

## **History of Australian Olympic Committee Distance Education Partnership Project**

Following discussions between Frances Cordaro, Manager, Olympic Education, Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and the Distance Education Centre Victoria (DECV), Frances made a presentation to the Australasian Association of Distance Education Schools (AADES). This resulted in a meeting at the DECV involving a number of parties from both organisations, including representatives from the Victorian Olympic Committee (VOC) at which a model for developing asynchronous multimedia information on Values education was developed. It was anticipated that this model would offer sufficient structure and flexibility to be applied to other Distance Education Schools throughout Australia in their respective contexts.

The team at the DECV consists of:

- Mark Kent, Assistant Principal
- Lee-Anne D'Agostino (Team Leader)
- Tracey Viggiano
- Mal McIver
- Mark McSherry
- Mathew Aumann
- Justin De Lima

The DECV developed a project titled Values Education. The AOC a.s.p.i.r.e values together with the Values identified in the National Framework for Values Education in schools were selected for inclusion in the project. The values are:

- Attitude
- Sportsmanship
- Pride
- Individual Responsibility
- Respect
- Hard work
- Tolerance
- Self belief
- Integrity

The aim of the project is to educate students on the importance of values, and their role in achieving learning and personal goals. Students in years 7 - 10 are required to identify and work towards the achievement of their own personal learning goals. Having an opportunity to understand how values lead to successful outcomes, using Olympians as role models was an exciting prospect, and so the DECV/AOC Values Education Project was born.

There is a great deal of interest in values education and the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, the Catholic Education Commission, the Association of Independent Schools in Victoria and the Curriculum Corporation are keen to build a profile of good practice, resources and ideas. Consequently the DECV was successful in applying for a grant to further develop this project.

The AOC identified and selected appropriate current and former Olympians to be interviewed on each value.

The Olympians featured include:

Russell Mark OAM (shooting)

Claire Mitchell-Taverner OAM (hockey)

Nick Green OAM (rowing)

Sarah Blanck (sailing)

Kate Smyth (marathon runner)

Billy Celeski (football)

Kyle Davis (table tennis)

Brydee Moore, Para Olympian, field events

Questions were asked of the Olympians as to how each of the values contributed to their success, and assisted them with overcoming personal and sporting setback. The interviews were edited for inclusion in the web based presentation, along with footage of the athletes provided by Channel 7 with permission from OTAB. Members of the DECV team prepared written material on each of the selected values for inclusion in the web based presentation, along with a teacher and student resource page to support further learning.

The web based presentation is also supported by student forums, enabling students to reflect on how the values apply to them. Students were also invited to ask the athletes a question, and these too can be viewed on the website.

The web based presentation prepared by the DECV is accessible via the Distance Education Centre of Victoria website. Students can then enter the secure online learning environment to access material to assist them with their Personal Learning Goals

In addition, the AOC, VOC and DECV commit to further developing their working partnership throughout 2008 with a view to a long term development of joint projects and complementary operations. This further development may include hosting of Academy events, involvement of the VOC in development and delivery of VCE PE and involvement of DECV students in the Pierre de Coubertin Award and the Active Girls Leadership Program.