



Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District
Shadow Minister for Arts & Culture
Shadow Minister for Tourism & Major Events
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



2/40 Station Street, Bayswater. 3153
Phone: 97291622 Fax: 9729 0912
email: heidi.victoria@parliament.vic.gov.au
website: www.heidivictoria.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 16 July 2015

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL BOUNCES INTO KNOX

Bayswater MP Heidi Victoria has welcomed the news that Knox will have its own Midnight Basketball competition.

Ms Victoria said the Midnight Basketball Knox Community Committee had been successfully established which had paved the way for the start of competition shortly.

Since 2007, Midnight Basketball has been run across Australia and the free program has provided a safe and fun environment for more than 80,000 12-18 year old 'at risk' youth.

The Knox program is run on a Friday or Saturday night at Boronia Basketball Stadium and includes a hot dinner and transportation home.

An integral part of the program is that participants must take part in a life skills workshop before taking to the court. Topics covered include health and nutrition, job readiness, anti-bullying and team building.

"It is fabulous news that the youth of Knox will have a program available which combines sport and life skills for vulnerable young people," Ms Victoria said.

"All young people should have the opportunity to experience the comradery and healthy lifestyle that sport brings but for many youth they may not have the chance."

Ms Victoria said while the bones of the program have been put into place by the hard-working committee members, a host of volunteers are needed to ensure the program runs smoothly.

"The program is only as successful as those who are willing to give freely of their time and so it is important that there are volunteers to assist with serving dinner, coaching teams, scoring driving buses, general admin and refereeing."

The Midnight Basketball competition will run for eight weeks at a time, kicking off on February 14. Registration is essential and can be done at

www.midnightbasketball.org.au

Media contact: Elisa Miller 9729 1622, elisa.miller@parliament.vic.gov.au