



For immediate release

26 November 2017

## **Media release: Athletes gather in Wellington ahead of National Summer Games**

Hundreds of Special Olympics athletes have descended on Wellington ahead of the Special Olympics New Zealand National Summer Games, which kicks off tomorrow.

Held every four years, the Games is New Zealand's largest event for people with intellectual disabilities and will see athletes of all ages compete in swimming, athletics, basketball, bocce, equestrian, football, golf, indoor bowls, powerlifting, table tennis and tenpin bowling.

More than 1250 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 41 Special Olympics Clubs and three schools are taking part in the Games this week (27 November to 1 December 2017) at venues in Wellington and surrounding areas.

The Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics New Zealand National Summer Games will be held tomorrow morning (Monday 27 November) at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua. Police Assistant Commissioner Richard Chambers will light the Flame of Hope to mark the beginning of the competition.

### Media invitation – Special Olympics National Summer Games 2017 Opening Ceremony

Media are invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the National Summer Games to interview athletes, coaches and Special Olympics spokespeople and capture photos and video.

Where: Te Rauparaha Arena, 17 Parumoana Street, Porirua

When: 9am, Monday 27 November

Who: 1250 Special Olympics athletes, accompanying management and volunteers, Special Olympics New Zealand representatives, Police Assistant Commissioner Richard Chambers

See attached timetable for key highlights, times and venues of the National Summer Games tournament.

For more about the Games visit [www.specialolympics.org.nz/NSG2017](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz/NSG2017)

ENDS

**For more information:** Angela Day  
Manager – Marketing & Communications  
Ph: 027 297 7006  
[angelad@specialolympics.org.nz](mailto:angelad@specialolympics.org.nz)

### **Special Olympics New Zealand**

PO Box 38344, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045, New Zealand **Tel** +64 4 560 0360 **Fax** +64 4 560 0400

**www**.specialolympics.org.nz **Email** info@specialolympics.org.nz

**Facebook** www.facebook.com/specialolympicsnz **Twitter** @SpecOlympicsNZ

*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](#)