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**AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC FEDERATION
APPEAL LAUNCH**

In 1984, Australian athletes will be taking part in the Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles. Our team will also compete at the Winter Olympics which will be held in Yugoslavia in February of the same year.

The Olympic Games are the most famous of all international sporting competitions. I know that the most important part of the Olympic ideals is to compete. But I also know that when Australians compete, they are determined to win. That determination is the essence of competition. The determination of our sportsmen and women to win has over the years, brought many great triumphs which are not only satisfying to the athletes involved but have been a cause of tremendous pride and a sense of achievement for all Australians.

We all felt that during the Commonwealth Games when we saw Raelene Boyle win the 400 metres, when Robert de Castella won the marathon and our swimmers won gold medal after gold medal. The Brisbane Commonwealth Games were a watershed for Australian athletes. Those Games marked the rebirth of the Australian sporting tradition. I know every Australian has high hopes that our successes in Brisbane can be repeated at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

As always, money will be needed if our athletes are to do that. The Australian Olympic Federation estimates that \$4.5 million will be needed if we are to have a really effective team in Los Angeles. Already the Commonwealth Government has committed a total of \$1.4 million to that target. But the Olympic team is Australia's team, not the Government's team. On its shoulders it will carry the hopes and the pride of millions of Australians.

Very few of us will be able to participate directly in the Olympic Games. But we can help the team in a very real way by contributing to its financial costs. By doing that, Australians will be able to watch with pride when members of our team win medals, knowing that they played some part in the victory.

Australia is a great country with an unequalled sporting tradition. All of us can help make sure that tradition lives on.