

5-7 DECEMBER 2023 – AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

ANZALS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

‘LEISURE FOR LIFE’



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'LEISURE FOR LIFE'

Proceedings of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Leisure Studies (ANZALS) 30th Anniversary Conference

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Leisure for Life.

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ABSTRACTS

N.B. Organised alphabetically in order of the surnames of first authors.
We apologise for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

Street Child O’ Mine: An exploration into the social impact of Pakistan’s participation at the 2022 Street Child Football World Cup

Hafsa Ali (Auckland University of Technology), Richard Wright (Auckland University of Technology) & Geoff Dickson (La Trobe University)

Nelson Mandela opened the 1995 Rugby World Cup by proclaiming that Sport “speaks to youth in a language they understand”, creating hope, offering inspiration, and uniting people “in a way that little else does”. Whether packaged as a sport for leisure, social inclusion, and social change or for development (and peace), the world is awash with heart-warming case studies that capture the transformational power of sporting contests created/hosted by charitable organisations. To date, however, many of these explorations have focused on assessing the aspirational aims and/or strategic objectives of the hosts, as opposed to social outcomes experienced/encountered by the guests. Street Children United (SCU), exists to shine a spotlight on the many adversities faced, and the fundamental human rights lacking, by children forced to live on the streets. In October 2022, SCU and the Qatar Foundation co-hosted an international football tournament, a festival of arts, and an educational congress, attended by 290 children from 25 countries. The 4th edition of the sporting fixture, known as the Street Child World Cup, featured 15 boys’ and 13 girls’ teams. Within this presentation, we shall focus specifically on the experiences and expectations of the Muslim Hands Football Club, a charity organization responsible for the creation of the Pakistan boys’ team (beaten finalists in 2018 and 2022). An in-depth key stakeholder interview, conducted as a part of a wider study into sport in Pakistan, revealed the risks and rewards attached to developing social inclusion programmes at a domestic level, and the impact that such initiatives can have at both an individual and an international level. We acknowledge the importance of using leisure and recreation as tools for change in such charitable sports initiatives to empower marginalized individuals and communities. The findings and recommendations focus on the importance of finding sustainable sources of funding from both the public and private sectors.

Keywords: *Pakistan; sport for development; sport for social inclusion; Street Child Football*