

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



2 October 2009

RECOGNISING OUR YOUNG SPORTING CHAMPIONS

Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, will next week recognise some of the region's brightest young sporting talents who have been awarded Australian Government grants to help them compete at a higher level in their chosen sport.

The King's College Swimming Team, represented by Brittney Berger, Chloe Jones, Adam Barnes and Ben Raymond, received \$3,000 through the Federal Government's *Local Sporting Champions* program to assist with travel and expenses to compete at the National Christian School's Swimming Championships.

Meanwhile, Emmanuel College's Isaac Jones has received an individual grant of \$500 to assist his efforts in the pool. Isaac's grant will go towards expenses involved in competing at the 2009 Australian Age Championships – the highest level of swimming competition for someone Isaac's age in Australia.

Mr Hawker congratulated the youngsters on their sporting success and said the Local Sporting Champions program is available for individuals and teams throughout the region.

"We often find that cost is the biggest barrier for youth wanting to compete at major sporting competitions," he said.

"The Local Sporting Champions program helps get young Australians, particularly from regional areas, to national and state sporting competitions. We want our youth to be active in sport, and distance or a lack of financial means should not be a barrier to participation."

Mr Hawker said young sportsmen and women in Western Victoria can now apply for their share of the \$1.6 million in Australian Government grants to help them to participate in sporting competitions.

"Individuals and teams are eligible to apply for grants of \$500 and \$3000 respectively. Grants can contribute towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms and equipment to support participation in an official state or national sporting competition or national school sport competition. Recipients must be between 12 and 18 years of age (inclusive) and travelling more than 250km return to compete at these competitions," he said.

Mr Hawker said the Australian Sports Commission manages the Local Sporting Champions program on behalf of the Australian Government.

The Local Sporting Champions grant program is now open. To apply or for more information visit www.ausport.gov.au/champions.

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Media contact: Jane Templeton (03) 5572 1100