



TONY'S ACING TENNIS IN MULTICULTURAL WESTERN SYDNEY

The Tony Podesta School of Tennis boasts more than 500 regular students, 14 coaches and eight venues. The School's coaching footprint spans Oran Park Anglican College in south-west Sydney, Windsor in north-west Sydney and a host of venues in-between.

Tony is closely linked to the communities of Western Sydney and has been actively involved in the development and delivery of multicultural tennis programs since he started his coaching business in 1989.

Tony's name is synonymous with tennis in Western Sydney. He honed his skills on the courts at Guildford and Fairfield Park and started coaching when he turned 16.

Tony has a strong willingness to see players develop their full potential and with more than 30 years of coaching under his belt, he now has second generation families attending lessons at his coaching schools.





INITIATIVES

Over the years, Tony has supported the Western Sydney multicultural community through coaching and the development and upskill of coaches and officials. He has also offered free, multi-lingual school holiday camps.

More recently, Tony partnered with Tennis NSW to develop and deliver a pilot program at Hilltop Road Public School in Merrylands. As well as reducing participation barriers, the program aimed to create greater accessibility to tennis to people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. It was made possible through the NSW ATP Cup Legacy Fund which is a NSW Government and Tennis NSW initiative.

The six-week program was offered to

girls in Year-Six and took place on school grounds during the allocated PSSA sport time.

The program was an opportunity for the girls to try tennis in a safe, friendly and supportive environment with their friends.

Students received a new racquet, a set of tennis balls, and the opportunity to continue their tennis journey at Tony's coaching school, located in nearby Merrylands.

Using the ANZ Hot Shots program, students were introduced to tennis using modified equipment, low compression balls and mini nets. This allowed the girls to gain confidence and become comfortable with the sport and equipment.



The multicultural girls program has displayed how we can create new experiences and pathways for school aged students for ongoing participation in the sport.

Tony Podesta,
Director, Tony Podesta
School of Tennis



FIND OUT MORE

Tennis NSW is committed to embracing diversity by ensuring our sport and events are welcoming, safe and inclusive for everyone.

Our team can work with you to develop programs that cater to the needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This includes developing flyers and other marketing resources that are tailored to CALD communities.

Additionally, if you run a multicultural tennis program and would like to be featured on our website, please get in touch with our team

[tennisnsw@tennis.com.au](mailto:tennissw@tennis.com.au)



SUCCESSSES

Students celebrated the program's completion with Tennis NSW Ambassador, Casey Dellacqua who paid a visit to the school, shared her tennis story and presented each student with a prize pack. Parents were invited to attend the final session to witness the gains made by their children over six weeks.

The program was a good example of an operator working collaboratively with a school to deliver a positive outcome for their local community.

Importantly, it displayed how collaboration can create new experiences and pathways for school

aged children in multi-cultural communities who are under-represented in tennis.

Hilltop Road Public School is an excellent school with a supportive cohort of teachers who are committed to their student's development. The school embraced the multicultural girls' tennis program and their encouragement of tennis resulted in a rewarding experience for a new group of players who have taken a first step to developing a life-long love of tennis.

