



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIERCE FENCING IN SYDNEY DURING WORLD CUP EVENT

The world's top female fencers will be fighting for gold in Sydney at Challenge Australia 2011 – Women's World Cup Individual and Teams fencing championship.

Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon. Graham Annesley MP, announced a \$15,000 grant to help stage the event at the Sydney Showground on June 24, 25 and 26.

"There are just eight individual Super World Cup events on the International qualification circuit for the London games, and I am delighted Sydney is one of them," Mr Annesley said.

"Around 200 international athletes and officials from countries such as the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany will take part in the event.

"That includes up to 31 of the world's best female fencers.

"There will also be 75 Australian athletes vying for the world cup titles on home soil.

"Day one and two of the competition follow a qualifying and direct elimination format.

"The third day of the competition is the Teams World Cup event – one of only five World Cup team events held in various countries in the year.

"The \$15,000 grant has been awarded to the Australian Fencing Federation through the NSW Government's International Sporting Events Program, which assists our sporting organisations to attract and stage international events on home ground.

"Sydney has held this event on 12 occasions since 1995 which has helped strengthen Sydney and Australia as a major event destination for fencing.

"It has been an outstanding success in the past and resulted in the significant award of the World Veterans Championship in 2007.

"This is a great opportunity to utilise the world class venues and experienced officials that took part in the successful fencing competition during the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

"Of course Challenge Australia 2011 provides local athletes with experience in international competition.

"It also presents an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness and participation of this exciting global sport.

"I encourage Sydneysiders and visitors alike to get to the Sydney Showground for the event to support our fencers in action," Mr Annesley said.