REFUGEE SPORTS PROGRAM SEEKING NEW APPLICANTS

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello MP and Minister for Sport Graham Annesley MP have today called for applications for the 2012 Refugee Youth Sports Sponsorship Program.

The Refugee Youth Sports Sponsorship Program provides newly arrived young Australians who are experiencing financial difficulties the opportunity to apply for support in meeting the costs of participating in sport.

“Refugees come to Australia with great determination to make a positive life for themselves and their families,” Mr Dominello said.

“One of the best ways for them to make new friends and learn more about their new local community is to get involved in local sporting organisations.

“The results of this program have been outstanding and almost 300 young people in NSW have been able get started in their game of choice.

“Without this program many of them would have been unable to meet the costs of registration, uniforms and equipment.

“I recommend all newly arrived young people who are thinking about joining a team to consider their eligibility for this program,” Mr Dominello said.

Minister Annesley reiterated the value of sport in uniting communities and said the feedback from sporting organisations involved in the program was very positive.

“Sport is a universal language. It brings people together from different backgrounds and helps break down barriers.

“One of the main benefits of this program is it provides an avenue for young people to play their chosen sport whilst adjusting to the new lifestyle and opportunities this state provides.

“I urge all sporting organisations in NSW to support the program and consider the community benefits the 2012 Refugee Youth Sports Sponsorship Program offers” Mr Annesley added.

The Refugee Youth Sports Sponsorship Program is managed by the NSW Community Relations Commission. For more information about the program, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, please contact Ms Angelique Vongsaya on (02) 8255 6767.