



2008 PACIFIC SCHOOL GAMES
CANBERRA

30 November - 6 December

Media Release

Thursday 1 March 2007

International sporting event launched

Minister for Education and Training, Mr Andrew Barr MLA, today launched the 2008 Pacific School Games (PSG) to be held in Canberra next year.

This will be the 8th time that the Pacific School Games, a major international sporting event for primary and secondary students, will be held. The PSG in Canberra is being organised by ACT School Sports Council, supported by the ACT Government through the Department of Education and Training.

At the Launch, Chair of the ACT Schools Sports Council, Ms Annette Harasymiv, said that the 2008 Pacific School Games would provide enormous benefits for Canberra.

"We do not underestimate the magnitude of the task that we have accepted," she said. "We are expecting well over 7,000 people from all over Australia and from over 20 countries, mostly from around the Pacific Rim, to visit Canberra for the eight days of the 2008 Pacific School Games."

Apart from the sporting involvement, explained Ms Harasymiv, students from primary and secondary schools, the vocational education and training sector, and universities will be involved in the organisation and management of the Pacific School Games in Canberra. The 2008 Pacific School Games will leave lasting legacies for organised sport in Canberra, including an "enhanced capacity to conduct major multi-sport events".

"There will be increased expertise in sports administration and officiating as a result of training courses conducted for senior school students, members of the community and school sport organisations.

"The ACT School Sports Council is partnering with community sporting organisations for the four designated Pacific School Games sports to organise the sporting competitions," said Ms Harasymiv.

General Manager of the 2008 Pacific School Games, Mr Ron Burns, said that the management team was already in place and working on having everything ready in time for the event in December 2008.

"Our aim is to make the 2008 Pacific School Games a celebration of ACT education at all levels and across all sectors.

"All Canberrans will be encouraged to participate in a variety of ways – showcasing to visitors our strong community and sporting spirit," said Mr Burns.

The Pacific School Games is an international sporting event for primary and secondary school students aged from ten to nineteen. The 2008 PSG in Canberra will feature the sports of Diving, Hockey, Swimming and Track & Field conducted at the Australian Institute of Sport, the Canberra National Hockey Centre and the Canberra Olympic Pool. The event will attract around 7,000 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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