



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 4 July 2005

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITIES CELEBRATE START OF THE 2005 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY GAMES

Students and officials from universities in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, today celebrated the start of the 2005 Southern University Games (SUG) in Latrobe Valley, Victoria.

In a day focused on sportsmanship, friendship and expectations of the week ahead, participants filed into Glenview Race Course for a day of fun before the competition begins.

While VIPs enjoyed a birds-eye view over the race course, over 1,000 participants joined in a boys and girls 100 metre sprint, netball shoot out, hand ball competition and a putting challenge.

SUG project manager, Ms Nicole Schmidt, was impressed with the support shown by all involved with the Games and the atmosphere at the opening ceremony set the scene for an exciting week of competition ahead.

"We have attracted more participants than expected with over 2,500 students set to compete at the Games. Today's festivities reflected the fun nature of the games and gave everyone a chance to meet old acquaintances or make new friends before the serious competition starts tomorrow," said Ms Schmidt.

The opening day also provided an opportunity for those in attendance to recognize the affect that the Federal Government's Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) bill will have on the regional games.

In a press conference held prior to the opening ceremony, Senator Kate Lundy, Shadow Minister for Sport and the Hon. Peter Hall MLC joined forces to raise awareness of the devastating effect the legislation will have on university sport.

Ms Lundy spoke very intensely on these issues saying that "the VSU legislation, if passed, will be the death of university sport."

Student representatives from Monash, Melbourne and Swinburne University also got in involved in the press conference saying their views on the legislation and how it will directly affect them as well as fellow University students.



While the VSU legislation hangs over the future of the SUG, this week will see some tough competition on the field with the fervent passion displayed by through university sporting events.

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