

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS hunts for new Olympic sports stars

The University of Tasmania will hold a testing session for athletes on Monday 14 September at 5pm aimed at finding potential athletes for the 2012 London Olympics and beyond.

As part of a unique initiative by the National Talent Identification and Development (NTID) program, UTAS is working with the Australian Sports Commission to support their efforts in establishing a network of Testing Centres to help fast-track talented athletes from around Australia into selected Olympic Games and World Championship sports.

By working with UTAS and more than 20 other universities and Academies of Sports from across the country, NTID has been able to establish in excess of 20 registered Talent Assessment Centres, which will assist in validating athletes physical performance results generated from a revolutionary new web-based self-identification tool, eTID.

The Sports Commission's NTID program aims to find and develop new athletes and to transfer existing athletes between sports to possibly represent Australia at the 2012 London Olympics and beyond.

The Sports Commission's director of national sport programs, Greg Nance, said the talent identification program aims to increase the number of results received and improve talent detection opportunities.

'For Australia to retain its current high ranking in world sport and become competitive at an international level across a wider range of sports, it is important that we use these already established and effective networks to seek out and fast-track talent in Australia,' he said.

eTID is an online tool that allows athletes to enter their own results for a set of predetermined physical screening tests and then be provided with feedback on their results comparative to normative data for their age and gender. Those athletes participating in the online screening are then encouraged to attend a follow-up screening at one of the Testing Centres.

The University of Tasmania's Dr James Fell supervises the testing procedures, which are conducted by students enrolled in the unit Exercise Testing and Prescription.

"The program is designed to identify people who have the physiological attributes to potentially achieve elite sporting status," Dr Fell said.

"We use the Talent Assessment Centre as a testing centre for athletes and also for teaching protocols to give students experience in testing."

Dr Fell wants to increase the number of clients using the testing facility by making the Talent Centre available to sporting clubs.

“It is no longer a service we only offer to individuals; sporting clubs may also use it to monitor and evaluate their athletes,” Dr Fell said.

Media are invited to preview a testing session TOMORROW, Friday 11 September at 11.30am in the Human Movement Testing Lab.

For information on the location of the Testing Lab. please contact Sharon Webb, University of Tasmania ph. 0438 510616.

To access eTID and book a spot as a participant, visit www.ausport.gov.au/etid

For further information on the NTID program and Testing Centres visit ausport.gov.au/participating/got_talent

For more information, please contact Dr James Fell: (03) 6324 5485

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