



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE, 1980

OLYMPICS FOR THE DISABLED

I have sent the following message to the Australian Team which leaves today to take part in the Olympics for the Disabled, in Holland:

"I would like to extend to the members of the Australian Team my best wishes for the forthcoming 1980 Olympics for the Disabled to be held in Arnhem, Holland.

The Government wholeheartedly supports our competitors in these games which bring together sportsmen and women from all over the world. With teams from over 50 countries attending, these Olympics will be a major sporting event.

We recognise the role of sport and recreation in our society and we see this as an essential part of the Australian life style - through such activities people come together to share common interests. I encourage all disabled people to follow your example and take an active part in sporting activities.

For those of you competing, these Olympics represent the culmination of many years of dedication and hard work. I congratulate you on being selected to represent our country and on behalf of the Government and all Australians, I wish you every success and good luck."

The Government has demonstrated its support by making available \$22,500 for international competition for the disabled.

In further recognition of our interest in disabled people we support the declaration by the United Nations of the International Year for Disabled Persons in 1981. It is most appropriate that during these months leading up to the International Year we should be sending overseas such a remarkable group of Australians.

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