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Football United promotes harmony through the global game of football. Our goals are to bring people together to have fun while learning and playing football.

We believe in harmony and social justice for all.

“Social inclusion through Football”

Football United began four years ago with a vision to assist recently arrived humanitarian refugee youth and families in their transition into Australian society. Using people’s love for Football (soccer) we build opportunities for belonging, racial harmony, and community cohesion.

The program initially started with aims to provide connection to mainstream football for newly arrived refugee immigrants. Rapidly, however, program designers realised that community-based football was not responsive to their needs, with cost and transport to and from games often prohibitively expensive for these groups. In addition, sensitivity to pre-migration experiences and cultural difference was often absent in mainstream community sport. In response, Football United initiated a range of opportunities for refugee communities to play football – and through football provides opportunities for belonging and social inclusion.

As the program implementation progressed , Football United leadership noted that

often community sport, as currently practiced , is exclusive rather than inclusive . Participation is largely not possible for many socio-disadvantaged youth.

Football United’s experience and expertise in implementing a sustainable model of football for social development means that it is well placed to play a part in addressing these wider

The Football United Approach

Football United uses recognised approaches for social and community development. It utilises a community building, partnership-based approach, working with the community and community leaders to identify and address local needs. Its programs systematically include local engagement, capacity building and leadership development programs.

Football United’s strengths lie in the diversity and experience of its management team, members and supporters. Football United gathers a diverse, multi-sectoral group, combining the skills of talented corporate leaders, the commitment of a wide range of community groups, NGOs, the engagement of academia, and supported by local and state government representatives. Through this rapidly expanding network Football United fosters the power of football to inspire and promote social justice and community development.



For more information contact ab.birouste@unsw.edu.au;

** check out Football United's clip at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBdS7GEOwBM>

Football United is going to the World Cup! check it out on :

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/29/2584351.htm>