



MEDIA RELEASE



Friday 7 May 2004

RON ALEXANDER LAUNCHES 2004 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

Ron Alexander, the Director of Department of Sport and Recreation Western Australia today launched the 2004 Australian University Games, which will be held in Perth from 26 September to 1 October.

Speaking on behalf of the Western Australian Government, Mr Alexander said that the Games promise to be a beneficial event, not just for Perth but for all Western Australians.

"The Western Australian Government, through Eventscorp and affiliated Local Government agencies, is pleased to be a major supporter of the 2004 Australian University Games," Mr Alexander said.

"With an estimated 4 500 people attending the Games, most from interstate, the Games will have a significant return for Western Australians – with an estimated economic impact \$10.5 million for the local economy."

President of Australian University Sport Mr John White agreed that this year's Games is a special event for Perth.

"Such an influx of students from around the country means good news for the city of Perth," he said.

"The facilities in Perth are world-class and the staff and many volunteers which assist in the delivery of the Games will, I am sure, only enhance the Games reputation as an event not to be missed."

"We are really looking forward to this year's Games – the support we have received from local authorities so far has been fantastic and I look forward to further support over the coming months."

Speaking on behalf of the five partner universities – Curtin University of Technology, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame and The University of Western Australia – Vice Chancellor of The University of Western Australia, Professor Alan Robson AM, encouraged students to embrace this year's Games.

"I believe University life is significantly enriched for students who combine involvement in sport, clubs, music, cultural and social activities with their academic pursuits.

Students benefit from the camaraderie, the sense of achievement and the experience of commitment when they are involved in sport," he said

"I am delighted that the five universities of Western Australia have formed a strategic relationship to partner the 2004 Australian University Games. This clearly demonstrates the spirit of cooperation between the Western Australian universities in delivering a complete educational experience to students."

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A crowd of 100 people from across Perth's sporting, education and business communities attended the Launch, the first official function for this year's Games.

Notable attendees included the Vice Chancellors and their representatives from Curtin University of Technology, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and The University of Western Australia, the Mayors from the City of Nedlands and the City of Subiaco, Graham Moss, CEO of Western Australian Sport Centre Trust, Madeleine Bertelli, Executive Director of Eventscorp and Tim Gossage from Network Ten and Nova 93.7 as the Master of Ceremonies.

Since their inception in 1993, the Games have grown to be Australia's largest annual multi-sport event and a highlight on the university sporting calendar.

The sports to be contested at this year's Games are: athletics, AFL, badminton, baseball, basketball, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, kendo, netball, rugby union, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, taekwondo, tennis, touch, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and water polo.

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