



ACT ICE SKATING ASSOCIATION INC

MEDIA RELEASE

**PO Box 76
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ACTISA Welcomes rink announcement

The ACT Ice Skating Association is very pleased with the announcement of a proposed new ice sports centre. It is a great opportunity for more of the community to become involved in the many facets of figure skating and for Canberra to have a facility able to host major national and international figure skating championships.

International figure skating judge and ACTISA's technical advisor, Angelique Clyde-Smith, commented on hearing the news; "with the re-launch of Ice Skating Australia's Aussie Skate™ program, this announcement is essential for the growth of our sport and its different disciplines. The potential for more ice time will allow us to introduce ice skating as part of school sports and identify and develop talented athletes across all figuring skating disciplines."

Aussie Skate™ does not just accommodate figure skating, it's an important program for all ice sports to learn basic ice skating skills. Aussie Skate™ caters for all age groups from Tiny Tots to Adults. The pathway for figure skating covers all disciplines—singles, pair, ice dance and synchronized skating. Everyone has opportunities for continued proficiency testing as well as competition, leading up to the higher levels with national and international representation.

Adult skating has enjoyed a significant increase in numbers in recent years and is now included in the Australian Figure Skating Championships. It has encouraged many skaters to stay in the sport and also contribute as administrators and officials. There were 19 Australian Adult skaters in a recent international event, including ACTISA's Maxine Gray competing at 71 years of age and placing third in her division.

ACTISA's Vice President, Julie Stalker, expressed her delight with the ACT Government's announcement; "the opportunities for figure skating will be limitless. Ice time is a major issue for all ice sports in the ACT; a new facility will enable us to re-introduce all disciplines of figure skating to Canberra. It's so very exciting!"

With so many choices within figure skating for all ages, abilities, individuals and teams, there is something for everyone. This beautiful sport combines athleticism with technical skills, artistry, musicality and storytelling and complements other activities such as theatre, gymnastics, athletics and dance.

Mrs Clyde-Smith also added: “figure skating is well within the reach of anyone and a new ice sport centre in Canberra will give so many more opportunities for all aspects of figure skating to grow and be an important community activity. Attracting national and international events will have major flow on effects on tourism, especially with direct international flights now available.

The general public falls in love with figure skating all over again after every Olympic Winter Games and rinks need to be ready for the influx of new skaters of all ages and have a pathway for development.”

Additional Figure Skating information

Synchronized Skating once popular and very successful in Canberra is being considered for inclusion in the Olympic Winter Games. Sixteen skaters on the ice perform various elements that require close, precise technique; perfect unison and teamwork to perform as ‘one’. The speed and precision over the ice is nothing short of breathtaking and Canberra had its own international representative team in the 1990’s.

Theatre on Ice is the newest discipline, gaining popularity in Australia and internationally with more teams being formed each year. Canberra has two teams currently training with whatever ice time they are able to get.

Special Olympics in other countries include figure skating and Canberra and Australia have many athletes who would qualify for these events.

Canberra, it really is a capital place to skate!

Please direct all enquiries to either Julie Stalker or Angelique Clyde-Smith, details below.

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Minister Yvette Berry with ACT figure skaters and Angelique Clyde-Smith