



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

paliwan

'pal-i-wan'



SCHOOL
YEARS
K-3

SCHOOL
YEARS
4-6

Background

Hide and seek constituted a series of very commonly played games, even by adults. In some games either a person or thing was hidden. The Kokominni people in the northwest of Queensland had a hide-and-seek game called *paliwan*.

Short description

A version of hide and seek.

Players

- A group of up to 20 players

Playing area

- A designated outdoor area suitable for the activity

Game play and basic rules

- A player is sent away to hide and the rest of the players attempt to find him or her.
- The player who first hides attempts to reach 'home' without being caught (touched) by the other players before he or she is found. The finders may not remain around the 'home' area.
- A new player is sent away to hide and the game continues.

Comment

In the north-west central districts of Queensland there were up to three seekers. The seekers covered their eyes with their hands, or put their heads with eyes shut close to the ground, while the other players hid. If the 'seekers' could not find those who were hidden they made a whistling sound as a sign of defeat.