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From: Amy C [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 5:05 PM
To: White Paper
Subject: Diamonds in the Rough program

In 2016 I was lucky enough to be involved in the Diamonds in the Rough- Empowering Indonesian girls through baseball program, funded by DFAT. Not only did I travel to Jakarta, Bandung and Bali to teach Indonesian girls about baseball, I developed a further respect for the culture, language and people of Indonesia. Having never travelled to Indonesia previously, I knew little about the country except from what had been televised in Australia. After contributing to the program I have a greater understanding of the power sport has in developing people-to-people links and the ability it has to break down barriers and stereotypes between people and countries.

The program ran twice throughout 2016; where I was one of a select few to assist both programs, and I will also be assisting in the upcoming Diamonds in the Rough program due to depart for Indonesia in May. The non-baseball aspect of the program allowed us to help empower Indonesian girls to make choices throughout their lives, to believe in themselves to achieve their dreams, as well as helping them to understand the issue of family violence with the assistance of the No More campaign by Charlie King.

The girls that I met throughout the program are still in contact with me through social media and often check in to see how you are and ask what you have been up to. They are so interested in Australia and love seeing pictures of the country and where you live. Furthermore it is fantastic to see and continue to learn about their culture, customs and way of live after developing these bonds. Without having had a common interest of sport with the girls prior to the program, these bonds would have not been as easily forged.

Amy Collins.