



Evaluation of the Black Rhinos Basketball Program: The Ubuntu philosophy perspective

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Executive Summary



Executive summary

The Black Rhinos Basketball Program is a grassroots community crime prevention initiative managed by Afri-Aus Care whose components include, the basketball training, counselling support, legal support, and food distribution to communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program supports young African Australians living in and around the south-eastern suburbs of metropolitan Melbourne. The Black Rhinos Basketball Program embodies a culturally responsive approach of engaging young people through sport, informed by the African philosophy of Ubuntu, which emphasises interconnectedness, collective belonging, and mutual responsibility. This report documents the evaluation of the Black Rhinos Basketball Program conducted between June 2020 and August 2021. A formative evaluation of the program focused on the need, resourcing, processes, and delivery of the program. The summative evaluation of the program focused on the young African Australian participants, their family connectedness, community engagement, and socioeconomic participation.

Formative evaluation findings

The Black Rhinos Basketball Program was, to a large extent, developed and implemented as intended, premised on the African philosophy of Ubuntu. In summary, the Black Rhinos Basketball Program:

- Was founded as a response to an increased community need for culturally responsive approaches to support young African Australians
- Needed adequate funding and resourcing to ensure that culturally responsive tailored professional support was continually availed to young African Australians
- Provided intake and referral processes within culturally responsive environments that enabled young African Australians to contribute to addressing their challenges
- Offered young African Australian participants culturally responsive services, which included basketball training, counselling support, legal support, and food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summative evaluation findings

The Black Rhinos Basketball Program contributed to reducing young African Australian program participants' likelihood of offending or reoffending. In summary, the Black Rhinos Basketball Program provided young African Australian participants with:

- Culturally responsive support services, which improved their health and well-being, transformed their perspectives, and improved their prosocial skills
- Encouragement and practical opportunities to better connect with family
- Various opportunities, which improved their community contribution and engagement

- Assistance towards improving their socioeconomic opportunities and participation in society.

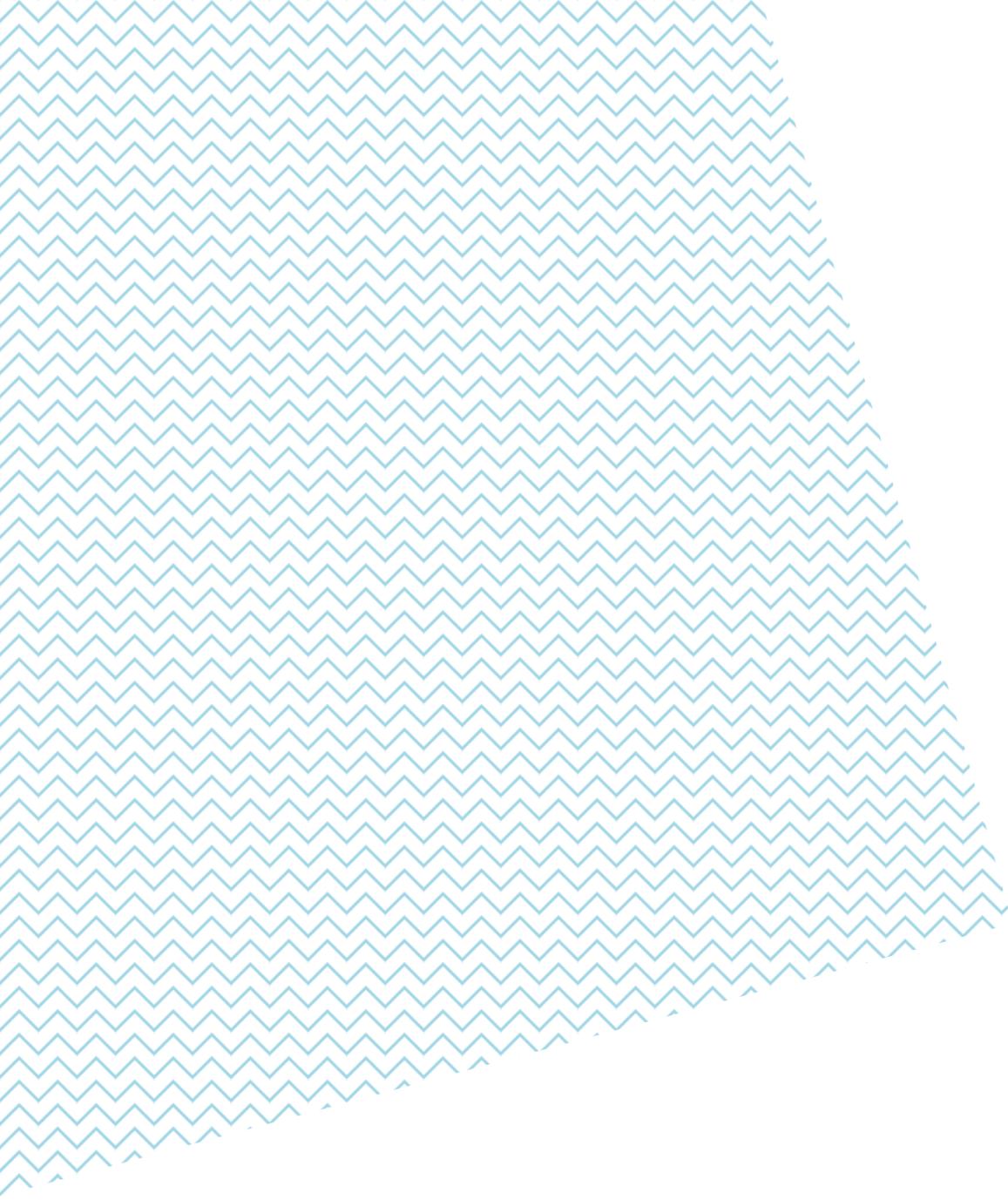
These formative and summative findings were an indication that the Black Rhinos Basketball Program contributed towards improving the health and wellbeing of young African Australians participating in the program and reducing their offending or reoffending risks.

Policy and practice recommendations

The following are policy and practice summary recommendations from the evaluation of the Black Rhinos Basketball Program:

1. The Black Rhinos Basketball Program should be adequately resourced and expanded to address the increasing community need for culturally responsive approaches to support young African Australians.
2. The Ubuntu knowledge and skills capacity of the Black Rhinos Basketball Program staff and service providers should be enhanced through regular professional development opportunities.
3. With appropriate resourcing and collaborative efforts, the range of services offered by the Black Rhinos Basketball Program should be increased to include other culturally responsive activities attractive to young African Australians.
4. The Black Rhinos Basketball Program should be adequately funded to increase its human resource capacity to engage more with the family and community of the young African Australians participating in the program.
5. With the onset of COVID-19, African Australian communities should be appropriately supported by governments and other stakeholders to play a greater active role in engaging and supporting young African Australians.
6. Governments, the private sector, communities, and other stakeholders must work, both independently and collaboratively to counter racism and discrimination in the community, to offer inclusive socioeconomic and employment opportunities for young African Australians, thereby contributing towards their offending or reoffending risks.

These policy and practice recommendations, if implemented, will significantly contribute to improve the health and wellbeing of young African Australians, reduce their offending or reoffending risks, and consequently increase community safety.



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