



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

# tabud nuri

'ta-bud nu-ri'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
K-3

## Background

A game of tag observed being played on Mabuiag Island in the Torres Strait by Margaret Lawrie.

## Language

*Tabud nuri* means 'snake coiling'.

## Short description

A group activity that is suitable for younger players. Players in a line coil and uncoil like a snake before a player is chased by other players, who attempt to touch (catch) him or her.

## Players

- Players in groups of six to 12

## Playing area

- A designated area of approximately 20 metres square

## Game play and basic rules

- Players line up next to each other and hold hands. The leader at a designated end of the line stands still while the second player wraps him or herself around the first player and so on down the line so that they are coiling like a snake. When all the players have 'coiled' they then unwind until all players are back in a straight line.
- The leader suddenly drops the hand of the player who is next to him or her and runs around the designated playing area.
- The players all chase this player as they evade being touched for as long as they can.
- When touched the player stops while all players come and touch him or her to represent catching the snake.
- Swap around the leader (snake) and the arrangement in the line and continue playing until all players have been a leader.

### Variations

- The leader runs away until touched by a player and the game stops.
- When the players uncoil they do so at speed and as soon as they uncoil the leader (snake) runs away.
- The leader attempts to touch the other players.
- The leader wears a tag belt and the chasers must remove one of these from a player to catch him or her.

### Comment

While the players are coiling they chant: *Tabud nuri*.

When they are uncoiling they chant:  
*Mata muia gudwaii*.

### Teaching points

- Line up. Next to each other. Ready.
- Start winding. Good. Keep going.
- Stop. Now unwind. Drop hands.
- Run. Watch out.
- Good. Stop there.
- Change over. Who's next?

