



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT MAKES GIANT STRIDES TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said the Sydney International Equestrian Centre and Blacktown Leisure Centre would share the Western Sydney sporting spotlight this weekend but for very different reasons.

Mr Annesley said, "The NSW Government was delighted to provide \$3,500 in funding for the Concours de Voltige International vaulting competitions which will be staged at the Horsley Park equestrian facilities from 15 to 19 September.

"This international event provides an excellent opportunity for Australian vaulters to gain international-level competition experience with their own horses.

"I wish riders competing the very best of luck and I'm certain it will be a world-class display of equestrian vaulting," Mr Annesley said.

Mr Annesley also welcomed the 300 athletes and officials from across Australia and the globe attending Australia's premier judo tournament, the NSW International Judo Open to be staged this weekend at Blacktown.

The Open features six age categories for both men and women, ranging from Under 12s to Seniors, and it is expected to attract athletes and officials from 10 different countries, including the UK, USA and New Zealand looking to gain qualification points for both National and Oceania events.

Minister Annesley said the \$7,500 grant provided for the Judo Open was part of the NSW Government's International Sporting Events Program aimed at attracting more international events to NSW.

"This program aims to help NSW sporting organisations attract and stage international events in our State," Mr Annesley added.

"International sporting events provide elite level competition opportunities for NSW athletes, coaches and officials, while also creating valuable economic spin-offs for the wider community" Mr Annesley said.

Information on the Equestrian Vaulting go to www.equestrianvaulting.com.au and for the NSW International Judo Open visit www.judonsw.com.au.

For more information on the International Sporting Events Program, please visit www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants.