



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Premier of Victoria, the Minister for Education
and the Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Friday 29 October 2004

BRINGING THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES TO THE CLASSROOM

The Premier, Steve Bracks, today launched a statewide education program aimed at making the 2006 Commonwealth Games a memorable learning experience for Victoria's students.

Mr Bracks said the education program would bring the Games to all Victorian classrooms.

"The program is founded on three principles – *learning* about the Commonwealth of Nations, *linking* Victorian schools with others in Australia and the Commonwealth, and *participating* in Games events and community-based activities," Mr Bracks said.

"We are harnessing the excitement of the Games and translating it into teaching and learning experiences that will stay with our children long after the Games has finished."

Some key initiatives of the Education Program include:

- Games-inspired curriculum materials for Prep through to Year 12;
- a dedicated website with comprehensive information on program content and dates and
- a suite of school and community-based activities encouraging students to get healthy and active, and to adopt environmentally sustainable behaviour.

All schools will receive copies of *Getting Schools Involved* in the coming weeks, which will provide an overall snapshot of opportunities from which teachers can choose.

Mr Bracks was joined by the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, the Minister for Education, Lynne Kosky and the face of the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Cathy Freeman, at Serpell Primary School in Templestowe to launch the program.

Mr Madden said the Education Program not only had significant learning outcomes, it would also provide students with a stimulus to get involved in sports and physical activity.

"Using the post-Athens buzz and the growing excitement around the Commonwealth Games, this program will encourage students to participate in sport and to reap the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle," he said.

Ms Kosky said the Program would span subjects like geography, history, politics and cultural studies and help students link into their neighbourhood groups.

"It will encourage a deeper appreciation of other cultures, a better understanding of the Commonwealth and stronger ties with local communities," Ms Kosky said.

Ms Kosky also called on teachers to champion the program and help make the Games as memorable for the Victoria's children as it will be for the spectators in the stands.

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The Chairman of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation, Ronald Walker, said school students would also play a role in official Games events.

“The 2006 Commonwealth Games will be a truly inclusive event. The activities of school children are not just confined to the Education Program,” Mr Walker said.

“From the Queen’s Baton Relay to local community events, the involvement of Victoria’s schools will contribute to the success of Games-related events.”

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

For more information on the Education Program, visit www.melbourne2006.com.au/education or call (03) 9655 2006.