

## An open letter to Our Athletes, Families and Carers

### We Need Your Support - and Contribution - to Continue to Provide Quality Sport for Our Athletes

Special Olympics Sydney Upper North Shore Region has experienced incredible growth over the last 18 months encompassing a large majority of younger athletes but a growing number of senior athletes. As a result the demand for new sports programs in new locations has been huge and to date, through our dedicated staff, we have been able to satisfy those demands.

#### Some facts:

- Athlete numbers have grown from 120 to 223 in just over a year, an increase of 86%
- We have grown from 18 locations to 40 locations, an increase of 222%
- Our schools program which involves around 360 students across 9 schools continues to create awareness and strong partnerships with our schools
- We receive no government support in running our programs – we are totally funded through our own fundraising efforts
- In 2009 we charged no fees other than the annual Special Olympics registration fee of \$70

In the current economic climate our ability to fundraise is being impacted - as a committee we need to look at how we can maintain the quality of our programs with the increase participation.

We feel as a committee, that by applying an annual fee for participation rather than a weekly or term fee, administration will be kept to a minimum for our fantastic sports coordinators.

#### What this means for you:

- 1) We will be looking at how we can consolidate some of our locations – this will be done first in locations where the attendance is poor
- 2) We will be introducing an annual fee of \$50 on top of the \$70 Special Olympics Australia registration fee– a total of \$120 that provides access to all our programs – this compares extremely favourably to all mainstream sports programs.

#### Along with the fee go some rules:

- Participation in Special Olympics involves a commitment to your team - continued absence from a program where there is no good reason given will mean you will lose your place and go onto a waiting list
- Our expectation of adherence at all times to our code of conduct – this involves respecting all volunteers, staff and other athletes and their families – commonsense and common courtesy applies!

If you have any concerns at anytime please let me know –  
[gregorysimm@mac.com](mailto:gregorysimm@mac.com).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Simmons', written on a light-colored background.

Greg Simmons  
Chairman