



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Saturday 22 October 2011

### FRIENDSHIP CUP DEMONSTRATES SPORTS COMPASSION AND GOOD WILL

Minister for Sport and Recreation Graham Annesley will this Sunday attend the 2011 Under 11 - Under 13 State Fencing Championships to present trophies to the most outstanding competitors.

Mr Annesley said, "I'm delighted to be attending the Championships to see the skill and talent of the State's young fencers and their international counterparts first hand."

This year a unique element has been added to the event – a Friendship Cup between the young NSW fencers and their Japanese counterparts.

"I welcome and acknowledge all of the competitors particularly the young fencers from Japan, some of whom have experienced personal family tragedy caused by this year's terrible earthquake and tsunami disaster," Mr Annesley said.

"NSW Fencing created the Friendship Cup to reach out to their Japanese fencing friends, in a remarkable demonstration of compassion and goodwill which so clearly illustrates the powerful role sport can play in communities and people's lives around the world.

"I'm also very pleased to see the Friendship Cup attract competitors from Victoria and New Zealand which will further enhance the reputation of this event.

"Fencing is one of a handful of sports to have featured in every modern Olympic Games and the state championship competitors participating in this event could one day go on to wear the green and gold.

"The championships are one of the largest fencing competitions on the NSW calendar and will be staged at the Marrickville PCYC facility which is well-known for engaging children and young people in sport and physical activity.

"I wish the organisers and competitors the very best of luck for the event and to our international visitors I trust they enjoy their time in our beautiful city and State," Mr Annesley said.

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