



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

**puth**  
'pu-th'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

### Background

A number of games were and still are played on former mission sites and settlements in the central parts of Australia, to fill in time. These include introduced card-playing games, including local variations such as *kuns*, tossing objects and other line and object games.

During the heat of the day many people spent their time sitting in the shade in small groups of men or women, talking. In some areas the women played a simple game of tossing a cotton reel.

### Language

*Puth* means 'to throw away' (more than one item) in the Murrinh-Patha language of the western coast people in the Northern Territory.

### Short description

Players aim to make a cotton reel or soft drink can stand upright.

### Players

- Groups of two to six players

### Equipment

- A cotton reel or an empty aluminium drink can

### Game play and basic rules

- A player uses a large cotton reel (or substitute) and throws it on the ground in an attempt to make it land upright. Players take turns.

### Scoring

A point is recorded when a player is successful. The player scoring the greatest number of points is the winner.

### Variations

- An empty aluminium drink can is tossed into the air, with players guessing which way the can will land.
- An empty drink can or two is tossed into the air, with points allocated for the way in which they land.
- As a simple game, a player throws two dice. The highest-scoring player wins, or a player needs to nominate a score to gain a point.