



20 June 2017

For immediate release

## **Media release: Local athletes set to qualify for National Games**

Athletes with intellectual disabilities from Manawatu and surrounding regions will have their last chance to qualify for the Special Olympics National Summer Games 2017 this weekend, when Palmerston North plays host to two qualifier events.

Athletes from Special Olympics clubs will gather at the Central Energy Trust Arena to compete in basketball and indoor bowls. Around 120 athletes are expected to take part in the basketball event, and 40 players in indoor bowls.

Participating in the events will allow the athletes to qualify for the National Summer Games New Zealand's, largest event for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The National Summer Games are being held in Wellington from 27 November to 1 December 2017. More than 1300 athletes from Special Olympics New Zealand's 44 local Clubs will gather to compete in swimming, athletics, basketball, bocce, equestrian, football, golf, indoor bowls, powerlifting, and tenpin bowling, supported by over 1000 athletes.

Media are invited to attend this weekend's events in Palmerston North.

### **DATES/TIMES:**

#### **Saturday 24 June**

Basketball: 11am – 5pm

Indoor bowls: 10.30am – 2.30pm (Day 1 Prize giving at 2.30pm)

#### **Sunday 25 June**

Basketball: 9.15am – 12.30pm (Prize giving at 12pm)

Indoor bowls: 9am – 12pm (Day 2 Prize giving at

**LOCATION:** Central Energy Trust Arena, 61 Pascal Street, Palmerston North

ENDS

### **For more information:**

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*Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation. Authorised and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.*

## **Editor's notes:**

### **About Special Olympics New Zealand**

Special Olympics New Zealand is a year-round programme of sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. More than 7000 athletes throughout the country train and compete in 13 different Olympic-type summer and winter sports.

Special Olympics New Zealand also offers athletes leadership development through its Athlete Leadership Programme, health screening via Healthy Athletes<sup>®</sup>, and encourages social inclusion through Unified Sports<sup>®</sup>, where intellectually disabled athletes are combined in teams with unified partners (without intellectual disabilities).

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides athletes continuing opportunities to develop fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with other athletes, their families and the community.

**Special Olympics New Zealand** – [www.specialolympics.org.nz](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz)

[Words Matter—Special Olympics Language Guidelines for media](#)