

## RESPECTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

### About Respecting Indigenous Communities

Hosting the Commonwealth Games gives Victoria the chance to acknowledge its unique Koori culture and build on Indigenous achievements in business and the arts.

To harness this opportunity the Victorian Government, in partnership with an Indigenous Working Group and Taskforce, has developed *Respecting Indigenous Communities*.

Its initiatives aim to increase representation and participation of Indigenous Victorians in Games-related activities – and, in turn, everyday life. Specifically, *Respecting Indigenous Communities* is:

- helping Indigenous businesses make the most of Games opportunities through workshops, mentoring programs and seminars
- promoting Indigenous businesses, art, culture and heritage through a Games-time showcase
- encouraging involvement in Games employment, training and volunteer opportunities
- boosting sports participation through a series of state-wide events for those of all ages and abilities
- providing specialist training in sports administration for Indigenous young people, giving them skills they can use in their careers and communities
- recognising the achievements of Indigenous athletes, both past and present.

### Additional information

- Australia has two Indigenous peoples, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.
- In Victoria the current population of people who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is approximately 28,000.
- Business development has become a major priority in securing economic futures for many, and includes visual and performance arts, glass manufacturing, crafts, horticulture, bush foods, catering, restaurants and eco tourism.
- The first Indigenous Australian to win gold at a Commonwealth Games was high jump champion Percy Hobson at the 1962 Perth Games, while Cathy Freeman was the first Indigenous Australian woman to win gold in a Commonwealth Games.

### Lasting benefits

The Games will help put Indigenous Victorian culture and heritage on the world stage.

From connecting Indigenous businesses with global markets, to showcasing Koori Victorian culture during the Games, it is a chance to create long term social and economic opportunities for Indigenous Victorians.

For more information visit  
[www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth\\_games](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games)

