



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 18 January 2011

One Year to Go to 2012 Australian Deaf Games

Last Friday marked exactly one year until the 2012 Australian Deaf Games, to be held in Geelong during 14-21 January 2012. Involving up to 20 sports and held every four years, the Games attract competitors and visitors from all over Australia with up to 1000 athletes and 2500 visitors expected to flock to Geelong.

The Games is the pinnacle of deaf sporting events in Australia and while sport is central to the event, the Games also provide a major social and cultural festival for the whole deaf community.

Deaf Sports Australia President Brent Phillips said that momentum was building and planning is now in full swing with the event now less than one year away. "Interest and anticipation for the 2012 Games is very high in the Australian deaf and hard of hearing community and we can't wait to get the event underway and host an unforgettable Games."

Mr Phillips outlined that planning for the event was well on track. "The Games Organising committee has been working diligently with our major partners, the Victorian State Government and the City of Greater Geelong to put in place the necessary planning and infrastructure to deliver a world class event and I am sure all that attend the Games will not be disappointed. The Games Organising Committee is set to unveil a brand new Games Website, in addition to releasing registration prices highlighted by a \$99 registration fee for youth - part of a strategy to boost youth participation".

Minister for Sport and Recreation Hugh Delahunty said the Victorian Government was proud to have provided \$50,000 through the Significant Sporting Events Program to support the staging of the 2012 Australian Deaf Games in Geelong.

"Staging major and significant sporting events like these not only builds on Victoria's reputation as the sporting capital of the world, but attracts millions of visitors to our State, provides a stimulus for the economy, and most importantly, helps to inspire us all to get physically active and involved in sport and recreation, whatever our ability," Mr Delahunty said.

City of Greater Geelong Mayor Cr John Mitchell said the event was set to be an exciting week for Geelong. "Our world-class facilities, social and entertainment opportunities as well as our proximity to iconic tourist attractions all make Geelong the ideal place for major events," he said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain further information or arrange interviews please contact DSA Manager Craig Dodson, Phone: (03) 9473 1191, 0438 067 425 or email craig.dodson@deafsports.org.au



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