

ACHPER supports AFL statement on need to strengthen PE and sport in primary schools

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The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) supports the Australian Football League's (AFL) statement on physical education and sport in schools.

Jeff Emmel, National Executive Director of ACHPER, welcomed the statement from Andrew Demetriou, CEO of the AFL, about the critical role sport plays in promoting healthy lifestyles for children and other educational, psychological and social benefits it brings.

'It is true that some schools struggle to provide quality PE and sport, in particular in primary schools, due to a crowded curriculum and a pre-occupation in many schools with so called core subjects. This is despite all the evidence that health and physical education is essential to a child's development and learning across the curriculum,' Emmel said.

Emmel was looking forward to the development of health and physical education in the Australian Curriculum when the role of PE and sport could be redefined and strengthened. One logical outcome of this would be the provision of specialist support for every primary school.

He acknowledged that the AFL and other sports had an important role to play in schools by helping teachers understand and deliver programs that were linked to the curriculum.

He also said that it is important for the government and other sectors in the community to undertake strategies to improve the overall health of the population, particularly young people.

Children's involvement in sport could not be separated from those issues and opportunities to foster healthy eating and other healthy behaviours was a responsibility of all teachers, coaches and managers.

Please contact Megan Cowper (details below) to arrange interviews or for further information.

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