

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **UTAS offers first step to Olympic glory**

As the Winter Olympics close in Canada, the search is on for Tasmanian athletes to represent Australia in future Olympic Games.

The Australian Sports Commission's National Talent Identification and Development (NTID) program is looking for young athletes aged 12 to 25 to find out if they have what it takes to participate at an elite level.

Dr James Fell, Lecturer and Exercise Science Co-ordinator in the School of Human Life Sciences, said the University of Tasmania is one of 28 NTID Testing Assessment Centres (TAC) established across Australia.

"We are holding a testing session next week at the UTAS Newnham Campus," Dr Fell said.

"At this session, young athletes will be tested on their standing height, sitting height, body mass, arm span, bench pull, vertical jump, 40 metre sprint and a 20 metre shuttle run."

"I encourage anyone interested to sign-up to be tested on their sporting ability," Dr Fell said.

The tests will be carried out by UTAS Bachelor of Exercise Science students as part of their practical work.

Currently across the nation, 497 athletes are being supported by NTID scholarships.

Nine NTID athletes were chosen as part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic team, while 89 NTID athletes were selected on national teams in the last year.

The Tasmanian testing session will be held on Tuesday 9 March from 4pm in the Human Movement Gym at the UTAS Newnham Campus.

Athletes must first book into the session online by 2 pm on Tuesday 9 March. To book a testing spot and to find out more information on the NTID program, log-on to: [www.ausport.gov.au/eTID](http://www.ausport.gov.au/eTID) and follow the prompts.

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