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## COMMONWEALTH GAMES TO DELIVER JOBS GROWTH

Victoria is set to experience significant employment growth as a result of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Congratulating graduates of the *Introduction to Community and Event Volunteering* training course, the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, said employment growth was a key incentive behind hosting a major event like the Games.

“We are working to deliver lasting employment, volunteering and training opportunities through the Games,” Mr Madden said.

“The training course is providing 1500 people from disadvantaged backgrounds with the necessary skills to take up future volunteer and employment opportunities.

“It does not guarantee graduates an official Games volunteer position but it will help.”

Mr Madden also released the Bracks Government’s Games@Work strategy to capitalise on Games-related employment opportunities.

“Based on workforce demands for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games, we estimate up to 35,000 jobs are likely to be created in Victoria,” Mr Madden said.

“Industries expected to benefit include the construction, hospitality and tourism, transport, sport and recreation and arts and culture sectors.”

Mr Madden said the Games would also showcase Victoria’s major events capabilities.

“The Games will help build up our skills base, enabling us to export our know-how to other major event cities, such as Beijing for the 2008 Olympics and Delhi for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.”

*Games@Work* contains several employment and training initiatives, including:

- creating 400 entry level traineeships for young people;
- promoting apprenticeships across Games-related infrastructure projects through the Commonwealth Games Construction Apprenticeship Initiative;
- establishing Best Practice Guidelines for the onsite management of apprentice plumbers.

In addition to new jobs, Mr Madden said the Games would generate up to 15,000 volunteer positions – often a gateway to a new career.

“We want to capture the enthusiasm around volunteering generated by the Games and channel this into sports clubs, community groups and environmental organisations after the Games.”

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The *Introduction to Community and Event Volunteering* course is run by the Adult Multicultural Education Service (AMES).

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from 15 – 26 March 2006 bringing together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations. For information visit [www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth\\_games](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games) or call (03) 9655 2006.