

Bo de la Cruz—DHS Indigenous Ambassador



Bo de la Cruz is a Department of Human Services' (DHS) Ambassador for Indigenous servicing. The Women's Touch Football champion talks face-to-face with communities about how service delivery can be improved and tailored to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Bo, one of six children, was born and raised in Darwin but now lives in Sydney. Her mother was born in Yorkshire, England and her father is from Innisfail, north Queensland. He is both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander with a Spanish and Filipino background.

Bo's outstanding football career started at the age of 12 and milestones include travelling to Japan in 2003 where the Australian team won the Touch Football World Cup. Bo was the star of the tournament, winning Overall Female Player of the series and Most Valuable Player for Australia.

2003 was a busy year for this young achiever. She was named Northern Territory's Sports Ambassador and Sports Young Achiever of the Year, was awarded Sportswoman of the Year at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards as well as the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Sports person of the Year Award.

Bo's touch football career just doesn't slow down. In 2001, Bo captained the Barbarians Open Women's Touch Football team. In 2004 and 2006, she was an integral part of the State of Origin winning teams.

Also in 2006, Bo was invited to the Department of Sport and Recreation in Queensland to talk about something she is very passionate about—Indigenous issues surrounding sport in the local communities. She has also been delivering motivational speeches to children in primary schools across Australia.

Bo is one of a number of DHS Indigenous Ambassadors who complement an already extensive network of Indigenous specialist staff and further strengthen the Government's commitment to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Indigenous Ambassadors Programme was initiated by the Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Joe Hockey MP, to inform Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about payments and programmes available from DHS agencies.

For more information about the Indigenous Ambassadors Programme, visit Centrelink's website at www.centrelink.gov.au and look under 'Indigenous Programmes' from the 'Indigenous Australians' section.



www.centrelink.gov.au