



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Commonwealth Games Team Strives for Gold

The eyes of the nation will be trained on Glasgow for the next two weeks as our team of more than 400 athletes strives to remain the dominant sporting nation of the Commonwealth.

The Minister for Sport, Peter Dutton, today wished Australian athletes, coaches and officials the best of luck for a successful Commonwealth Games.

“Our nation has competed at every Games since 1930 and leads the overall medal tally with more than 2,000 medals,” Mr Dutton said.

“The Commonwealth Games will be a prime opportunity for Australia to showcase its sporting prowess to around 6,500 athletes and team officials representing 70 nations and territories, and to a TV audience of more than 1.5 billion people.

“It seems like yesterday we were celebrating our 74 gold medals at the Delhi Games, which is a reminder just how quickly the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018 will be upon us.

Mr Dutton said the Australian Government had provided more than \$221 million in funding to Commonwealth Games sports over the four-year cycle.

The AIS, in partnership with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association, had also provided more than \$11 million of assistance to over 750 athletes through the Direct Athlete Support scheme in 2013-14.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games run from July 23 until August 3 and includes 17 sports including aquatics (swimming and diving), athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling (road, mountain bike and track), gymnastics, hockey, judo, lawn bowls, netball, rugby 7s, shooting, squash, table tennis, triathlon, weight-lifting and wrestling.

“Importantly, there will be 43 para-sport athletes competing in 22 events across athletics, powerlifting, swimming, lawn bowls and track cycling,” Mr Dutton said.

“It is extremely pleasing to see our athletes with a disability continue the tradition of representing their country with such distinction. It has been fantastic to see the whole team come together here in Scotland to represent our nation and I wish them every success for the competition ahead.”

For more information, visit www.glasgow2014.com

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