

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Member for Campbelltown

Friday 16 January 2008

2009 Youth Olympics – One weekend to go!

Minister for Youth, Graham West, is encouraging the people of NSW to support Australia's future Olympians at the 2009 Australian Youth Olympics Festival (AYOF).

Mr West today attended day three of the festival, watching the fencing competition at the Sydney Olympic Park Sport Hall.

"With two more days of the Australian Youth Olympic Festival to go, there are plenty of opportunities for spectators to support the young athletes," Mr West said.

"Watching the sporting competitions at the Youth Olympic Festival this weekend is free and by logging onto the AYOF website, people can select from a whole range of events.

"The Australian Olympic Committee organised the first Australian Youth Olympic Festival in 2001, following the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

"The fifth Australian Youth Olympic festival has attracted the best young athletes from 27 countries, competing across 17 sports.

"Many of the young athletes who have competed at previous festivals have gone on to represent Australia at the Olympics, with 76 competing at last year's Olympic Games in Beijing.

"This includes diver Matthew Mitcham, triathlete Emma Snowsill and swimmer Eamon Sullivan.

"I would urge Sydneysiders to come along to a sporting event over the coming weekend, and cheer on our young sports stars.

"The NSW Government is proud to support this year's Youth Olympics with a funding boost of \$50,000.

For more information go to www.olympics.com.au

Media Contact: Cara Davis 9228 4228/ 0407 219 944