



CONSUL-GENERAL
CHRIS DE CURE OAM

AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL
LOS ANGELES

December 30, 2009

Ms Sonya Ottaway
Netball America
(Fax: 949 861 9754)

Dear *Sonya*

Firstly, my apologies for this belated thank you for your invitation to attend the LA Lakers game as a guest of the LA Sparks and Netball America. It was yet another very enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to get to know some of your colleagues on the Netball America team better.

As the year comes to an end, I also wanted to congratulate you and Netball America for the outstanding work that you have done in promoting netball in the United States. The exhibition games played at Staples Centre, before and during the LA Sparks final regular season home game for 2009 provided great exposure for the sport in front of a large and inquisitive audience. I think it is a credit to you that you have been able to establish and nurture this valuable relationship to the point where they are comfortable allowing you to showcase netball in front of their basketball audience. The involvement of celebrities like Ian Thorpe and Nigel Lithgow were also great initiatives that turned a few heads, particularly among the children present.

I am sure you don't underestimate the challenges that you face in building the sport in an already very crowded American sporting landscape, but you and your enthusiastic team at Netball America can be proud of what you have achieved this year. I wish you continuing success in 2010. You can count on my support in future promotional events.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CD', with a long horizontal line underneath.

Chris De Cure OAM
Consul-General