



# Christians for an Ethical Society Canberra

A Working Group of the Social Justice Commission of the NSW Ecumenical Council & associate  
member of the ACT Council of Churches  
President - Reverend Professor James Haire

www.ces.org.au  
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## SPORT: MORE THAN A BUSINESS

"No denying that sport has become big business but it is something, much, much more", declared Mike Cassidy, Chairman of the Catholic Social Justice Commission, speaking on a panel this evening at a forum exploring the Catholic Bishops' 2014-15 social justice statement, *A Crown for Australia Striving for the best in our sporting nation*. Keynote speakers are international representatives Joe Roff (rugby union) and Sally Shipard (soccer).

- having scored that intercept try in the second [British Lions Test](#) in 2001 which turned the game in Australia's favour, Joe Roff can attest that sport can be a noble and majestic thing that can take us to wonderful places.

- It can break down barriers;

"I've seen sport build up homeless men and take them to places where they didn't think they belonged" said Fr Peter Day of Queanbeyan who coached the Matthew Talbot Cricket Club in inner Sydney league to reach the grand final. Fr Day is also speaking tonight.

- mainly unaccompanied Muslim refugee kids from Afghanistan make up the Tigers Eleven Soccer Club in Brisbane that plays in a soccer competition in Brisbane supported by local Christian churches.
- Sport is one of the most important weapons against growing rates of obesity and circulatory disease.
- Sport is a hard taskmaster. It builds perseverance and resilience; preparedness to take a risk. "Persistence and aspiring to our 'personal best' are skills that don't come easily" said charismatic Matilda, Sally Shipard, whose prodigious play in the centre of the park directed a game that won her the admiration of a nation. "A champion team can beat a team of champions".

Mike Cassidy observed that all this and even the business model of sport itself is wrecked if:

- Greedy opportunism turns sport into business opportunities for a few.
- winning at all costs becomes the only measure of success.
- match fixing driven by gambling and organised crime take over.

Tim Gavel, ABC's Grandstand broadcaster will be the forum's master of ceremonies.

*Time of forum:* 7:30pm, Wednesday 15 Oct. 2014

*Venue:* Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture  
cnr Kings Ave & Blackall St, Barton

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