



NEWS RELEASE
The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP
Member for Heffron
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Friday 6 March, 2009

WOMEN'S SPORTS FESTIVAL KICKS OFF BEFORE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Australian swimming legend **Libby Trickett**, Federal Minister for Youth and Minister for Sport, **Kate Ellis**, and NSW Planning Minister, **Kristina Keneally** today launched the inaugural **Sydney Olympic Park Women's Sports Festival**.

The three-day festival runs until this Sunday 8 March, International Women's Day, and includes school programs, free events and competitions to show off the talent of Australia's elite and up-and-coming sportswomen.

"The Sydney Olympic Park Women's Sports Festival is a three-day celebration of women's participation in all levels of sport," Ms Trickett said.

"The Festival encourages girls and women to participate in sport as part of a healthy and active lifestyle, gives girls the opportunity to try out a range of different sports and showcases the talent of some of Australia's top sportswomen."

Minister Keneally, who is the Minister responsible for the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, said the Festival's main goal was to encourage girls and women to make sport a regular part of their lives.

"The Sydney Olympic Park Women's Sports Festival is a great initiative to encourage girls and women to get more active," Minister Keneally said.

"The Festival aims to inspire girls and women to take part in all levels of sport and encourage our next generation of sporting stars not to lose sight of their hopes, dreams and aspirations.

"Sport is an important part of a healthy and active lifestyle. It brings people together, instils values like a fair go and good sportsmanship, and supports our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

"The vast majority of events in the Festival are free including school programs, tennis and soccer clinics for kids, and an international tennis competition featuring tomorrow's stars."

"Tickets to the Sydney Olympic Park Netball Cup are a reasonable \$10 and there is a modest cost for entry into the women's community bike ride *Gear Up Girl*, which raises funds for the Oncology Children's Foundation."

Minister Ellis was at the launch to open the Australian Sports Commission's *Girls Get Active Gala Day* as part of the Festival.

The *Girls Get Active Gala Day* gives primary school children the opportunity to try a number of different sports including cricket, soccer, netball, OzTag and martial arts.

"Days like this are an important step towards helping girls develop a lifelong appreciation of sport and providing a fun, safe, and inclusive environment to play in," Minister Ellis said.

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“We want all young people to understand that being physically active and having a balanced diet are key factors to help them stay healthy,” Minister Ellis said.

For more information, visit www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au or call the Sydney Olympic Park Information Line on (02) 9714 7888.

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