



Media release

The Hon Hugh Delahunty MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Friday 9 December 2011

Coalition Government delivers \$775,000 for athletes on the road to London Olympics

Australia's Olympic and Paralympic teams will share in \$775,000 of funding from the Victorian Coalition Government to assist with airfares, accommodation, uniforms, food and transport, as preparations get underway for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Hugh Delahunty today made the announcement, joined by Olympic hopefuls James Marburg (rowing), Ashleigh Brennan (gymnastics) and Jessica Gallagher (long jump, javelin and vision impaired slalom).

"Competing at the highest level is no mean feat – it takes all kinds of sacrifices and commitment, it's also a huge financial undertaking," Mr Delahunty said.

"That's why I'm delighted the Victorian Government has been able to provide this support to our elite athletes so they can put in their best performance.

"This funding will assist the Victorian Olympic Council and the Australian Paralympic Committee with the logistical requirements and offer our athletes every possible opportunity to focus on sport and go for gold," Mr Delahunty said.

Last year Jessica Gallagher became the first Australian woman in Paralympic history to win a Winter Paralympic medal (bronze vision impaired slalom). Earlier this year, she achieved silver in long jump and bronze in javelin at the 2011 World Athletics Championships.

The Australian Olympic Council President John Coates AC acknowledged the Victorian Government's funding contribution.

"On behalf of the athletes the AOC appreciates the continued support of the Victorian Government. Victorians love their sport and the support from Premier Ted Baillieu and his government will be a major help to our athletes as they prepare for 2012," Mr Coates said.

The Australian Paralympic Committee's General Manager of Sport Michael Hartung was also grateful for the funding support.

"This funding injection from the Victorian Government will provide valuable assistance to the Australian Paralympic Committee as it works towards achieving its goal of preparing the best prepared Australian Paralympic Team ever," Mr Hartung said.

"It has never been harder to win a Paralympic medal, which is why the Australian Paralympic Committee depends on a greater level of support from government, the corporate sector and the community to ensure Australia remains a leading nation at the Paralympic Games."

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