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## **Pony Club Australia's update on our commitment to Indigenous riders**

7 July 2021

Pony Club members from Indigenous backgrounds are represented across all States and levels of Pony Club. In addition, PCA are working on a pilot program that will adapt our educational syllabus and participation model for implementation in indigenous communities. There is a commitment to increase opportunities and remove barriers to participation such as horse ownership across all rider segments.

In relation to the specific comments made in The Australian newspaper today, in November 2020 Pony Club Australia ("PCA") commenced a review of our current levels of indigenous participation with a view to the potential development of a targeted strategy.

This idea was championed by a Board member (who is no longer a current Board member) who subsequently submitted a paper to further extend PCA's support of indigenous activities. The Board approved the proposal and the Board resolved to develop an Indigenous Strategy in 2021 to be included for implementation in the 2022-2024 strategic plan.

In addition, the Pony Club Australia Board was fully supportive of recognising NAIDOC week in 2020. The date marking NAIDOC week was postponed in 2020. In the absence of activities to support NAIDOC week, the proposal to design and sell a shirt as a stand-alone initiative did not proceed. The Board resolved to further discuss the development of an indigenous strategy with meaningful and appropriate actions.

The current PCA Board has its three-year strategic planning workshop on 7th August 2021.

Pony Club Australia has over 800 active Clubs and over 40,000 members making Pony Club the largest equestrian organisation in Australia.

Our aims and objectives include:

- o Encouraging people to enjoy all kinds of sport and pleasure connected with horses and riding.
- o Providing instruction in riding and horsemanship and instilling in young people a love of their horses, a sense of responsibility and acceptance of the responsibility for the proper care of their animals.
- o Promoting the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship, and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline.

For further information, please contact:

The Australian Government through Sport Australia recognises Pony Club Australia to develop Pony Club in Australia.

The financial support of Sport Australia is gratefully acknowledged.



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