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For immediate release

SIX MONTHS TO GO UNTIL SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES 2017 IN AUSTRIA!

Special Olympics New Zealand to send 13 athletes

The countdown is on! In exactly six months from today, the Special Olympics World Winter Games, being held in Austria, will get underway and 13 athletes from Special Olympics New Zealand will be there. More than 3,000 athletes from 108 nations will travel to Graz, Schladming and Ramsau and compete across nine sports. Special Olympics New Zealand will be represented in two sports: Alpine skiing and snowboarding.

Head of Delegation Brian Benn is extremely pleased with how the team is progressing with their training, "We have been fortunate to have three snow camps recently, two at the Cardrona Alpine Resort in Wanaka and one at the Whakapapa skifield in Ohakune. These camps enable our athletes to have a week of training and competition against each other and other Special Olympics athletes. It also enables coaches to engage with team members which is critical when athletes are spread across the country."

The Special Olympics World Winter Games is one of the biggest sporting events ever to take place in Austria. Over the course of the next six months, the Games Organizing Committee will work alongside sponsors, partners, volunteers and the media to further promote the World Games.

"In six months Austria will host a World Winter Games that will showcase and celebrate the skills of over 3,000 athletes who have trained hard to represent their countries on an international stage. It is a great honour and a real opportunity to be selected and we look forward to cheering them all along in their competitions," said Kathy Gibson, CEO, Special Olympics New Zealand.

Sponsor an Athlete

Each athlete attending the Games must raise their own funds to travel to and compete in the World Winter Games. Special Olympics New Zealand is running a 'Sponsor an Athlete' programme where people can support athletes by donating online – www.specialolympics.org.nz.

Auckland Training Camp

One of the challenges for a World Games team is finding the opportunity to come together as a group. A training camp has been announced for January 2017 in Auckland that will enable the management team to focus on training and development, team building and finalise uniform fittings.



Special Olympics
New Zealand

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD WINTER GAMES
AUSTRIA 2017
Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria



Dates: 27th – 29th January 2017

Once the camp schedule is finalised media will be invited to attend, if you would like to express interest please email angelad@specialolympics.org.nz

Visit the official 2017 World Winter Games website for further information:

www.austria2017.org/en

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