



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday 20th December 2023**

## **All-abilities and youth celebrate World Basketball Day with The Y Canberra Region and Bruton Basketball Foundation**

The Y Canberra Region together with Bruton Basketball Foundation today brought together all-abilities and youth basketballers to celebrate the inaugural World Basketball Day, which takes place tomorrow Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

“The Y Canberra Region honours its history, as the YMCA invented basketball in 1891, and today basketball is one of the most widely played and recognised games globally,” said The Y Canberra Region CEO, Kirsty Dixon.

“We are so excited to come together just ahead of the first ever World Basketball Day to not only honour our history of this globally loved sport, but to bring together participants of our RAID Basketball program and participants from our friends at Bruton Basketball Foundation. Our RAID program is run for people of all abilities and those with intellectual disabilities, and Bruton Basketball Foundation delivers programs for young people experiencing hardship or disadvantage throughout the Canberra Region,” Ms Dixon continued.

“Both the Y RAID and Bruton Basketball Foundation created these valuable programs for the youth of the Canberra Region, empowering them and promoting a sense of belonging and comradery through the game of basketball.

“With well-aligned values, both the Y Canberra Region RAID basketball program and Bruton Basketball Foundation foster inclusivity and community, allowing our participants to thrive and really enjoy the game.” Ms Dixon continued.

The RAID program has been running since 1984, in collaboration with Radford College since 2006, and some participants have been involved for over 20 years. With games held on a Wednesday night, the program includes around 30 participants and 6-10 volunteers from Radford College.

Today, both organisations took it to the court at Radford College at this special event to celebrate World Basketball Day, with ‘take a shot’ competition run by Bruton Basketball, two friendly games and an outdoor barbecue.

“It’s been a great opportunity for RAID participants and our community to bring their friends, family and carers along to play a few games of basketball, share some food and stories, and reflect on the positive impact that the game and the program has brought to their lives,” smiled Ms Dixon.

For more information on The Y Canberra Region’s RAID Basketball Program, visit [www.ymcacanberra.org.au](http://www.ymcacanberra.org.au)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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## **MEDIA BACKGROUNDER**

### **ABOUT RAID**

- RAID is a program run by The Y Canberra Region. RAID stands for Recreational Activities for people with Intellectual Disabilities.
- RAID provides participants with an opportunity to be part of a sporting team.
- The Y's RAID program has been running since 1984, in collaboration with Radford College since 2006. Some participants have been involved for over 20 years.
- RAID runs on a Wednesday night, with around 30 participants and 6-10 volunteers from Radford College, turning up to play basketball in the Radford College Gym.
- For many participants, RAID is the starting point of friendships that will have a significant impact on their lives.
- The significance for RAID participants of having the opportunity to build friendships autonomously is difficult to articulate. The experience of being part of a team is something many of us take for granted. The Y's RAID program gives people with a disability the chance to be accepted, valued and to be part of the team.
- More information can be found at [RAID Basketball - YMCA Canberra Region](#)

### **ABOUT WORLD BASKETBALL DAY**

- The YMCA invented basketball in 1891 when a sports instructor, James Naismith, developed the game to keep his students active during winter. Today, basketball is one of the most widely played and recognised games globally.
- Earlier this year, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaim December 21<sup>st</sup> as World Basketball Day. This decision reflects the global significance of basketball and its power to unite people worldwide.
- The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) recognises sport as having the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, break down racial and political barriers and combat discrimination and conflict.

### **ABOUT THE Y CANBERRA REGION**

- Established in 1941, The Y Canberra Region, formerly YMCA Canberra Region, has grown side-by-side with the nation's capital.
- Today, the Y Canberra Region's vision and mission is to build a better world, with and for young people.
- The Y Canberra Region delivers services across Canberra and its surrounds in community health, recreation and fitness, before and after school care, early learning education and care, accommodation and youth services.
- The Y Canberra Region are a significant local employer providing employment to over 400 staff and volunteers.
- The Y Canberra Region assists many Canberra Region families each year, engaged through the Y's various business'.
- For more information on The Y Canberra Region, visit [www.ymccanberra.org.au](http://www.ymccanberra.org.au), call (02) 6242 4040 or follow us on social media @YMCCanberra