



2008 PACIFIC SCHOOL GAMES
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Basketball becomes fifth sport in 2008 PSG

In an historic move, the 2008 Pacific School Games (PSG) today announced the addition of a fifth sport to the week-long prestigious school sporting event which will be held in Canberra for the first time next year.

General Manager of the 2008 PSG, Mr Ron Burns, said that the decision to add another sport to the event in Canberra was made after much deliberation and consultation with the national school sport network and local and national basketball representatives.

"Traditionally the PSG has only four sports and although Basketball was held as the fourth sport at the 2005 Melbourne PSG, it was decided that Hockey would be the fourth sport in Canberra. After receiving initial enquiries from Basketball Canberra we decided to investigate the possibility of adding Basketball to our program. We found that there were so many positives from adding Basketball that its inclusion would significantly enhance what is already an exciting event for Canberra," he said.

CEO of the Basketball Canberra, the peak local sporting body for the sport, Mr Mark Cartwright, said that they were extremely pleased about the decision. "This will do much to assist the development and promotion of Basketball in Canberra in the community and school sport systems. It will allow our local students to play in an international event at home and raise the profile of Basketball generally in the community and in schools. Importantly there will also be very tangible and long-lasting legacies in the form of the skills and expertise that will be provided by the 2008 PSG to train local people to become accredited technical officials in the sport," said Mr Cartwright.

Mr Burns said that the Basketball program in the 2008 PSG would include Under 12 Boys and Girls competition, Under 18 Boys and Girls competition and Wheelchair Under 14 and Under 18 composite teams competitions. "We are currently investigating the viability of holding a competition for players with an intellectual disability and are talking to local and national stakeholders," he said.

The 2008 PSG would approach high profile local players, previous and current, to act as Ambassadors for the 2008 PSG joining other high profile sports people such as Petria Thomas, Adam Pine and Peta Gallagher.

Mr Ron Burns said that the addition of Basketball to the 2008 PSG means that more competitors and other visitors were now expected to visit Canberra during the week of the event. "Previously we were estimating 7,500 but we have now upped that to around 9,500."

Minister for Education and Training, Mr Andrew Barr MLA, said that the Government was pleased about the addition of the Basketball to the 2008 PSG.

"Having Basketball in the 2008 Pacific School Games only adds to what is already shaping up to be a great event for Canberra. Now – as well as profiling our world class venues for Diving, Hockey, Swimming and Track & Field – we can also highlight Canberra's Basketball player and spectator venues," he said.

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The Pacific School Games is an international sporting event for primary and secondary school students aged from ten to nineteen being carried out with the assistance of funds made available by the ACT Government. The 2008 PSG in Canberra will feature the sports of Basketball, Diving, Hockey, Swimming and Track & Field conducted at the Australian Institute of Sport, the Canberra National Hockey Centre, the Belconnen Basketball Stadium and the Canberra Olympic Pool. The event will attract around 7,500 visitors to Canberra and will involve Canberrans from the school, sporting and general community.

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2008 Pacific School Games
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