

I guess I had to stay positive to get where I am today."

debut for the Qantas Soccerroos and was named the Australian

this year

# Soccajoey's growing rapidly

**BY CHRIS GEORGAKOPOULOS**

Soccajoey's has grown in leaps and bounds over the past year with children loving the experience of learning how to play football from a young age.

A specific program for children aged three to five, Soccajoey's aims to help and encourage young children with their physical and social development.

After beginning the program at two

venues being the Hurstville Aquatic Centre and Sutherland Basketball Centre, Soccajoey's has grown rapidly with the program running at a further six locations in the Marrickville, Daceyville, Crows Nest, Five Dock, Caringbah and Kellyville regions, and are also expanding in the areas of Seven Hills and the Northern Beaches in the coming term.

The growth of the program has come from the amazing response from the

children as program Director Stacy Alogdellis said "The response is fantastic and the kids love it."

A player for PCYC Parramatta Eagles himself, Alogdellis thought of the idea of running a program for children as at that age they do not have competitions set up.

"As we know we have a rule stating that kids cannot play football until they are five or six. My idea was to get children involved in football at the grassroots levels to help with their development both on and off the fields.

"The way in which the kids have improved can be seen as you can tell when the players join their competitions after the age of five," continued Alogdellis.

With focus on the basics of football, Alogdellis stated the areas covered by Soccajoey's allows the children to have an extra step before going out to the parks on the weekends.

"We cover the basics including passing, controlling, dribbling, shooting, heading the ball and the likes which the kids thoroughly enjoy," said Alogdellis.

Currently entering its third year, Soccajoey's aims to help its children in all ways possible both on and off the field and to be recognised in this manner.

"Our aim through football is to be the leading childhood development program in Australia between the ages of three and five," Alogdellis concluded.



*The children at Soccajoey's have a great deal of fun every week*