



## MEDIA RELEASE

1 February 2017

### 1 Year to Go Launch

Only a year until the 2018 Australian Deaf Games makes its appearance in Albury and Wodonga! At least 1,000 Deaf and hard of hearing people are expected to participate in this exciting event. Both Albury City and Wodonga City Councils are looking forward to hosting the Games from 20 – 27 January 2018, which will also include Australia Day celebrations.

To celebrate this occasion, Deaf Sports Australia, together with Albury City and Wodonga City Council will be launching the 1 Year to Go event at the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This event will include a Multi Sports Day event for Deaf and hard of hearing kids who will take part in Basketball and Touch Football clinics at 10:00am. The launch will commence at 11:30am.

Alex Jones, Chairperson of the 2018 Australian Deaf Games Organising Committee mentioned that "It is an exciting time for residents and businesses of Albury and Wodonga to host the Australian Deaf Games. Both cities have a great love for sports and festivals so they are perfect locations for our upcoming events".

"We would like to thank Destinations NSW, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Albury City, Wodonga City Council and our Games Corporate Partner, Australian Hearing for their support and commitment to the Games," Alex Jones added.

"We very much look forward to welcoming all athletes, interpreters, visitors, officials and volunteers from around Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa to our wonderful city," Albury City Mayor Kevin Mack said.

"With just one year to go, I encourage all our local businesses and volunteer organisations to start thinking about how they can play a part in helping make this the most successful games ever."

Wodonga Mayor Anna Speedie said the event would comprise more than sport.

"Having our communities engaging with Deaf and hard of hearing people is such a wonderful opportunity for us to gain a greater understanding of their needs on a really broad level," she said, "I truly believe that this event will leave not just an impact on our sporting fraternity, but be of benefit to our entire community over years to come."

The Australian Deaf Games have been held around the country since 1964 and it is the first time this event is being hosted in Albury Wodonga.





Many businesses are getting behind the 2018 Australian Deaf Games by providing their support and they are:

- Commercial Club has committed to being a sponsor of the Games
- La Trobe University has committed to being a sponsor of the Games
- Quest Apartments is the official accommodation for the Games Organising Committee and DSA Board
- BJ Burton Trophies and Engraving is the official medals supplier for the Games
- Active Print is the official printer for the Games

For more information about the 2018 Australian Deaf Games, please contact Sherrie Beaver, Marketing and Communications Coordinator at [communications@deafsports.org.au](mailto:communications@deafsports.org.au)

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