

Monday 3 August, 2015

Media Release

Australian Global Games Team Announced

Ausrapid are pleased to announce the athletes that will represent Australia in Athletics, Basketball, Swimming and Tennis at the 4th Global Games in Ecuador.

Fifty five athletes with support of 18 staff will contest the Games in Quito, Ecuador – competing in sports of athletics, basketball, swimming and tennis. Each of these athletes have earned their place on the team as a result of their performances at National championships during 2014-15.

Australia finished top of the medal tally in the previous two Inas Global Games in 2009 and 2013 and will be keen to do well again in Ecuador.

Australia's success is largely due to the commitment to inclusion by Australian sport, where the focus is on the athlete and their ability. AUSRAPID liaises with National Sporting Organisation's, (NSOs) to include high performance pathways within their infrastructure for athletes with an intellectual disability. AUSRAPID is delighted to facilitate this inclusion and ensure that 'Sport owns sport for all'. This unique Australian initiative is the envy of many of our international counterparts.

The inaugural Global Games were conducted in Sweden in 2004 after the ban of athletes with an intellectual disability from the Paralympics in 2000. While AUSRAPID is delighted to report that events will be included into 2016 Rio Paralympics, the opportunities are minimal and only in Athletics, Swimming and Table Tennis, so the need for the Global Games to showcase the excellent ability and initiatives are essential.

Thanks to the ongoing support of the NSO's, Australian Paralympic Committee and Australian Sports Commission, athletes with an intellectual disability have continued to remain in high performance programs since the ban in 2000 and should add significantly to the success of the Australian Paralympic Team come Rio 2016.

This team features female tennis player – Kelly Wren undefeated at International level since her debut in the 1st Global Games in Sweden in 2004, Czech Republic 2009 and Italy in 2011 and defending her Number 1 ranking and gold medal haul. She will be joined in the Tennis team by three Global Games veterans – Zvi Schweitzer and David Burke and also representing the Australian Pearls in their third Games – Molly Urquhart-Moran and Eliza Mills. NSW's Patrick Donachie is the elder statesman of the team having represented Australia since 1999 with the highlight of his distinguished career winning a gold medal at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics and being the flag bearer at the 2010 IPC World Championships and 2011 Inas Global Games.

Ausrapid has also been awarded the 2019 Inas Global Games, which will be conducted in Brisbane in October 2019 and it is our wish to set a strong performance base for the Australian team.



Principle sponsor



Athletics

Eleisha Byrt (VIC)
Thomas Burrows (QLD)
Matthew Guild (QLD)
Lindsay Hendy (QLD)
Chloe Iwanoczko (NSW)
Krystal Maloney (NSW)
Kyle McIntosh (NSW)
Kaitlyn Papworth (VIC)
Terence Price (WA)
Andrew Semmens (VIC)

Basketball Women – Pearls

Brittany Anderson (ACT)
Taylor Anderson (ACT)
Amy Howard (SA)
Jessica Duncan (NSW)
Kate Leckenby (VIC)
Jessica McCulloch (VIC)
Eliza Mills (NSW)
Lois Shea (VIC)
Molly Urquhart-Moran (VIC)
Kaitlin Zonneveld (VIC)

Tennis

David Burke (NSW)
Archie Graham (QLD)
Mitchell James (QLD)
Carla Lenarduzzi (VIC)
Zvi Schweitzer (VIC)
Kelly Wren (NSW)

Basketball Men - Boomerangs

Joshua Cleary (TAS)
Frazer Dawber (VIC)
Jake de la Motte (VIC)
Jordan East (VIC)
Bradley Kinross (SA)
Wayne Kinross (SA)
Justin Koenig (ACT)
Matthew Skerman (QLD)
Harrison Mallard (SA)
Jarrod Thomson (VIC)

Swimming

Josh Alford (ACT)
India Fitton (VIC)
Megan Botha (VIC)
Aaron Cannon (NSW)
Amy Cook (NSW)
Patrick Donachie (NSW)
Lauren Folster (QLD)
Jaime-Lee Getson (VIC)
Darcy Gilson (NSW)
Nikesha Harding (NSW)
Jenna Hohn (QLD)
Jack Ireland (QLD)
Jade Lucy (NSW)
Caitlyn Mackay (VIC)
Benjamin Morrison (VIC)
Ashleigh Pettigrew (VIC)
Callum Sanderson (NSW)
Cameron Schefman (QLD)
Liam Schluter (QLD)

ENDS

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Ausrapid is a national sporting organisation established in 1986 to assist the inclusion of people with an intellectual disability into the mainstream community using sport as the medium. Ausrapid has worked within the Australian sporting sector with outstanding success and is proud of the increasing numbers of sporting organisations and clubs taking responsibility for inclusion with the focus on ability and based on social inclusion principles.