



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Ministers for the Commonwealth Games and
Education and Training

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OLYMPIC FEVER PAVES WAY FOR M2006 SCHOOL PARTICPATION

On the eve of the Athens Olympics, Victoria's schools are being encouraged to harness sporting fever and embrace the next big international sporting event – the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, and Education Minister Lynne Kosky, today joined aspiring Commonwealth Games athletes and the Games Mascot, Karak, to urge schools to become involved in the 2006 Games.

“These sporting events have the potential to capture students’ imaginations, creating a platform for learning and encouraging greater physical activity,” Mr Madden said.

“The Sydney Olympics prompted increased interest and participation in sport and physical activity.

“We want the Melbourne Commonwealth Games to enhance Victoria’s passion for sport, particularly with our school students.”

The Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, said a letter had been sent to every Victorian school, inviting them to start thinking now about how to factor the Games into the classroom in 2005 and 2006.

“Planning ahead is critical to making the most out of hosting the Games – particularly where school students are concerned,” Ms Kosky said.

“Hosting the Games is about more than sport. It’s also about geography, history, politics and cultural studies.”

Term One school holidays for 2006 have been moved slightly to coincide with the 12 days of the Games, so families can attend as many events as possible.

The Ministers were joined by three up and coming athletes, still at school but aiming for Commonwealth Games selection;

- Kylie Thomas, Kew High School, Diving;
- Yasmin Roos, Mentone Girls Secondary College, Diving;
- Ronnie Buckley, Broadford Secondary College, Discus.

Chairman of Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation, Ronald Walker, said the Games would provide Victoria’s students with the opportunity to be part of history in the making.

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Media contact: Kym Carter or Tim Mitchell on 9651 5799 www.vic.gov.au

“Outside the classroom, the Games will also give students a chance to take a hands-on role in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Queen’s Baton Relay and local Games celebrations – leaving them with memories that will last a lifetime,” Mr Walker said.

The pack will be launched in October. For more information on the 2006 Commonwealth Games Education Pack, visit www.melbourne2006.com.au or telephone (03) 9655 2006.

The Games will be held in Melbourne from 15 – 26 March 2006, and bring together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations.