



Australian Government

**Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations**

Mr Kevin Coombs OAM



Kevin Coombs, an elder, grew up in rural Victoria as part of a large Koori family. When he was twelve years old he was accidentally shot in the back. He became a paraplegic and spent a year in bed lying on his stomach. After long periods in hospital, Kevin was given a wheelchair and he took up wheelchair basketball. He enjoyed extraordinary success as an athlete.

Kevin represented Australia at five Paralympic Games, including two as Captain. He led Australia to a silver medal at the 1974 Commonwealth Games and two gold medals at the 1977 and 1982 FESPIC games. He was an ambassador for the Sydney Paralympic Games in 2000 and is one of only nine people to have an avenue in the Sydney Olympic Park named after him.

Kevin has also had a long commitment to Aboriginal health and welfare. Before his retirement in January 2000, Kevin worked for the Department of Human Services. He served as Manager of the Koori Health Unit for many years and established the Koori Hospital Liaison Officer program and was the coordinator of the Koori Drug and Alcohol Program. Prior to joining the Department of Human Services Kevin worked with Community Services Victoria.

Kevin's outstanding achievements were honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia for his lifetime of service to sport and the community. Kevin was also inducted into the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007.