



2008 PACIFIC SCHOOL GAMES
CANBERRA

30 November - 6 December

Media Release

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Event to bring 7,500 visitors to Canberra

The 2008 Pacific School Games Management has just finished booking 4,000 beds in Canberra for competitors and officials travelling here next year for this large international sport event.

To be held in Canberra from 30 November to 6 December 2008, the Pacific School Games is for school students aged 10 – 19 in the sports of Diving, Hockey, Swimming and Track & Field, with teams coming from all Australian state and territories and internationally from the Asia Pacific Rim region.

General Manager of the 2008 PSG, Mr Ron Burns, said that over the eight day period of the event, this would translate to around 30,000 bed nights or – “approximately \$A1.8million for food and accommodation for competitors and officials let alone what the spectators will generate,” he said.

While most of the providers are based on the North side of Canberra in order to be closely located to the 2008 PSG sporting venues – the AIS, the National Hockey Centre at Lyneham and the Canberra Olympic Pool at Civic – the 2008 PSG have booked some venues on the South side.

“PSG staff was surprised at the amount of beds available but we can vouch that they are all there as we have personally visited each of those we have booked. Some accommodation providers even turned over their whole establishment for the week,” said Mr Burns.

The bulk of bed places are across 4 main providers: - Canberra Carotel, Gold Creek Tourist Resort, Eagle Hawk Holiday Park and Canberra Motor Village. Proprietor of the Canberra Carotel said that although they were hosting 480 students for the event, it was just a normal week for them.

“We cater for schools all the time – once we had 2,000 people. We hosted the Intellectual Disability World titles last year with students from all over the Pacific so this event will be similar to that – it doesn't phase us at all,” said Ms Narelle Lambie, Marketing Manager of the Carotel.

Mr Burns said that although the spread of the accommodation would not allow the 2008 PSG to establish a separate ‘Games Village’ setup, it was centralised enough to create a ‘precinct’ environment and make transporting competitors from venues to accommodation easier. “The Australian National University, the University of Canberra and the AIS are also providing significant places in their student and athlete accommodation which will help to add to that precinct feel,” he said.

Although more than 7,000 visitors were expected Mr Burns said that many would want to arrange their own accommodation. “It will not be the responsibility of the 2008 PSG to find this, but we will provide accommodation and tourism information via our website.”

For more information contact Mr Ron Burns, General Manager of the 2008 Pacific School Games, on 6205 8388, 0404 804 751, or ron.burns@ed.act.edu.au

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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