



Media Statement

26/06/09

Let the games begin for Country Week 2009

Sporting teams from across regional Western Australia will descend on Perth next week for the biggest ever Senior High Schools Country Week.

The five-day event, one of the biggest annual sporting events in Australia for school-aged children, will see 43 regional public schools and more than 3500 students compete in 12 sporting competitions as well as speech, debating and dance.

The event will be officially opened at Challenge Stadium's main arena at 9am on Monday.

Department of Education and Training's Executive Director Colin Pettit said Country Week was a highlight in regional schools' calendars.

"Country Week has been running for 82 years and gives students from regional and remote public schools a great opportunity to compete against a variety of competitors," Mr Pettit said.

"Students who may come from isolated towns socialise with a variety of people and make lifelong friends.

"The event reinforces important values such as teamwork, discipline and self-confidence."

A total of 263 teams from across Western Australia will compete, including students from Christmas Island District High School who will travel 2300km to participate in their first ever Senior High Schools Country Week, and last year's overall competition winner Esperance Senior High School.

Having been trialed in previous years, Touch Football makes its official debut at the 2009 games with teams' performances contributing to their overall score.

The six finalists of the Active Achievers Award, chosen from more than 40 applicants for their impressive sporting, humanitarian and leadership qualities, will also be announced at the opening ceremony on Monday.

Interviews for the award will be conducted throughout the week and the winners - one boy and one girl - will be announced at the closing ceremony on Friday July 3.

The winners will receive a sporting prize pack to help them continue living an active life.

The Active Achievers Award is sponsored by Department of Education and Training and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Country Week is coordinated through School Sports Western Australia.

Further information can be gained from the SSWA website at www.schoolsportwa.com.au.

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