



MEDIA ALERT

18 April 2005

Top sporting identities call for exemption from VSU legislation

A rare combination of sporting talent will sit shoulder to shoulder at a press conference in Sydney tomorrow to oppose aspects of legislation that will have a catastrophic impact on almost 500,000 Australians who benefit from university sport facilities, services and programs.

The leading sporting identities – including Olympic medallists and current Test players from both rugby and cricket - have banded together in support of a national campaign calling for sports fees to be exempted from Voluntary Student Unionism legislation recently introduced to Federal Parliament by the Education Minister, Dr Brendan Nelson.

Due to be rubber-stamped once the Coalition gains control of the Senate in July, the legislation in its current form will strip more than \$30 million annually out of university sport.

When: 12 noon, Tuesday 19 April

Where: The Darlington Centre Main Conference Room, next to the Forum Restaurant (9351 4664), 174 City Rd, Darlington (between City and Darlington Rds), Sydney.

Parking: Limited parking at Centre. Alternative parking on City Rd, or Shepherd St Car Park, cnr Cleveland & Shepherd Sts, next to the Seymour Centre.

Ends.

For further information: *Australian University Sport* Chief Executive Daniel Marsden (through Toni Bush, (07) 3832 9874 ext 19 or 0403 182 089); *Sydney University Sport* Greg Harris (02) 9351 4960 or 0414 844 845; *Macquarie University* Deidre Anderson (02) 9850 7638 or 0409 953 313; *UNSW* Gary Jones (02) 9385 4880 or 0404 455 352; *UTS* Tom O'Sullivan (02) 9514 1638 or 0411 742 301; *Melbourne University* Mark Lockie (03) 8344 5401 or 0425 718 363; *Queensland University* Kim Guerin (07) 3365 6043; *University of Western Australia* Bruce Meakins (08) 6488 2335 or 0407 776 414.