

# MEDIA ALERT/PRESS CONFERENCE

19 April 2005

## **Top sporting identities call for exemption from VSU legislation**

A rare combination of sporting talent will sit shoulder to shoulder at a press conference in Sydney today to oppose aspects of legislation that will have a catastrophic impact on almost 500,000 Australians who benefit from university sport facilities, services and programs.

Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates, Test cricketer Stuart MacGill, Test rugby player David Lyons, Olympic rowing medallist Bo Hanson, Paralympic track medallist Angie Ballard and 2004 Aboriginal Sportswoman of the Year and Opals player Michelle Musselwhite have banded together in support of a national campaign calling for sports fees to be exempted from Voluntary Student Unionism legislation. The legislation was recently introduced to Federal Parliament by the Education Minister, Dr Brendan Nelson.

They are among 53 prominent Australians – from some of our best known Olympians and Rhodes Scholars to top sports administrators and corporate leaders - who put their names to a nationwide advertisement in metropolitan newspapers today.

Due to be rubber-stamped once the Coalition gains control of the Senate in July, the legislation in its current form will strip more than \$30 million annually out of university sport.

When: 12 noon

Where: The Darlington Centre Main Conference Room, next to the Forum Restaurant (9351 4664), 174 City Rd, Darlington (between City and Darlington Rds), Sydney.

Parking: Limited parking at Centre. Alternative parking on City Rd, or Shepherd St Car Park, cnr Cleveland & Shepherd Sts, next to the Seymour Centre.

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