



**2008 PACIFIC SCHOOL GAMES**  
CANBERRA

30 November - 6 December

## FACT SHEET

### Background

The Pacific School Games (PSG) is an international sporting event for primary and secondary school students aged from ten to nineteen. Traditionally four sports are featured in the PSG with Diving, Swimming and Track & Field as the core sports. The PSG host chooses the fourth sport to meet local needs and conditions. The 2008 PSG will break new ground with the addition of Hockey and most recently Basketball, to the PSG program bringing the number of sports to five.

The PSG began as a test event for the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. School Sport Australia took responsibility for the PSG and it has since become the flagship of the Australian school sport program. Subsequent PSG have been test events for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, using the relevant major event venues. The PSG to be held in Canberra in 2008 will be the eighth Pacific School Games.

The number of competitors attending the PSG has grown with expectations of more than 4,000 in 2008 with more than 500 officials accompanying the teams. Competitors, including students with disabilities, come from all Australian states and territories and from countries around the Pacific Rim and other invited nations. Previous participating countries include Pacific Island nations such as Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji, Asian countries (Thailand, China and Japan) and from as far a field as South Africa and Canada.

### 2008 Pacific School Games, Canberra

The 2008 Pacific School Games in Canberra will be held from 30 November to 6 December and will feature the sports of Diving, Hockey, Swimming, Track & Field and Basketball. Venues include the Australian Institute of Sport, the Canberra National Hockey Centre, Canberra Olympic Pool and Belconnen Basketball Stadium.

It is envisaged that the week-long event will attract over 7,000 visitors to Canberra, including competitors, officials and spectators. Expressions of interest from 24 international school sporting organisations have been received. All Australian states and territories will send teams.

A feature of the 2008 PSG will be educational and cultural activities providing an opportunity to showcase Canberra's national institutions to interstate and overseas visitors. One of the objectives of the 2008 PSG is for the event to be a celebration of ACT education at all levels and across all sectors. School students, their schools and teachers will be invited to be involved in the PSG in ways that can enhance their programs across the curriculum and provide a positive dimension to their educational experience.

The Opening Ceremony will be held at Canberra Stadium involving up to 1000 students from ACT schools in a musical and dance performance extravaganza. Expected attendance at this event is 15,000. The Closing Ceremony will be held at Thoroughbred Park and is expected to be a big Dance Party to climax the PSG.

The 2008 PSG in Canberra is a project of the ACT Schools Sports Council with the assistance of funding made available by the ACT Government through the Department of Education and Training (DET). The PSG office is situated in the ACT School Sport Centre at Higgins. The Board of Management and Steering Committee include representatives from the Catholic Education Office, the Association of Independent Schools, ACT Sport and Recreation Services, School Sport Australia, the ACT Schools Sports Council and ACTSport.



**2008 Pacific School Games** | Canberra | ABN 95 825 767 889 002

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