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MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne to Host Two Major School Sport Australia Games in 2026

School Sport Australia (SSA) is proud to announce that **Melbourne will host School Sport Australia Games 04 and 06 (SSAG04 & SSAG06) in 2026**, further cementing Victoria's position as Australia's premier destination for major national sporting events and youth sport development.

SSAG04 will be held from **25 July to 31 July 2026**, bringing together the nation's best secondary school athletes across multiple sports and age groups, while continuing to strengthen Australia's national representative school sport pathway.

The Games will feature competition in:

- **Swimming** – 13–19 years
- **Diving** – 10–18 years
- **Basketball** – 16 Years & Under
- **Hockey** – 15 Years & Under
- **Australian Football** – 14 Years & Under
- **Football (Soccer)** – 18 Years & Under
- **Netball** – 15 Years & Under
- **Volleyball** – 15 Years & Under

Events will be delivered across **world-class Victorian venues**, including:

- **Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC)**
- **State Netball and Hockey Centre**
- **La Trobe University**

From **November 29th to December 3rd** the **SSAG06** will be hosted at MSAC where the 10 to 12 years Swimming and Track & Field Championships will be held. It is expected over 800 students and 2000 family members will attend over the five days.

Government Support

The awarding of **two of the three School Sport Australia Games in 2026** to Melbourne has been made possible through the **support of the Victorian Government**, via the **Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions' Significant Sporting Events Program (SSEP)**.

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"Having two games in Melbourne this year and one in Ballarat next year is a fantastic win for the young athletes of Victoria thanks to the Significant Sporting Events Program."

"These Games provide a unique platform for students across Australia to compete at the highest level while fostering teamwork, discipline, and community spirit."

“We are proud to support an event that showcases the best young athletes from all around the country. The event will provide an economic boost to Victoria and highlight our world-class sporting infrastructure.”

Strong Track Record and Future Legacy

The decision builds on the **successful delivery of School Sport Australia Games in 2024 and 2025**, including the **highly successful Games held in Ballarat in October 2025**, which demonstrated the strength of regional and metropolitan hosting models.

In recognition of that success, **Ballarat has again been confirmed as a host city**, with the city set to welcome a **School Sport Australia Games event in November 2027**, reinforcing Victoria’s long-term partnership with School Sport Australia and its commitment to regional legacy outcomes.

Economic and Community Impact

The Melbourne-hosted Games are expected to attract **more than 2,000 student-athletes and approximately 3,000 family members from interstate**, generating an estimated **economic impact exceeding \$7 million** through accommodation, tourism, hospitality and local services.

School Sport Australia Perspective

Quote – Graeme Jennings, School Sport Australia Board President

“The School Sport Australia Games are a cornerstone of our national pathway, providing students with opportunities to compete at the highest level while developing life skills, resilience and a lifelong connection to sport. Hosting two Games in Melbourne in 2026, alongside a future Games in Ballarat, demonstrates the strength of our partnership with Victoria and our shared commitment to excellence, inclusion and participation.”

Quote – Graeme Jennings, School Sport Australia Board President (alternative)

“Victoria continues to set the benchmark for hosting major school sport events. The combination of outstanding venues, government support and proven delivery capability allows us to focus on what matters most – providing safe, inclusive and unforgettable experiences for young athletes from every state and territory.”

School Sport Australia looks forward to working closely with the Victorian Government, delivery partners, venues, schools and national sporting organisations to deliver **outstanding, inclusive and future-focused Games** that celebrate the very best of Australian school sport.

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