



MEDIA RELEASE

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TWO YEARS TO GO BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES IN NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE BEGINS

Today marks the Two Years To Go milestone for the 2022 Australian Deaf Games to be staged in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area.

From the 16th – 22nd April 2022, the region will welcome over 1,000 athletes from across the country to compete in 16 medal and 4 demonstration sports. The aim of the Australian Deaf Games is to provide a four yearly event that brings together Deaf and hard of hearing Australians in a multi-sport environment that enables all participants opportunities to compete to whatever level they aspire.

Both Newcastle and Lake Macquarie City Councils will jointly host this national major event. This event will coincide with the Easter long weekend, attracting over 1,000 deaf and hard of hearing people from all over Australia.

Deaf Sports Australia and the Games Organising Committee would like to thank the following for their great support and commitment for the Games:

- Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency
- City of Newcastle and City of Lake Macquarie.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the NSW Government was proud to support this event.

"We know that events like the Australian Deaf Games are important for driving visitation to regions right across NSW, which is not only beneficial for local businesses and tourism operators, but for the State's economy," Mr Ayres said.

"We look forward to welcoming competitors and visitors to Newcastle and Lake Macquarie in 2022 for a wonderful community event, which will showcase the region's beautiful beaches, great food and wine scene and friendly hospitality."

Lake Macquarie Mayor Cr Kay Fraser is counting down the days and can't wait to welcome all the competitors, their families and supporters to the Hunter.

"I'm really excited that the games are just two years away, which I know will go so fast. Our community is incredibly active and is passionate about their sport, so it's great that we can host high caliber events like the 2022 Australian Deaf Games in our City."

"I extend the warmest welcome to all the games future competitors and their supporters to our City. Our community will embrace the games like their own, so I can't wait to see you all in 2022."



Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said both Newcastle and Lake Macquarie were renowned for delivering world-class sporting events, such as the 2015 AFC Asian Cup football tournament, Newcastle 500 Supercars, 2013 Special Olympics Asia Pacific Games and the 2014 International Children's Games.

"Collaboration is the key to our success, and we look forward to hosting the 2022 Deaf Games together with Lake Macquarie in yet another big sporting event for Newcastle and the Hunter," Councillor Nelmes said.

"The Greater Newcastle area boasts a strong history of welcoming major events, and I've said before we could easily host the Commonwealth Games in partnership with neighbouring councils.

"Our vibrant and culturally rich city is primed to host more big events after renewing the amenity of our coastline and city centre and upgrading sporting facilities in recent years."

Chairperson Leonie Jackson is leading the Games Organising Committee. The Games Organising Committee has and is continuing to discuss plans and work with both Councils to ensure they deliver the best Games ever, that both Lake Macquarie and Newcastle have to offer.

"The 2022 Australian Deaf Games Organising Committee is working very hard along with both Councils and NSW Deaf Sports to achieve together the best games ever. The Games will be held in picturesque Lake Macquarie and Newcastle districts utilising the regions' great sporting, recreational and social facilities. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Games in two years' time," Ms Jackson said.

Deaf Sports Australia and the Games Organising Committee are grateful to have formed partnerships with the following:

- SWS Lawyers (Honorary Legal Advisors and corporate partner of the Games)
- Sanitarium (product support sponsor)

They are also very pleased to confirm that the following suppliers are currently working with them:

- Signwave Newcastle (production of Games signs)
- Lakemac Print (production of Games promotional material and publications)

The following venues for the 2022 Australian Deaf Games have also been confirmed:

City Of Newcastle

Beach Volleyball - Nobbys Beach
Cricket - National Park 2
Netball - National Park
Touch Football - National Park

City of Lake Macquarie

Darts - Cardiff RSL
Lawn Bowls - Charlestown Bowls Club



Discussions are continuing with venues for:

Athletics	Rugby 7's
Basketball	Swimming
Football and 5 v 5	Tennis
Golf	Mountain Bike Riding

The Australian Deaf Games started in 1964 and has been hosted all around Australia. The 2022 Australian Deaf Games to be hosted in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie is the 19th Australian Deaf Games to take place in Australia.

For more information about the 2022 Australian Deaf Games, please email Project Manager Garry West-Bail at garry.west-bail@deafsports.org.au or by phone 0419 641 645.

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