

media release

Pacific School Games - track and field squad

7 September 2008

The Northern Territory Government has provided \$100 000 funding for the 2008 School Sport NT Pacific School Games team.

The Pacific School Games will be held from 30 November to 6 December in Canberra.

The School Sport NT Track and Field squad will be selected from around 300 students competing this weekend in events at the combined NT Athletics and School Sport NT Championships at Arafura Stadium from Friday 5 September through Sunday 7 September. Athletics clubs and all six School Sport NT Clusters are represented.

15 students with a disability will also be competing in Track and Field events this weekend.

The presentation ceremony on Sunday is a combined event announcing winners of the Athletics NT Championship, the School Sport NT Cluster Cup and Relay Trophy winners, and also the naming of the School Sport NT Track and Field squad for the Pacific School Games.

Over 60 students will be selected on Sunday afternoon to represent the NT in Track and Field at the Pacific School Games and presented with their Development Squad T-shirts.

Track and field events include:

- Track - Hurdles, Walk, Running, and Relays
- Jumps - Long Jump, High Jump, Triple Jump
- Throws - Discus, Shot Put, Javelin, Hammer

The Track and Field squad is the final sport to be selected for the Pacific School Games. School Sport NT teams have already been finalised for the other 3 sports: swimming, hockey and basketball. Selected student names are published on the School Sport NT website - <http://www.schools.nt.edu.au/ssnt/PSG/psg.htm>

Every four years School Sport Australia conducts a Pacific School Games hosted by an Australian state/territory and includes swimming and track and field events. In 2005 basketball was added as the host state Victoria's choice of the third sport and was added again this time. The host territory also selects additional sports. Hockey was the sport selected by ACT who will host this year's Pacific Games

A total of around 270 NT students will represent School Sport NT in the following sports:

- Student officials in hockey, basketball and swimming.
- A track and field team (estimated 60-80 students +25 with disability)
- A swimming team (51 students + 4 students with disability)
- 4 hockey teams (15 each + 7 reserves per team)
- 4 basketball teams (12 each + 6 reserves per team ; + 3 wheelchair basketball students)
- Approximately 60 adults will also travel with the group to Canberra

A total of 5000 students representing all Australian States and Territories plus 33 countries will attend the 2008 Pacific Games

Former participants in the Pacific Games who have recently won medals at the Beijing Olympics include Patrick Mills (Basketball / Melbourne 2005) and Mathew Mitchell (Diving / Sydney 2000)

Some notable NT identities who have represented School Sport NT at previous Pacific School Games since the first Games in 1982 are Daryl White in Track and Field, Nova Peris in Track and Field, Tahnee Afuamango in AWD swimming, CJ Grogan in Wheelchair Basketball, Danni Miatke in Swimming and Crystal Attenborough in Track and Field

Usually a farewell function hosted by the Minister for Education and Training for all PSG students and their parents immediately prior to departure sends the team interstate with the NT's best wishes.

The Pacific Games began as a test event for the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane and is now the flagship event of School Sport Australia. For more information visit <http://www.pacificschoolgames.edu.au/>

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