



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

Active After-school Communities

Helping kids and communities get active



MEDIA RELEASE

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1.5 million sporting passes — one pass for every Australian with diabetes* North West tassie children takes the challenge!

1.5 million sporting passes – that's one for every Australian with diabetes* – is the challenge being taken on by students from North West Tasmania this week as part of a national *Turning to Sport for Good Health* campaign; a joint initiative between the Australian Sports Commission's Active After-school Communities (AASC) program and Diabetes Australia.

The huge sporting challenge aims to raise the awareness of diabetes and educate children that sport plays a big part in a healthy and active lifestyle.

To help achieve the challenge children from Burnie AASC Sites Acton, Havenveiw and Upper Burnie Primary Schools gathered at West Park Oval in Burnie for a giant sports gala day.

Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom was the guest of honour at the Gala Day.

"In this age it is so important that schools, parents and the wider community band together to promote the virtues of sport, physical activeness and living a healthy lifestyle to our next generation," Mr Sidebottom said.

"An event such as today's Gala Day is a fantastic opportunity to not only reinforce the importance of being physically active to school students, but to also educate them on health issues such as diabetes.

AASC Regional Coordinator, David Munns said approximately 700 kids from the 20 North West Coast AASC sites between Sheffield and Strahan will be joining forces in an effort to reach the 1.5 million target.

'Children from our region will be playing hockey, Aussie rules, soccer, athletics and cricket to reach the 1.5 target. Not only will we raise awareness about diabetes, but also introduce different sports to children in a fun way,' said Mr. Munns

Around 275 Australian adults develop diabetes every day. Changes to eating habits and activity levels can reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. It is the most common form, accounting for 85-90 percent of sufferers.

The AASC is a free Australian Government program, which has achieved outstanding results in promoting a healthy and active lifestyle and the transition of primary school children into community sport. Around 150,000 children take part in the program and are provided a positive introduction to over 70 sports and 20 other structured physical activities.

For more information visit ausport.gov.au/aasc

*1.5 million estimate provided by Diabetes Australia

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