan, and representatives from the Australian men's and women's cricket teams.

The 2006 *CricKids* Playing in Harmony pilot program's direct reach was to 117 teachers, 2,502 students (pilot schools) and 5,038 students (feeder schools involved in the event day).

The success of the pilot will result in over 13,000 Australian schools having the opportunity to be involved in the full program in March 2007, to coincide with Harmony Day activities throughout Australia.

CricKids programs are designed to be inclusive and provide meaningful engagement for all students regardless of age, ability, gender or culture. Currently *CricKids* programs include *CricKids* Ashes Challenge, *CricKids* School Cricket and *CricKids* Playing in Harmony, with continued research and development underway to build on the National Schools Cricket initiative.



Indigenous participation in cricket

Sport is a very important part of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life. It is a means to enhance better health and has the potential to create positive individual and community wellbeing and life choices for Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous cricketers have a long history of involvement in the game in Australia, dating back to mid-nineteenth century. It was at this time that the game was introduced by pastoralists to the members of isolated communities, outposts and missions.¹¹

In 1866 an Indigenous squad was selected to tour England. The team consisted of 13 Aborigines from the Western District of Victoria and an English captain/coach, and played a total of 47 matches in 115 days abroad.

This represented the first occasion on which an Australian sporting team had ventured overseas. Interest in the history of Indigenous cricket in Australia was subsequently revived when a representative team was selected to tour England in 1988 as a means of commemorating the experience of 1868.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples demonstrate exceptional ability in a diverse range of sports. For example, among a population that is 2.8 per cent¹² of the total Australian population, they constitute eight per cent of Australian Football League players. At this point in time, however, few Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate in mainstream cricket and even fewer have competed at first class and international levels.¹³

In fact, only two Aboriginal people have represented Australia at the national level since the 1868 touring team – Faith Thomas, Women's Cricket Australia and Jason Gillespie, a member of the current Australian Men's Cricket team.¹⁴

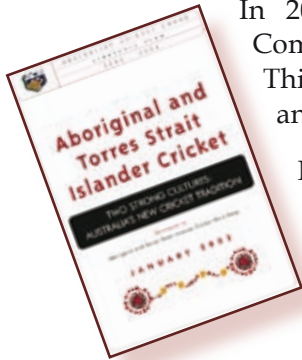
At the first Prime Minister's XI v ATSIC chairman's XI match in 2001, won by the ATSIC team, Mr Howard said: "There are a lot of things that contribute towards the reconciliation process and this is one of them". He praised the event as an opportunity for Indigenous cricketers to show their talent and a chance to redress what he called "a surprising imbalance of first class Indigenous cricketers".¹⁵

The match has since been abandoned following the demise of ATSIC. However, Cricket Australia's efforts to encourage Indigenous participation in the game have not suffered this same fate, and since 2000, continue to flourish.



Lifting the appeal of cricket among Indigenous Australians is one of the key priorities of Cricket Australia's strategic plan *'From Backyard to Baggy Green'*. It is committed under this plan to having 25,000 Indigenous players among its projected 550,000 participants by 2009.¹⁶

Two Cultures: Australia's New Cricket Tradition



In 2001, Cricket Australia established the National Indigenous Cricket Advisory Committee (NICAC) to help facilitate the growth of cricket in Indigenous communities. This committee consists of an Indigenous representative from each state and territory and several cricket representatives.

NICAC established a strategic plan titled *'Two Cultures: Australia's New Cricket Tradition'* in 2002 that outlines the main barriers to participation, key steps to develop programs and provide Indigenous Australian's with the opportunity to play cricket.

The main barriers to participation in cricket for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been identified as:

- the difference and diversity of geographical location,
- the exclusiveness of the current structure of cricket,
- lack of financial resources,
- lack of role models working in and playing the game,
- lack of information and knowledge about the game, and
- the need for respect.¹⁷

Cricket Australia's Indigenous cricket program is about 'the Indigenous and cricket cultures working together for the benefit of both cultures'¹⁸ to overcome these barriers.

James Selby, from the Australian Sports Commission's Indigenous Sport Unit, believes the strength of *'Two Cultures: Australia's New Cricket Tradition'* is its holistic approach. "It is not just about running player clinics, it is also about developing skills in the community such as coaching, administration, umpiring and sports training," he said.¹⁹

The program has continued to thrive with assistance from the Australian Sports Commission's Indigenous Sport Program, state and territory cricket association representatives and Indigenous cricket representatives.

Other Cricket Australia initiatives to promote Indigenous cricket include: the employment of Indigenous Cricket Development Officers in several states, the implementation of Indigenous cricket coaching and umpiring courses around the country and the provision of equipment in Indigenous communities.

Former Australian captain Ian Chappell believes role models at the elite level are a key to cricket becoming a part of life within Indigenous communities. Previously "there was no real pathway to the top and I'm almost certain there was a prejudice, so that's what Cricket Australia is trying to do now, let people know that there is a way to the top," he said.²⁰

Indigenous cricket carnivals

The Imparja Cup, an all-Indigenous cricket carnival, was first held in 1994 as a Northern Territory community-based event between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Since then, it has expanded to become a national tournament and an important fixture on the Australian cricket calendar.

Hosted by Cricket Australia and Northern Territory Cricket, the Imparja Cup consists of four divisions to cater for cricketers of all capabilities.

Imparja, which means 'footprint', has grown steadily in the last few years and has encouraged Cricket Australia to intensify its efforts to reach urban, rural and remote Aboriginal communities.

NT Cricket have also developed the Indigenous Cricket Carnival in Darwin called the Larrakia Cup to increase Indigenous participation in cricket.

There are now Indigenous events in every state, such as the South Australia Lords Taverners Indigenous Cricket Carnival conducted by the South Australian Cricket Association, in conjunction with the South Australian Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Association.²¹

Encouraging diversity

Cricket Australia became an official partner of the Australian Government's Harmony Day initiative in 2006, which is celebrated on 21 March to help promote the nation's multicultural and diverse society.

The official partnership was launched by Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland and the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs during the Test Match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in December 2005.

Mr Sutherland said: "Joining as a partner of Harmony Day was a natural fit in line with Australian Cricket's plans to take the game to Australians of all backgrounds and abilities. Harmony Day is also an opportunity for cricket to reinforce its zero tolerance on any behaviour that goes against our values of making our game a united one".²²

"Cricket is based on values of respect, goodwill, friendship and teamwork - the same principles that underpin the importance of Harmony Day."²³

In recent years, Cricket Australia has focussed on developing and increasing participation among females and Indigenous Australians. More recently, however, they have broadened their initiatives to embrace the wider community. State associations such as Cricket Victoria also share Cricket Australia's vision in recognising that 'the long term future of the game is dependent upon embracing all people irrespective of their age, gender, race, religion or ability'.²⁴

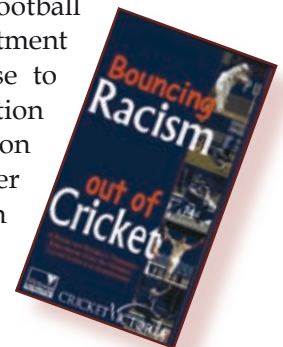
Cricket Victoria

In 2001, Cricket Victoria launched the *All-Embracing Program* with the aim of making cricket and cricket clubs inclusive for all groups within the community. Cricket Victoria identified five groups currently under-represented in cricket: people with disabilities; Indigenous people, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds; older adults and disadvantaged groups.



They have developed a range of resources not only to increase participation in cricket, but also to develop healthy and welcoming club environments. These resources include:

- *'Beyond the Boundary'* resource manual – aims to assist clubs and associations wanting to become inclusive by providing ideas, identifying potential barriers, recording success stories, describing existing programs and providing contacts for additional assistance.
- *Club development program* – CD-Rom resource available to clubs which aims to create cricket club environments that are healthy, welcoming and inclusive of all people.
- *Bounce racism out wristband* – a promotion of wristbands distributed throughout the club network and to the broader community with the message that racial abuse should not be tolerated.
- *Club forums* – held with clubs to educate members on the issue of racism.
- *'Bouncing Racism Out of Cricket'* video – Cricket Victoria, Football Victoria and Netball Victoria in partnership with the Department of Victorian Communities combined resources and expertise to develop a comprehensive racial and religious tolerance education program which is available and distributed to clubs. The education program includes two videos hosted by ex-AFL footballer Michael Long, which focus on ways to increase participation from diverse population groups in sport by minimising the risk of inappropriate behaviour, and by conducting activities that engender welcoming and harmonious environments.



Club Case study – Sunshine Heights Cricket Club

Developing a welcoming, inclusive club environment

Recognising the rich cultural diversity of their membership and local community, Sunshine Heights Cricket Club's leadership group encourages a club culture that nurtures respect for each person's background by:

- Highlighting local media news articles in the club newsletter that promote inclusion. e.g. a racial vilification article written in the *Melbourne Age*.
- Incorporating a variety of culinary options at club functions, offering food choices such as Indian, Greek, Turkish, and Italian.
- Incorporating national music and dance at functions.
- Reinforcing expectations of all players regarding sportsmanship, attitudes, and respect for opponents and the Spirit of Cricket.
- Encouraging attitudes sensitive to religious beliefs and discouraging any mocking of minority groups, particularly involving nationality, religious or other cultural practices.

New members to the club are inducted with a 30-minute presentation outlining the club's history, player requirements, membership costs, club highlights and other relevant information. Expectations and standards required of members are communicated from the outset.

Participation on the club's committee is encouraged from all demographics of the club – juniors, seniors, women, younger seniors, one-day side etc. This consultative approach enables all members to be represented in decision-making processes and fosters a feeling of ownership within the club.

Additional benefits derived by the club as a result of developing an inclusive environment include:

- A widened club network assisting the club in seeking grants, donations and sponsorship.
- A highly developed feeling of mutual respect among members that the club has been able to use as a recruitment tool.
- Development of a strong standing within the local community.
- The club's all-embracing philosophy has introduced many people to cricket who otherwise may have taken up another sport.

*(*Case study taken from Cricket Victoria website)*

A summer of discontent

Given its very high public profile, being a member of the Australian Men's Cricket team requires players and officials to conform to high standards of fair play and personal behaviour on and off the field.

In view of this, it is not surprising that Cricket Australia was highly embarrassed by the racist taunts directed at visiting cricketers during the 2005–06 international series, which led to an International Cricket Council (ICC) investigation into the behaviour of Australian crowds.

The racist sledging of players by spectators started during the Perth Test in December 2005, when some South African players were referred to as 'kaffirs' by a small section of spectators in the crowd. Similar taunting was also reported by the South African players in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Members of the Sri Lankan team were subjected to calls of 'black c . . .' from spectators at the Adelaide Oval during a One Day International match on Australia Day.

Players haven't been the only targets. The International Cricket Council's regional anti-corruption and security chief, John Rhodes, was punched by a drunken spectator at Melbourne's Telstra Dome after being identified as South African.²⁵

Cricket Australia acted quickly to reinforce its zero-tolerance policy towards racist abuse, with security staff ordered to eject any perpetrators from the ground and heavy fines for racist behaviour. They are also considering following the example of European football and devising a register of 'undesirable' fans that would be distributed to gate attendants in a bid to stop those identified spectators entering international venues.

"I think it's embarrassing for Australian cricket that we are put in a position where this review has been implemented," said Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland, adding that Cricket Australia would talk to state and federal governments about bans and fines for offending spectators.²⁶

Australian captain Ricky Ponting also came out swinging against racism in sport after the incident in Perth, backing Cricket Australia's zero tolerance stance on the issue. "There's no room in sport for racism whatsoever. The players are all very aware of that, the crowd needs to be aware of that and enjoy the game for what it is," he said.²⁷

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said "... respect for each other is a key component of the game and racist comments have no place in cricket. The fact that this is an isolated incident by a small number of people in one country does not lessen the game's resolve to address the issue".²⁸

The report into the allegations of racist behaviour by India's Solicitor-General Goolam Vahanvati found that racial comments were made, but indicated that Cricket Australia's processes for dealing with the matter were appropriate.

It is now a condition of entry into the ground or matches for Cricket Australia's 2006-07 international cricket season that patrons do not 'engage in any conduct, act towards or speak to any player, umpire, referee or other official or other patron in a manner which offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies that other person on the basis of that other person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin'.²⁹

Patrons can be refused entry to the venue or removed from the ground if in breach. They can also be prohibited and disqualified from purchasing tickets for, or entering into, any match played under the auspices of Cricket Australia and/or have legal action taken against them in connection with such matters.³⁰

Cricket Australia also has a racism officer (General Manager, Public Affairs, Peter Young), who was appointed by the ICC to act as a point of contact for such matters. He is one of six such officers world-wide.

However, identifying racial abuse in huge crowds is a process fraught with significant difficulties - even if it is clear what section of the ground the abuse has come from, the offenders have often left that area by the time security gets there.³¹

ICC amends Anti-Racism Code

In September 2006, the International Cricket Council Chief Executives Committee (CEC) agreed to adopt and implement an amended Anti-Racism Code signaling a new attack on racist behaviour.

The amendments are designed to allow ICC members to impose a range of punishments on spectators found guilty of racist abuse, ranging from ejection from the venue to life bans. While venues could be stripped of international status if management and ICC member countries fail to uphold the code.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said: "Cricket is a sport which reflects the world's diversity with a range of races and religions all involved. That diversity is something the game can be proud of and our anti-racism code is something that emphasises the commitment of all our members to maintaining and enhancing it".³²

The ICC also agreed to a series of anti-racism initiatives including: commissioning an eminent qualified lawyer to draft legislation dealing with racist behaviour at matches; text or telephone hotlines to be installed at venues where fans can report offensive behaviour; appointing players as anti-racism ambassadors and holding 'diversity days' where fans are encouraged to embrace the range of religions and cultures among cricketing nations.

Deep concerns remain

For racism to have infected Australia's national summer pastime and a sport long regarded as one of the world's most 'civilised' games is deeply concerning for a country that prides itself on being fair-minded and multicultural.³³

So too is a recent survey of cricket fans, which indicates opinion is divided on the contentious behaviour of Australian crowds. Many seem to think there is no problem at all. A poll on cricket website baggygreen.com.au found that 46 per cent of 12,000 respondents believed crowd behaviour had been acceptable during the 2005–06 summer season.³⁴

Sydney Morning Herald journalist Alex Brown said: "Such outbursts by Australians – sportspeople, spectators, administrators or commentators – can no longer be cast aside as one-offs, giggled at behind closed doors then swept under the carpet. And no sport is more aware of this than cricket, for which race-related controversies have been damaging in recent years".³⁵

On top of last summer's controversy – and just three years after Australian batsmen Darren Lehmann was suspended for five one day matches for audibly uttering 'black c....' after his dismissal by Sri Lanka in a limited overs match in Queensland in 2003 – there was a racist outburst on international television by former Australian Test batsman Dean Jones in August 2006.

Jones was sacked from his job as a television commentator after referring to South African Muslim batsman Hashim Amla as a "terrorist". Amla is a devout Muslim who wears a beard for religious reasons and has successfully negotiated with the South African team's main sponsors, SA Breweries, not to wear the Castle Lager logo on his playing and practice gear.³⁶

While Jones did apologise to Hashim and assure him that prejudice against anybody, on any basis, is unacceptable and is not something he condones, Cricket South Africa chief executive Gerald Majola was scathing: "This kind of insulting racial stereotyping has no place in cricket and must be stamped on swiftly".³⁷

Alex Brown summed this up: "This, of course, is not merely the problem of Cricket Australia. This is a national issue. Our reputation as a fair and tolerant sporting nation has taken a battering in recent years. Yet the biggest problem is not how we are perceived outside our borders, but rather how we perceive ourselves. If, after the Jones controversy, we tolerate the outburst and roll our collective eyes at the whistleblower, we have a problem far more serious than mere overseas perception".³⁸

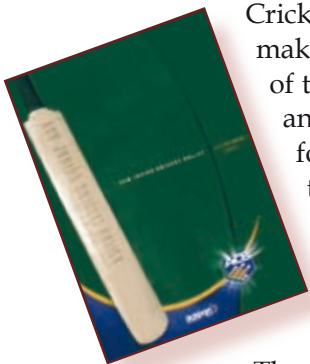
The Spirit of Cricket

Cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman said that: "*it is the responsibility of all those that play the game (the custodians) to leave the game in a better state than when they first became involved*".³⁹

Cricket Australia strongly believes that cricket's appeal to fans and participants is closely related to the values that are firmly entrenched in the game, whether it is at international or local level.

As such, strengthening and protecting the spirit of cricket is one of the four priorities of their formal strategic plan *'From Backyard to Baggy Green'*. Their formal strategy includes a wide range of initiatives designed to help create an environment in which the game's values can be upheld. This includes educating the cricket community on codes and policies which enforce these values, as well as promoting the positive aspects of the game.

Cricket Australia's junior cricket policy



Cricket Australia along with state and territory associations have developed policies to help make the sport of cricket, safe, fun and enjoyable for people of all ages and ability. One of these is Cricket Australia's junior cricket policy, which was launched in August 2006, and aims to provide national direction and guidance on safety and development issues for juniors, to local cricket associations, clubs, schools, officials, parents and players throughout Australia.

In this policy it outlines a code of behaviour which identifies the key principles on which coaches, teachers, umpires, officials, parents and players should base their cricket involvement.

The policy covers areas such as: equity and access; player development and game formats; safety and injury prevention; growing and managing junior clubs; spirit and etiquette of the game; and codes of behaviour.



The codes all state to: 'respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion' and for umpires to 'give all young people a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion'.⁴⁰

The Codes of Behaviour were developed by the Australian Sports Commission's 'Active Australia' initiative and have been adapted to reflect the principles and spirit of cricket in Australia. Cricket Australia recommends the adoption of these codes by clubs and schools, with distribution of the Codes of Behaviour to all appropriate groups at the start of the current cricket season. They should apply in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, any other codes that a school, club or association may have in place.

Racial and Religious Vilification Code

Cricket Australia has a racial and religious vilification code which has been adopted for all national competitions under their direct auspices. The code stipulates that 'a player will not engage in any conduct, act towards or speak to any other player in a manner, which offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies the other player on the basis of that player's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin'.⁴¹

The code makes mention of Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's legislation and mentions how this code does 'not restrict or prohibit any player from pursuing other legal rights they may have in relation to racial and religious vilification'.⁴²

Cricket Australia also recommends that all cricket associations, clubs and schools adopt this code and be pro-active in educating junior participants' interpretation of it.

What if the code is breached?

Cricket Australia advises, where adults are involved with a breach of the code, that they be dealt with seriously and remedial action should be a mandatory requirement by clubs and associations. In more serious cases, a conciliation procedure should be considered and conducted by a representative of the equal opportunity commission in the state where the breach has purportedly occurred. The conciliation should involve the complainant, umpire/officials who initiate the complaint, the respondent, and any supporting documentation.

Guidelines also exist for breaches of the code by cricket coaches, which in some instances may result in the withdrawal of their coaching accreditation.

Where junior players are in breach of the code, educating the player should be paramount. Cricket Australia recommends that in the event of a vilification incident occurring, the organisation should have in place clear procedures on how to report, deal with, and take action upon it. Clear procedural guidelines must be developed and understood by participants and there must be an understanding of who, how and why problems need to be handled within associations, clubs and schools. Remediation or penalty should be appropriate to the player's maturity and comprehension of the situation.

Cricket Australia's website also links to several other important policies to assist with providing a better club environment including: the Good Sports Program; *Play by the Rules*; and School Sport Australia.

Elite level players

In 2003, Cricket Australia's contracted players wrote a code that represents the spirit in which they seek to play the game. It states: 'we do not condone or engage in sledging or any other conduct that constitutes personal abuse' and 'we acknowledge and respect that our opponents may hold different cultural values and beliefs from our own, and value the diversity and richness this adds to the game. By treating our opponents with dignity and forging bonds of mutual respect, we will overcome any cultural barriers'.⁴³

The '*Spirit of Cricket*' message is promoted to clubs and players by promotional cards featuring Australian cricket player Adam Gilchrist and Australian captain Ricky Ponting.



Australian and state players are also bound by the Code of Behaviour, which includes anti-harassment, and racial and religious vilification policies. Players are briefed and educated on the code when they become contracted players.

As an ICC full member, Australian players are also bound by the ICC Code of conduct, where penalties can apply if players are found to breach the code, which is defined as: 'using any language or gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, gender, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin'.⁴⁴

Endnotes

- ¹ Cricket Victoria CEO Ken Jacobs in the foreword to *Beyond the Boundary* Resource manual.
- ² Quote from Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Sutherland in Cricket Australia media release 'National Indigenous cricket role appointed in Darwin', 20 October 2005.
- ³ 'Stupid few shade inclusive path' by Mike Coward in *The Australian*, 4 February 2006.
- ⁴ 2005–06 Australian Cricket Census.
- ⁵ 2005–06 Australian Cricket Census.
- ⁶ 2005–06 Australian Cricket Census.
- ⁷ Cricket Australia submission to the Senate Inquiry into women in sport and recreation in Australia.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Cricket Australia media release 'National Cricket Census indicates cricket in Australia is prospering... for now', 8 January 2004.
- ¹⁰ Quote from Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Sutherland in Cricket Australia media release 'National Indigenous cricket role appointed in Darwin', 20 October 2005.
- ¹¹ A Brief History of Indigenous participation on Cricket Australia's website www.cricket.com.au.
- ¹² ABS Census statistics, 1996.
- ¹³ Cricket Australia's *Two Strong Cultures: Australia's New Cricket Tradition* 2002.
- ¹⁴ *CricKids Playing in Harmony* My Event Day Handbook.
- ¹⁵ 'ATSIC v PM's cricket game axed' by Phillip Hudson in *The Age*, 9 December 2004.
- ¹⁶ 'Stupid few shade inclusive push' by Mike Coward in *The Australian*, 4 February 2006.
- ¹⁷ Cricket Australia's *Two Strong Cultures: Australia's New Cricket Tradition* 2002.
- ¹⁸ Cricket Australia *Get into Cricket – an easy step by step guide for Indigenous Cricket*.
- ¹⁹ ASC Sports Connect Vol 1 No1 October 2003 at www.ausport.gov.au/journals/connect/vol1no1/11cricket.asp.
- ²⁰ 'Ian Chappell calls for role models for Indigenous cricket' on ABC Alice Springs, 1 March 2006.
- ²¹ SACA website at <http://www.cricketsa.com.au/Content.aspx?p=128>.
- ²² 'Cricket Australia joins as Harmony Day partner' on SportsAustralia.com website at <http://sportsaustralia.com/articles/dec05/artid4475.html>.
- ²³ *CricKids Playing in Harmony* Teacher's Handbook.
- ²⁴ Cricket Victoria CEO Ken Jacobs in the foreword to *Beyond the Boundary* Resource manual.
- ²⁵ 'Racist fans threatened with hooligan lockout' by Alex Brown on SMH online, January 31, 2006.
- ²⁶ 'ICC investigation to probe Australian fans' racist taunts by Nabila Ahmed in *The Age*, 1 February 2006.
- ²⁷ 'Ponting slams racism in sport' in SMH online at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/Sport/Ponting-backs-zero-tolerance-on-racism/2005/12/21/1135032039499.html>. December 21 2005.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Cricket Australia *Conditions of entry to the venue 2006–07* at http://cricket.com.au/_content/document/00000078-src.pdf.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ 'Racism a hard nut to crack' by Ben Davies in the *Herald Sun*, 4 February 2006.
- ³² <http://au.sports.yahoo.com/060926/3/wlfh.html>.
- ³³ 'Stupid few shade inclusive push' by Mike Coward in *The Australian*, 4 February 2006.
- ³⁴ 'SCG warns fans about racial abuse' by Iain Payten in *The Daily Telegraph*, 4 February 2006.
- ³⁵ 'Jones has dropped us down the order' by Alex Brown in SMH online at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/cricket/me-and-my-big-mouth/2006/08/08/1154802888117.html> 9 August 2006.
- ³⁶ 'Terrorist jibe sees axe fall on Jones' in SMH online at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/cricket/terrorist-jibe-sees-axe-fall-on-jones/2006/08/08/1154802849506.html#>. August 8, 2006.
- ³⁷ 'World condemns Jones's racist remark' by Alex Brown and Chloe Saltao in SMH, 9 August 2006.
- ³⁸ 'Jones has dropped us down the order' by Alex Brown in SMH online at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/cricket/me-and-my-big-mouth/2006/08/08/1154802888117.html> 9 August 2006.
- ³⁹ Cricket Australia *Junior Cricket Policy*.
- ⁴⁰ Cricket Australia *Junior Cricket Policy*.
- ⁴¹ Cricket Australia *Racial and Religious Vilification Code*.
- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ *Players' Spirit of Australian Cricket* at http://cricket.com.au/_content/document/00000056-src.pdf.
- ⁴⁴ <http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc/rules/code-of-conduct-for-players-and-officials.pdf>.