



Media Release- for immediate release Health & PE teachers give Crawford Report A+

November 24, 2009

ACHPER (SA)-The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation- SA Branch Inc, the professional association for Health & Physical Education teachers, strongly support the Education recommendations of the recently launched Independent Sport Panel Report (Crawford report) that reviews all aspects of Sport in Australia and charts a new direction for the future.

In particular, ACHPER (SA):

- welcomes the recommendation that Health and Physical Education be fast tracked to the status of a core subject in the national curriculum,
- welcomes an increased status for PE and Sport in school curriculum,
- supports the call for tertiary institutions to invest greater curriculum time in the training of pre service teachers, particularly primary school teachers, to be able to teach and coach sport.

Schools are being expected to deliver an increasing number of curriculum areas, and there is evidence that physical education has suffered in an increasingly crowded curriculum. Whilst the Panel notes and appreciates the inclusion of Health and Physical Education as one of the key learning areas under the current Melbourne Declaration, it is concerned with the delay in development of a national curriculum in the field of Health and Physical Education. The Panel is also concerned that Physical Education is not a separate key learning area. The Panel suggest that there is a risk that Physical Education will not be given appropriate priority while it is part of a broader key learning area, noting that there is no guarantee that any Physical Education will be delivered in a school which only has an obligation to deliver it in Health and Physical Education. ACHPER (SA) supports a mandated time requirement for Physical Education in curriculum time.

The absence of Health and Physical Education from the National 'Core Curriculum' discussion is a concern to all South Australians. South Australia is following international trends of decreasing physical activity and increasing numbers of overweight and obese people. The areas of concern are:

- Decreasing levels of physical activity in the community
- Over nutrition by individuals
- The increasing nutrient density of food, particularly processed snack foods
- Decreasing physical skills and competency levels.

ACHPER (SA) commends the Education section of the Crawford Report and seeks assurances from Government that teachers of Health and Physical Education and student's development of healthy and active living skills, knowledge, values and vocational perspectives will continue to be actively supported at a time when the community, more than ever before, expects Schools and Governments to be proactive about the health and wellbeing of young people.

Ends:

For more information or to find further details about the media release, contact

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