



# INCLUSION PROJECT: 360° Inclusion for Young People in Sports

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## MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

My global field placement took place in Hobsons Bay and Wyndham municipalities of Melbourne, Australia.

The traditional owners of the land are known as the Yalukit Wilum.

The Australian Sports Commission has found that involvement with sporting clubs decreases with age. Their research shows that 52% of primary school-aged children are involved in a sports club, compared to 44% of 14-17 year-olds, and only 22% of 18-29 year-olds. The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that people with a disability are 15% less likely to engage in sport and recreation activities.

84% of residents in Hobsons Bay are Australian citizens and 31% were born overseas. An estimated 17% of the community members have a disability.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Office of Global Activities, the Alumni Board of Governors, and the Mary Sue & Kenneth Coleman Global Experience for financially supporting my global field placement.

This poster was created for the Fall 2017 Global Social Work Poster Session

## GLOBAL FIELD PLACEMENT INFORMATION

**Field placement:** My summer global field placement at the Social Inclusion Project through the Hobsons Bay Community Fund and the University of Melbourne focused on the beginning stages of a self-sustaining community network and a guide for inclusion of youth with a disability or special needs in sport.

**Location:** This field placement was concerned with the Hobsons Bay and Wyndham municipalities and operated out of the Compton Green Real Estate office in West Footscray; a suburb of Melbourne, Australia.

**Role:** I was given the role of project manager of our group of six students, which included project planning, task assignments, and project monitoring.

## OUTCOMES

The work at my global field placement culminated in community interviews, organizational meetings and presentations, two interactive community feedback events, the drafting of an inclusion resource (print and digital), and a written proposal for the community launch and dissemination of the resource. It also resulted in the investment of \$15,000 in the initiatives we recommended to the board of the philanthropic partners.

### Accomplishments:

- Developed a project plan, including logic models and Gantt charts.
- Edited and extended an existing resource, produced for Darebin Council.
- Interviewed local community members, including people with a disability involved in sports, coaches, parents of youth with a disability, and refugees.
- Ran two successful community feedback events.
- Managed team tasks against timelines.
- Represented our project at local events.

## SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Project development
- Risk assessment and management
- Logic models
- Task delegation and management
- Community organization, development, and outreach
- Interactive event planning
- Qualitative and quantitative research
- Writing and editing – reports, recommendations, guidelines, minutes, operational policies and procedures
- Chairing meetings
- Team building – including nuanced and multifaceted understanding of other people's strengths, limitations, and positionalities
- Reflective assertiveness
- Leadership skills – developing a vision, and building alignment and commitment in teams and communities

## CONNECTIONS

**Career:** This experience gave me a real-world example of effective community development methods, as well as illuminating my professional and personal values within the social work and working within a team more generally. I will take these lessons for my future social work endeavors, always remembering to self-reflect on positionality, and push myself to sit with discomfort especially as it relates to naming challenges and being an effective leader.

In the future, I hope to acquire a career as a global social worker in an international setting.

**Classroom:** SW799 Understanding Diversity and Social Justice through Dialogue. This course taught me how to use dialogue as a method for peacefully resolving conflict; particularly when they emerge due to cultural misunderstandings or oppressive dynamics.

## LESSONS LEARNED

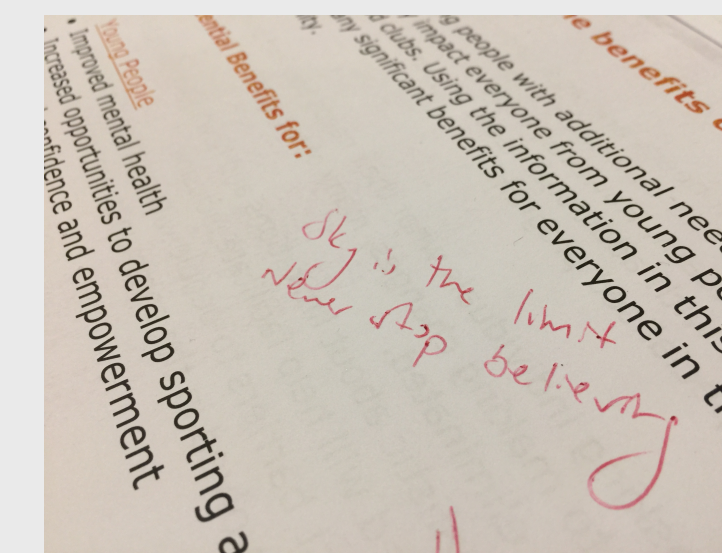
During my time at my global field placement I developed skills in finding my voice, and overcoming fears of stepping into leadership roles. Another important lesson from this experience was finding patience through understanding that everyone has different learning and processing styles.

## ADVICE

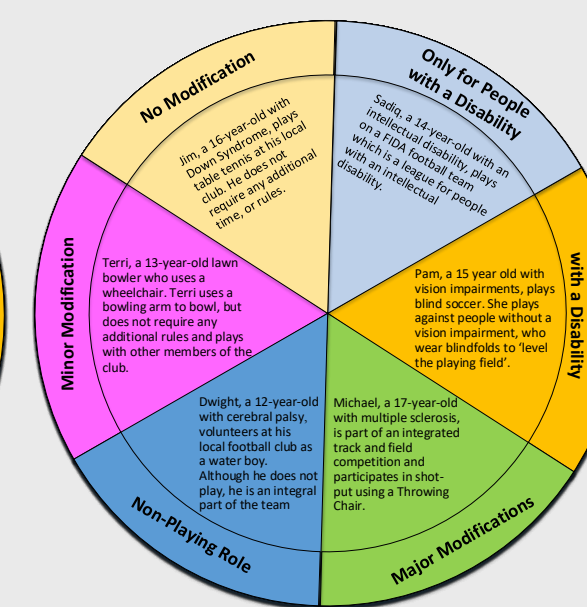
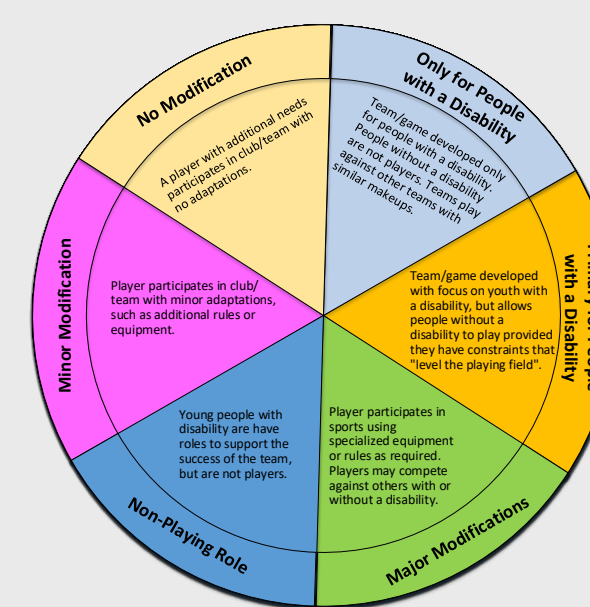
1. Do some research on contemporary issues within your host country.
2. Keep an open mind and flexible expectations.
3. Take advantage of activities outside of your placement or internship.



Community Feedback Event



Encouraging Resource Feedback



Inclusion Spectrum & Examples

