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Greetings from the DSA office

What a busy few months it has been! Since our last eNews in April, we made an impact at the Inquiry into Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australians that was held in Melbourne in May. The Inquiry was a result of Deafness Forum Australia's Break the Sound Barrier campaign to include hearing health as a top 10 priority of the Federal Government. DSA President Kathryn O'Brien, and myself attended the Inquiry, and we were also supported by Kayla Trinder-Scacco and Tamara Trinder-Scacco who gave evidence in regards to their experiences in accessing sports programs and events. The transcript of the Inquiry can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).



Deaf Sports Australia was recently successful in obtaining a grant from Tennis Australia to run the Active Deaf Sports Club program with targeted tennis clubs in Victoria. The grant was obtained with support from Tennis Victoria who are partnering us on this exciting initiative. The aim of this program is to educate qualified tennis coaches about inclusion practises as well as teach them tennis specific sign language so that their deaf and hard of hearing participants can continue to play tennis on a regular basis at their tennis clubs. We thank Tennis Australia for supporting our initiative!

With the 2017 Deaflympic Games starting in just over a week away, our athletes have been finalising their preparations to ensure they are in top form for their sport event. On Sunday 18th June 2017, the Turkish Consulate General hosted a gathering at the Turkish-Australian Friendship Memorial at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens to wish the Australian Deaflympic Team good luck for the Deaflympics. Consulate General Mehmet Küçüksakallı wished our Athletes all the best of luck. We are grateful for the Turkish Consulate General's support and the team looks forward to participating at the Games in Samsun, Turkey.

We are very pleased to confirm that Chemist Warehouse has agreed to support the team – their branding and financial support is much appreciated.

In addition, the grants from the Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian Governments have provided the team has certainly been well received.

We would also like to thank the following organisations, Athletics Australia, Basketball Australia and Swimming Australia who have provided their support directly to individual athletes as well as the Goannas Basketball Team.

Not only our athletes will be proudly representing Australia at the Deaflympic Games, I will also be representing Deaf Sports Australia at the ICSD Congress to be held on 16th and 17th July in Samsun as well. The Congress will involve meetings and workshops with many other delegate countries and I look forward to proudly representing Australia on the international stage. Updates regarding our involvement at the Deaflympic Games and the Congress will be published via our social media channels so be sure to check them out as they arise.

On behalf of the DSA Board of Directors and staff, we wish our athletes and officials of the Australian Deaflympic Team all the best. As Gail Devers quoted: *"Keep your dreams alive."*

Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe.”

Good luck, and Godspeed!

Irena Farinacci
Sports Development Manager



L-R: Bryn Davies (Chef de Mission), Rod Crick (Basketball), Mark Quinn (Interpreter), Mehmet Küçükşakallı (Consulate General), Rebecca Adam (ICSD Board Member), Hannah Britton (Swimming), Monique Beckwith (Swimming), Ramas McRae (Basketball) & Sam Quinn (Basketball)



Consulate General Küçükşakallı explaining the significant meaning of the Turkish Australian Friendship Memorial. The sculpture pays homage not only to the bond that has developed between the Turkish and Australian veterans and their families, but forms part of a greater narrative surrounding Turkish migration to Australia, and the Turkish community's invaluable contribution to the cultural fabric of Melbourne.



The Melbourne weather provided perfect conditions to gather to celebrate the friendship between Turkey and Australia

From the DSA Board

In the previous eNews, we noted that we have been lobbying the Federal Government and the Australian Sports Commission for funding to support the Australian Deaflympic Team. It is unfortunate that this did not occur. However we have recently had productive discussions with the new CEO of the Australian Sports Commission Kate Palmer. We will also be making a submission for the National Sports Plan, which closes on 31 July 2017. It is hoped that our recommendations will be considered in the overall realignment that will flow from this review and the subsequent new plan.

In the meantime the Australian Sports Commission has provided new funding that will allow us to set up two Pilot Studies with key National Sports Organisations that will see our Active Deaf Kids Program included in the successful Sporting Schools Program (SSP). Time will tell but we hope to broaden the reach and acceptance of the ADK via the Sporting Schools Program into over 5,500 schools throughout Australia.

It is pleasing to note that Deaf Sports Australia received a glowing report from the Australian Sports Commission which saw DSA performing at 91% in terms of governance compared to 76% of the National Sports Organisations for Disabilities overall, as well as 100% for structure in sport and 100% in board composition and operation. This is a testimony to the DSA Board and staffs' hard work to ensure that DSA meets all the requirements set out by the Australian Sports Commission.

Other updates:

- NSW Deaf Sports continues to develop and expand its services throughout the state – a working arrangement with Sports NSW is now in place and programs are planned as far away as Orange, the Central Coast and around Sydney city.

• The new funding arrangements that DSA has entered into with the Queensland Government that now has DSA overseeing and managing the Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland (DSRQ) operations was outlined to the DSRQ members at their recent AGM. A Special General Meeting will be held in October where a motion will be put that will wind up the DSRQ legal entity. It should be noted the DSRQ brand, services and programs will continue under the DSA banner. In addition, a successful Far North Queensland tour has recently been completed and a number of Active Deaf Kids programs at five South East Queensland schools is being run through Terms 2 and 3. Over 60 children are experiencing the healthy benefits that sport provides.

Garry West-Bail
General Manager

2017 Deaflympic Games update

The 29-member Australian Deaflympic Team are now primed and ready to attend the 2017 Deaflympics after a significant period of training over the past few months to ensure they are in top physical and psychological shape.

The majority of the ADT will depart from 4 cities - Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney - on the evening of 13th July and meet up as one team in Dubai, before heading to Turkey to begin their Deaflympics campaign. Our swimmers will depart a couple of days later on 15th July from Sydney and Melbourne to ensure they arrive in Samsun ready to compete from the 20th July.



Anticipation within the ADT is high as the days count down to the opening ceremony on 18th July, with just over a week away before we march - **#TOGETHERSTRONGER** - as one team representing our vast land across 5 different sports - athletics, badminton, basketball, swimming and tenpin bowling with medal hopes in 4 of these sports.

There will be live Facebook videos every couple of days on the Deaf Sports Australia Facebook page, and video updates and results at other times so be sure to like the DSA Facebook page, as well as download the TeamApp for the Australian Deaflympic Team to enjoy a behind-the-scenes perspective of the ADT.

Bryn Davies, Chef de Mission, Australian Deaflympic Team

2018 Australian Deaf Games Update

With 6 months until the 2018 Australian Deaf Games, the Games Organising Committee are working hard to provide the best Games experience for Deaf and hard of hearing athletes and spectators from all over Australia!

Early-bird registrations closed on 31st May 2017. Registration numbers are slowly growing; we are slowly approaching 300 registrations. Standard registration fees are now active, and closes on 31st September 2017.



We have received great responses from the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji with an anticipated 70 athletes coming from these three countries.

Planning for local shuttle buses is occurring as is costs for coaches from major airports to Albury/Wodonga.

The social program for the Games should be finalised by the end of July.

Plenty of sports are on offer at the Games – such as basketball, cricket, futsal, athletics, touch football, and so on! If you're a keen athlete and would like to participate in your preferred sport at the Games, don't forget to register! Get in touch with your State Representative so you can be put into your state team.

Our next Facebook Live event is on Friday 7th July 2017, starting at 7.30pm. You will get to meet Cindy-Lu Bailey – Sports and Venues Coordinator, and Debra Swann – Ceremonies & Social Programs Coordinator. They will be giving an update on the Games, and what they've been working on. You can ask questions you might have about sports and social program at the Games.

The Games Organising Committee will be meeting again on 5-6 August in Albury/Wodonga.

If you wish to register for the Games, please visit the website at <http://www.austdeafgames.org.au/>

For registration enquiries, please contact Phil Harper – Registrations Coordinator at registrations@deafsports.org.au

For media enquiries, please contact Sherrie Beaver – Media & Communications Coordinator at sherrie.beaver@deafsports.org.au

Sherrie Beaver, Media & Communications Coordinator, 2018 Australian Deaf Games

Upcoming events

23rd Summer Deaflympic Games

Australia will be represented in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Swimming and Tenpin at the Games. For more information about the Games, as well as the program and results, click [here](#)

Thank you to our Sponsors of the Australian Deaflympic Team!



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