**Transcript**

***Dr Emma Sherry – Sport development for marginalised communities***

My research looks at the social role of sport. So I work with marginalised, at risk and socially excluded groups in the community such as the homeless people with mental illness, drug and alcohol problems and recently arrived refugees. And I work with organisations and sport clubs who provide services to those communities and I help them look at how does sport help get those communities involved, social inclusion and community development.

There’s probably two key outcomes for my research. The first key outcome would be a better understanding of what encourages people to participate in sport and what stops them from participating. Sport’s a really important thing for a variety of community members, socially and culturally and it’s a really good way often of bringing people together in an informal setting. My research is looking at how can we optimise that to make the community more inclusive and people who are normally excluded from sport and recreation activities brought together into the mainstream community.

I’d like to think that my research has a goal of having healthier and happier communities broadly. If we can encourage people to participate in sport who are normally socially excluded then they will feel more part of the Australian community. Also there’s always the physical and mental health benefits from sport participation as well. So, the big picture outcome is a happier and healthier community.