



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NATIONAL GAMES 2014
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

GAMES NEWS

COMPETITION IS UNDERWAY!

Today the competition got underway at the Special Olympics Australia National Games in Melbourne and the main sporting precinct at Albert Park was buzzing with excitement and activity. I was delighted to be able to present the first medals of the Games and also launch netball as a new official Special Olympics Australia sport thanks to a partnership with ANZ and Netball Australia. I was able to witness a number of sports. Tomorrow, I'm looking forward to seeing many more.

Nicola Stokes, Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Australia



The National Games are officially underway and Special Olympics Australia mascot Soey the Joey is loving seeing our athletes competing in Melbourne.

THE FIRST MEDALS



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 media@specialolympics.com.au



NETBALL LAUNCH

Today Special Olympics Australia announced a partnership with ANZ and Netball Australia that will see netball become our newest official sport.

The announcement was made during the netball exhibition games held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Special Olympics Australia Chief Executive Officer, Nicola Stokes said this partnership will increase the quality of life for people with an intellectual disability.

The first medals of the National Games were presented today at MSAC where Team NSW took out the women's 4 x 50m freestyle event. The winning team where: Brooke McGrath (Macarthur), Claire Robertson (Hunter Valley), Casey Steven (Sydney South) and Louise Richardson (Sydney South). Coming second were Team ACT and Team NSW took out the bronze. Ellena Morris, Aquatics Head Coach for NSW said, 'I'm elated with this start for Team NSW. It is a great buzz for the whole team and sets us up well for competition.' The winning medals were presented by Nicola Stokes, CEO of Special Olympics Australia.



RESULTS

The National Games Organising Committee are posting results online. [Click here](#) to access results.



OPENING CEREMONY PHOTOS

Last night's Opening Ceremony was a spectacular event that athlete's and spectators have been talking about all day. New photos have been added to our photo gallery. [Click here](#) to take a look.



SOEY IS OUT AND ABOUT

Soey the Joey was out and about in the Albert Park precinct today enjoying the competition and posing for photos. Her minders from Porter Novelli, who are the National Games Communications Partner, will be with Soey as she visits other venues during the week. So, if you're in Melbourne and see Soey say hello, take a photo and send it to us at media@specialolympics.com.au

"This partnership will ensure that people who are living with an intellectual disability who currently do not play sport will get the opportunity to participate and experience the friendships, joy and health benefits playing netball offers," Ms Stokes said.

Chair of ANZ's Accessibility and Inclusion Plan, Sue Jeffery said: "ANZ is pleased to extend our support to Special Olympics Australia and the introduction of netball as a sport offered to athletes with intellectual disabilities."

Ms Stokes and Ms Jeffery were joined at the announcement by Netball Australia Community Engagement Manager Julia Symons.

SOFTBALL STAR

Out at Fawkner Park today, Joanne Paez threw the first pitch to kick off the softball competition. Joanne is part of Softball Victoria and Softball Australia Hall of Fame and athletes were delighted with her support. Thanks to Danielle from Melbourne Softball Association for taking photos of the softball action.



FROM THE FIELD

Special Olympics Australia has volunteer reporters out in the field talking to the Special Olympics family and sharing their stories. Check out their tales raw and unedited on [our website](#).

MERCHANDISE



National Games merchandise is proving very popular amongst supporters. You can grab yours [online here](#) if you're in Melbourne look out for stands at venues.

SCHEDULE

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.](#)



Sports competition is underway! Check out what is happening by viewing the [sports schedule here](#). Look out for results during the week!

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



www.specialolympics2014.org.au

Competition is Underway! | 21.10.14

Would you like to forward this email to a friend? [Click here.](#)

Share This Email:     

[Remove my name from all future email correspondence](#)

Address postal inquiries to:
Special Olympics Australia
PO Box 62
Concord West, NSW 2138

Powered By

Blackbaud eTapestry™ Delivra