



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 8 OCTOBER 1982

SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT FOR
DEVELOPING COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

The Australian Government will allocate ten sports scholarships a year at the Australian Institute of Sport to selected athletes from developing Commonwealth countries.

This is not only in recognition of the highly successful Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, but also recognises that sport is an area of Commonwealth co-operation, and one in which there is already a firm foundation of friendship and co-operation.

The scholarships will assist athletes from developing Commonwealth countries to expand and extend their sporting skills. The Brisbane Games has shown that there is great sporting talent in Commonwealth countries. Using the resources and skills available at the Australian Institute of Sport should make a real contribution to raising the levels of performance of athletes selected.

The scholarships will be for one year, will cover return fares to Australia, living expenses in Australia, a living allowance and competition costs. The ten scholarships will be in addition to the 188 already available to Australian athletes. The national sporting bodies of developing countries will be asked to submit nominations. The Australian Institute of Sport will be working out selection procedures in consultation with the national sporting bodies and the Commonwealth Games Federation. The first scholarships will be available in 1983.

Sport plays an important part in developing close links with other countries. The contribution overseas athletes can make in the Australian Institute of Sport and in Australia, and the contribution that Australia might make to the development of sporting skills in other Commonwealth countries, will add to these close links.

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