



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday 24 November 2011

### REGIONAL ACADEMIES CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT ACKNOWLEDGED

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, has acknowledged the efforts of NSW Regional Academies at a Parliamentary reception hosted by the NSW Speaker of the House, Shelley Hancock, to recognise the contribution of the eleven Regional Academies of Sport and the achievements of their athletes.

“The Regional Academies play an important role in nurturing over 2,000 athletes every year to reach their potential, and also encourage vital community support for sport in regional areas which has numerous social and financial benefits,” Mr Annesley said.

The NSW Government through the Office of Communities, Sport and Recreation supports the eleven Regional Academies of Sport in NSW.

The Academies provide quality coaching and support to athletes, along with education and advancement opportunities to more than 300 coaching and program staff.

Academy scholarships also enable young people to develop their skills, not only as sportspeople but as leaders in their local communities.

“Individual sports at regional level often don’t have the capacity to deliver the range and quality of programs provided by the Academies to athletes, coaches and officials,” Mr Annesley added.

“The academies also play an important role in coordinating the sport volunteers that are vital to supporting sport in NSW regional areas.”

Mr Annesley also congratulated the Illawarra Academy of Sport on its winning of the rights to host the Academy Games in NSW, from 2012 to 2014 inclusive.

“The Academy Games provide an opportunity for emerging athletes to be involved in a multi-sport event and to also interact and test their abilities with other outstanding Academy of Sport athletes,” Mr Annesley said.

“I also thank ClubsNSW for their sponsorship of the Academy Games in NSW and their continued involvement in supporting many sports and organisations throughout the state,” Mr Annesley said.

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