



# Kicking Goals Together

A Case Study of Positive Youth Development

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# What is Kicking Goals Together?

Kicking Goals Together (KGT) is a program that combines a soccer competition with job skills and communication education for youth from refugee, migrant, and international student backgrounds.



# How did it come about?

- Members of the Rohingya youth community contacted us:
  - Resilient and motivated: Formed their own football team (Rohingya Young Stars)
  - Limited resources and capacities to join Brisbane's regular competitions
  - Invitation to come and run a training session with the team



# How did it come about?

## Listening

- Through listening we also learned about:
  - Financial barriers to sport participation
  - Difficulties with transport
  - Wanting to play in the same team together
  - Wanting to play for 'fun' yet still competitive
  - A desire for broadening social networks and develop job-skills!

BANNU

### A game changer for Rohingya refugees

Deegan Estwick

UNLEASHING their talents on the football field and preparing for the workforce in a world away from the struggles of their homeland.

The Australian Catholic University at Bannu is working with a group of Rohingya youth from refugee backgrounds through sport to thrive in the community.

An Amnesty International report released in December said Myanmar security forces were responsible for a campaign of violence against Rohingya people "that may amount to crimes against humanity".

ACU academic Dr Matthew Pink said the Rohingya people were among the most persecuted in the world.

"We thought it would be great if we had a competition at ACU providing social sport for students, migrants and youth from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Brisbane's north to come together and help each other out," he said.

The Kicking Goals Together program shifted to also provide education, and now also includes Iraq

youth. After a soccer game against ACU students, the youth take part in "Skill-Up", a job skills program jointly run with Multicultural Development Association (MDA).

Skill-Up helps young people identify personal strengths and allows them to work on skills to help them in the workplace.

Group sessions provide a range of high-energy activities focused on the development of competencies in the common skills employers need, including communication, networking, problem solving, team work and developing a personal brand.

The second tournament of season two will launch on August 9 with an opening celebration, football and food.

Brisbane City Council and Councillor Adam Allan (Northgate) have supported the project with a \$2000 grant.

"The project aims to provide social inclusion in the local community through sport and to assist in developing employment skills through the education program," Cr Allan said.



Rabi Alam, David Saqat and Zach Conway with ACU academic Dr Matthew Pink and Sally Stewart from the Multicultural Development Association (MDA).  
Photo: JOSHUA BROWN, AAP

# What has it become?

2017-2019

## 8 Team competitions in semester 1 & 2

- 4 from refugee and migrant or CALD backgrounds
- 4 from university staff and student populations
- Promoting cultural diversity
- **Skill up program running each semester**
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
  - Networking, job seeking, and job keeping skills
  - Celebrating cultural diversity as a strength
  - The culture of Australian workplaces
- **Involving CE/SL practicum students**



# What are the outcomes?

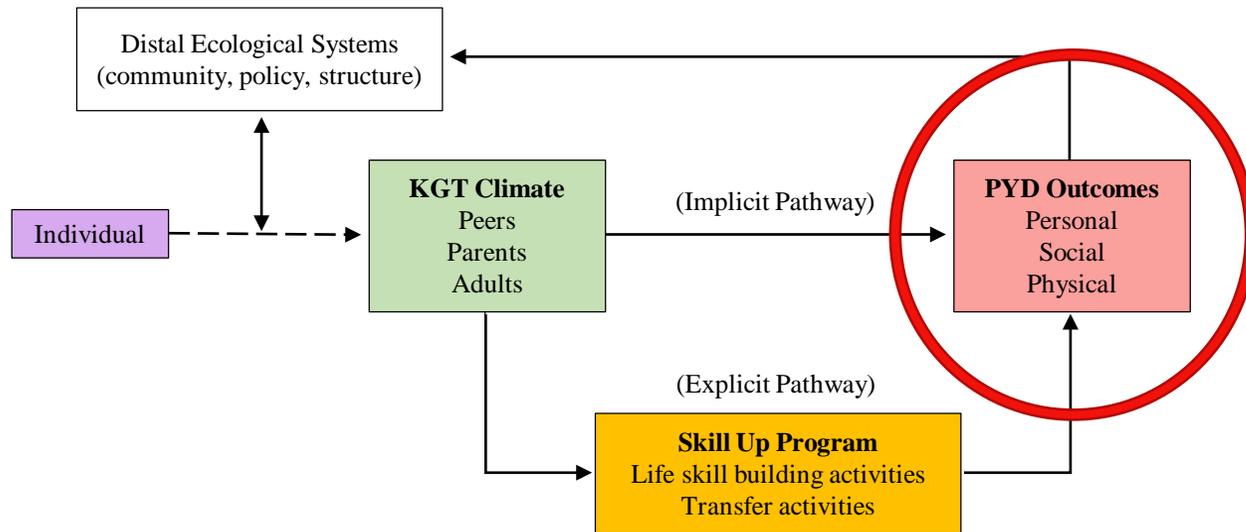
## Overview

- Over 300 people have participated in KGT since semester 2, 2016
  - ~ 50% of these participants are from refugee and migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD)
- A consistent and reliable social sporting opportunity for community and university members
- Creating a culture of welcome and inclusion at Australian Catholic University.

## Outcomes for MDA community members

- 89 participants in Skill UP program so far
- 28 clients obtained employment after KGT - 31.4%
- 6 progressed into tertiary education – 7%
- 10 clients progressed into training- 11.2%
- All participants stated that they increased their peer networks and sense of belonging after KGT

# A case study of Positive Youth Development



- We interviewed 10 people involved with KGT (6 participants and 4 stakeholders)
- We then thematically analysed the data and organized within the PYD model

Figure 1. Model of PYD through sport (Holt et al., 2017))

# Positive Youth Outcomes (What did KGT achieve?)

## Personal

- **Common themes:**
  - **Increased confidence**
    - Increased social confidence (speaking to others, across cultural barriers)
      - Implicitly through the welcoming KGT climate
      - Explicitly through the Skill Up program (interview skills)
  - **Improved networking skills and employment outcomes**
    - Explicitly developed through Skill Up
    - Confidence to network for desired outcomes

*Yeah, it changed my life. Learning from Kicking Goals and learning Skill Up and learning everything in my mind, and then I went to telling friends that I knew, “Hey, look, I need a job. Can you look for me?” Then I researched online as well, I’m looking for jobs. Then I sent a resume to the place where I work now. They sent me an email, “You’ve got an interview at this address.” Then I’m working now over there and I study, I come here. I would say from this time my life is full now- Rajesh*

# Positive Youth Outcomes (What did KGT achieve?)

## Social

- **Common themes:**
  - **Intercultural understanding and acceptance**
    - Explicitly through multiple faith prayers from multiple backgrounds
    - Implicitly through weekly interaction via soccer

*“The important thing is that ACU has respected our religion and respected also other people’s religions as well that, I mean that’s the purpose of this whole thing to unite so thank you ACU”- Yamid*

# Going Deeper

## Case studies of individual PYD

- 5 siblings from Eritrea, oldest is 25 and youngest is 16
- Came to Australia in 2018 by themselves
- Participated in KGT in Semester 2, 2018
- Learned to identify and develop their employability skills in Skill Up and on the field
- 4 of them are now working, the youngest is in high school
- The siblings attribute their achievements to the skills and experiences they obtained from KGT



# Going Deeper

## Case studies of individual PYD

- Came to Australia in 2014 with her family
- First engaged in the program as a spectator
- Built up the confidence to play as the only girl in the team
- Highly engaged participant in Skill Up
- Demonstrated strong leadership and interpersonal skills
- Enjoyed the welcoming environment at ACU so much that she enrolled to study Accounting and Finance
- Now working as a Personal Banker at ANZ



# Going Deeper

## Case studies of individual PYD

- 26 year old participant from Ethiopia
- In Australia less than a year
- Difficulty with reading, writing and speaking English, disrupted education, unemployed
- Initially shy, quiet, and disengaged
- Overcame fear of speaking and reading in front of peers
- Increased engagement in Skill Up, positive peer networks, self-esteem
- Plays with the ACU Football Club



# Where to next?

- Increasing partner and community ownership
- Enhancing the Try Time program on Brisbane's bayside
- Seeking funding
- Expanding into other sports
- Scholarship



# Thank you very much!

Questions?

**Presenter Name**