



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
PRETORIA
MEDIA RELEASE**

17 June 2014

South Africa welcomes Indigenous Australian Volunteers

Six Indigenous Australian volunteers will be welcomed by the Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, His Excellency Mr Graeme Wilson, at a function at the Official Residence in Pretoria today, 17 June 2014.

The Classic Wallabies' Exchange is a five week volunteer program for young Indigenous Australians, delivered as part of the Government's Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program. The Exchange is delivered in partnership with the Eidos Institute Classic Wallabies, Australian Volunteers International (AVI), Children's Eco Training South Africa, and Francois Pienaar's Make A Difference Charity.

"The Classic Wallabies' Exchange provides a unique opportunity for young Indigenous Australians to participate in a valuable mutual learning experience," Mr Wilson said. "These six young Australians will work with Children's Eco Training and support this inspiring local organisation's community-focused environmental education and youth engagement initiatives," he added. "In return, this experience can benefit each participant's own professional and personal development."

It was in a spirit of friendship, forged through sport and global partnerships, that the Classic Wallabies' Exchange was established.

"Through the friendships that emerged between former Wallaby and Springbok stars, including Indigenous rugby legend Gary Ella and former Springbok captain Francois Pienaar, a dream was born to provide educational and personal development opportunities for Indigenous Australians," Mr Wilson said.

"A strong partnership between AVI, the Eidos Institute Classic Wallabies Exchange and the Australian Government's Australian Volunteers for International Development program has made this dream a reality," Mr Wilson added.

The Classic Wallabies' Exchange volunteers will be based with Eco Children's Training in Hoedspruit from 16 June to 21 July 2014.

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