



MEDIA RELEASE



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ACT WINS STREET SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ACT has defeated QLD 10 to nine in the thrilling final of the 2011 The Big Issue Street Soccer National Championships played at Darling Harbour, Sydney, this afternoon.

Seven teams, made up of 56 homeless and marginalised men and women, from across Australia competed in the Championships.

VIC Metro beat NSW in the third place play-off, while SA/TAS defeated VIC Regional for fifth place.

While ACT took home the major trophy, The Big Issue CEO Steven Persson said everyone had been a winner today.

“All the players have shown great sportsmanship throughout the tournament and, most importantly, have demonstrated that they too can achieve great things when given the opportunity,” Persson said.

Street Soccer is an initiative of The Big Issue Australia and involves males and females of all abilities, getting together once a week for soccer training and matches. The program has engaged more than 3500 participants across 25 sites around the country since it was launched in 2007.

Outcomes for participants include re-connection with family and the community, improved confidence and self-esteem, improved physical and mental health and a sense of belonging.

The National Championships were held as part of *The Big Issue Street Football Festival*, an inaugural event that has brought people from all walks of life together for nine days of football action at Darling Harbour.

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Photos: Photos can be accessed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bigissueaustralia/>