



MEDIA RELEASE

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DEAFLYMPIAN RUNS FOR GOSPER

Deaf Sports Australia's Athlete will carry the Olympic Torch

International Olympic Committee Executive Member and Patron of Deaf Sports Australia (DSA), Mr Kevan Gosper AO, has generously nominated Carolyn McKnight, a member of the 2005 Australian Deaflympic Team, to carry the Athens Olympic Torch on behalf of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

McKnight, a tennis player for the Australian team, will attend a reception with members of the AOC and organisers of the Torch Relay on the evening of Friday 4th June, and will then participate in the Torch Relay on Saturday 5th June.

At just 19 years of age, McKnight will be competing at her second Deaflympic Games. McKnight was a member of the Australian team that competed in the Rome 2001 Deaflympic Games and more recently enjoyed enormous success at the Sydney 2003 National Championship.

McKnight is a member of "Team Vicdeaf", which is part of DSA's 'Deaf SIS/SAS* Program', currently being conducted in conjunction with the Victorian Deaf Society (Vicdeaf), the Victorian Institute of Sport and Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria. *(SIS/SAS - State Institute of Sport/State Academy of Sport)

"I enjoy competing and the enormous challenge of elite competition. I want to represent my country at the highest level and win gold for Australia," Carolyn McKnight said.

"Deaf Sports Australia is delighted at this wonderful opportunity presented to Carolyn by our Patron, Kevan Gosper. Kevan is a great ambassador for the deaf sports community. Deaf Sports Australia will have its largest ever team competing in the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics with approximately 170 athletes," Rebecca Adam, President of DSA.

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"Carolyn's participation in the Torch Relay for the Athens Games will help further engage the Australian public's support for all of our athletes who will be participating in front of their home crowd for the first time. The Australian Team's association with this Relay is such a highlight and honour, one I am sure Carolyn and deaf athletes will enjoy and draw inspiration from in their own Games," Brett Hidson, Australian Deaflympic Team Coordinator.

The 20th Deaflympic Games will be held in Melbourne between 5th and 16th January 2005, starting with the twilight Opening Ceremony on Wednesday 5th January 2005. Following that will be an action packed 12-day sports program, ensuring Melbourne and Australia will host the largest International multi sport event to be held in 2005. Tickets for all events, including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, will go on sale on Monday 31st May 2004.

DSA is committed to facilitating the access of hearing impaired people to the best sporting opportunities available in Australia. DSA is funded by the Australian Sports Commission and through contributions from its members.

For further information on DSA and the Australian Deaflympic Team, please contact Brett Hidson on 0412-887-791 or (03) 9473 1154 (voice) or visit www.deafsports.org.au

For further information about the Athens Olympic Torch Relay, visit the AOC website www.olympics.com.au

For further information about the 20th Deaflympic Games, visit the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympic Games website www.deaflympics.com

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