



GAMES NEWS

2 DAYS TO GO!

It was great to arrive in Melbourne to see the sun shining and Special Olympics Australia logos in and around the Albert Park precinct where most of next week's sports action will take place. Athletes start arriving from tomorrow so it's getting very exciting here in Melbourne and volunteers and the National Games team are working around the clock to make these a great National Games.

Nicola Stokes, Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Australia



Only two more sleeps to go! Ruby Lawler from Queensland is prepared to compete in aquatics. Photo: Taste Media.

IN THE OLYMPIC TRADITION



The Parade of Athletes is one of the traditions of the Special Olympics National Games Opening Ceremony.

TAKE ACTION

DONATE to the team.
ATTEND an event.
PROMOTE our news.



Please share our news and pictures via your own personal or business channels. All content is media cleared for the promotion of Special Olympics Australia. For enquiries please contact contactmedia@specialolympics.com.au

IN THE NEWS



Team Victoria are prepared for the National Games and 7.30 Victoria interviewed some of the medal hopefuls and their families. [Check out the broadcast.](#)

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Take a peak at the great message of support from Senator The Honourable Mitch Fifield, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Senator for Victoria. Senator Fifield will attend the Opening Ceremony of the Games as the representative of the Prime Minister, Mr Tony Abbott.

Special Olympics Australia draws inspiration from the Olympic heritage and that's why Special Olympics Australia National Games feature Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The Opening Ceremony includes a Parade of Athletes, lighting of the cauldron, raising of the Special Olympics Australia flag and reciting of the official Oaths. [Click here](#) for a list of the members of the Special Olympics Australia family who will take the honours.



National Games ambassador, Carrie Bickmore from The Project has also sent her message of support to all competing athletes.

POWER AND THE PASSION

As the Games are set to get underway in Melbourne, the spiritual home of AFL, it is fitting to see our AFL friends from afar supporting our Special Olympics Australia teams. The 2014 AFL premiership winners Hawthorn Hawks visited Special Olympics Tasmania athletes to celebrate their win. [Click here](#) for photos. In Adelaide, Port Adelaide Power showed their support for Team South Australia. [Click here](#) for details.



Team South Australia athletes meet players from Port Adelaide AFL team. Photo: Port Adelaide Football Club.

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Take a peek at our social media resources which include Facebook avatars, cover photos and videos to share. We have added some great images to show your support for your state or territory team!

[Click here to visit the Social Media Resources page.](#)



Our social media resources include athlete videos. Click above to hear from Darren Reilly (Team Western Australia) who is competing in football (soccer) at the Special Olympics Australia National Games!

SNEAK PEEK



TORCH RUN



The Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg has been lighting up communities on its travels through South Australia and Victoria. For all the excitement view photos at www.facebook.com/LETRVictoria.

Tomorrow thousands of people are expected to cheer on the Flame of Hope at Federation Square at 11am. If you are in Melbourne come along and join the fun. National Games Ambassador, Carrie Bickmore from *The Project* will MC the event.

THANKS GLORIA JEANS



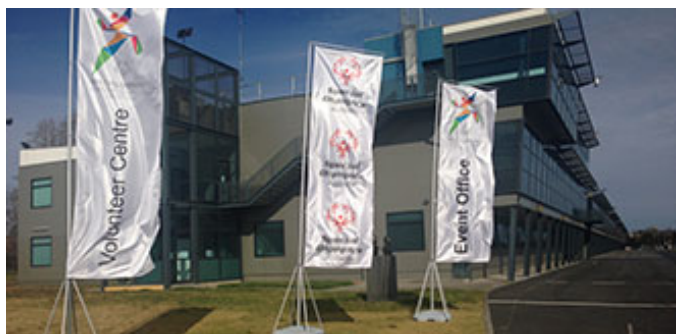
Special Olympics Australia would like to thank Gloria Jeans for making a \$8,000 financial contribution to support athletes who were financially struggling to cover the cost to compete at the Games. Thanks to Gloria Jeans, 32 athletes now have a chance to achieve their



Soey the Joey is in Melbourne and here are some sneak peeks at what she has seen so far.



Thanks to Holden there are plenty of vehicles for necessary Games transport.



The Event Office and Volunteer Centre will be the operational hub of the National Games which is being supported by over 800 volunteers.

dreams at the Games. Disability doesn't stop our athletes, but money sometimes does.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Get your plans together for the Games by viewing the Sports Schedule, which is officially available now. [Click here](#) to download the schedule. In addition, get yourself familiar with each of the venues. [Click here](#) to find out where each sport is being held.

MERCHANDISE

Get into the spirit of the Games and grab your merchandise. A great range of clothing and accessories are available. [Click here](#) to get yours.

OPENING CEREMONY TICKETS

The Opening Ceremony of a National Games is always a highlight. Make sure you don't miss this great night of entertainment and fun. [Click here](#) to grab your tickets.

ACCESSIBLE SEATING

If you are joining us at the Opening or Closing Ceremony and require an accessible seat please register your request withsupporters.2014ng@specialolympics.com.au. On the day, look out for the Game Changer Volunteers in their orange shirts who will guide you to your seat.

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