



Rugby League Research Committee

INDIGENOUS PLAYER TRANSITION TO ELITE LEVEL

APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Expression of Interest

The NRL and Rugby League Research Committee invite applications for to fund research into the following question:

What are the factors that differentiate between Indigenous players that successfully transition from pathways to NRL, versus players that do not transition to NRL?

Background

The NRL has identified this topic as a priority for research in 2020 and has undertaken steps to identify what the Rugby League industry believes are effective ways to increase the transition of players to the elite level, both male and female.

In 2018 the Australian Rugby League Commission launched its 2018-2022 'Elevate' Reconciliation Action Plan, outlining the Game's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and setting a series of targets that focused on Respect, Relationships and Opportunities.

Through the RAP the Game committed to "identify and implement an appropriate research project in conjunction with the NRL Research Board profiling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players to support increased participation and recruitment".

The RAP also has a target to "increase percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women players at an elite level to 15%".

There is little research or literature to draw on that focuses specifically on the participation of Indigenous players in Rugby League. Anecdotally issues such as size, Indigenous players being late bloomers, social disadvantage and lack of commitment all being identified as barriers. Similarly, speed, agility, ability to read the game and intuition have been identified as strengths.



Scope of the project

Amongst a range of approaches that researchers may deem appropriate, the research will likely include two areas:

1. What pathway did players take that were identified as talented at a young age but were not able to successfully transition to the NRL – where did they play their junior football, how were they identified, did they make representative teams and what were some of the barriers or challenges faced by these players? This can also be expanded to include players that may have played less than 5 NRL games.
2. What pathway did players take that successfully transitioned from grassroots Rugby League to the NRL?

The project will investigate possible trends and consider differences, if any, in the pathway taken by those players that successfully transition to the NRL and those that didn't.

Submission of application

Applications must be submitted on or before **Monday 23rd September 2019 COB**, by email to the Rugby League Research Committee, at research@nrl.com.au

Submission requirements

A read-only version of the application form can be found at <https://www.nrl.com/operations/research/apply/>

For an editable version, please contact research@nrl.com.au