

# Media Release

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**10 April 2025**

## **Canberra Raiders Connect with Future Indigenous Leaders in Top End**

The Airport Development Group's (ADG) Indigenous Training Academy (ITA) participated in a unique community engagement event with the Canberra Raiders, showcasing the power of sport to inspire, unite, and build future leaders.

Held at TIO Stadium in Darwin, the event provided ADG's ITA trainees with a special opportunity to attend a Canberra Raiders training session, followed by a photo opportunity with the players.

The day celebrated connection, culture, and opportunity, culminating in the presentation of a signed Raiders Indigenous jersey to the Indigenous trainees by Raiders players Xavier Savage, and Sebastian Kris.

After the training session, the group met the players, shared stories, and exchanged gifts.

Sandra de Kock, Executive General Manager People, Culture and Community at ADG, highlighted the significance of the engagement with the Raiders, reflecting the growing momentum of the ITA program and ADG's commitment to building strong cultural and community ties.

"Sport is a great connector — it has the unique ability to bring people together, create belonging, and encourage great discussions. The chance for our trainees to engage with the Canberra Raiders in this way is a proud moment for ADG. It reinforces how powerful partnerships can drive inclusion, leadership, and cultural celebration in the Territory," Ms. de Kock said.

Samantha Watkins, Manager of the Indigenous Training Academy, emphasised the lasting impact of the experience on the trainees.

"Our trainees look up to these players not just for their athletic talent but for their cultural pride and community values. This event has offered an unforgettable opportunity for personal growth, mentorship, and connection," Ms. Watkins said.

The session concluded with the presentation of a signed jersey – a gesture of respect and encouragement to the next generation of Indigenous leaders from the Top End.

The Indigenous Training Academy is a cornerstone of ADG's commitment to Indigenous employment, providing career pathways, cultural mentorship, and meaningful engagement with industry.

The Canberra Raiders will take on the Parramatta Eels this weekend in the Top End at TIO Stadium. Kick-off is at 7.05pm.



This highly anticipated match will be broadcast live on Foxtel and Kayo, with kick-off at 7.05pm (Australian Central Standard time), offering national exposure to the Northern Territory, and highlighting the region's vibrant culture, landscapes, and tourism opportunities.

