

factsandstats

High Performance

OLYMPICS, PARALYMPICS AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Western Australia has a proud sporting tradition with an outstanding array of high performance achievements in a range of sports. Over the past 20 years Western Australia has been, relative to other Australian states, very successful in the high performance sporting arena. You only have to look at the high number of Western Australian athletes participating in Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams; the number of Western Australian based teams in national league competitions; the consistent emergence of national and international level athletes in a range of non-Olympic sports; and the hosting of hallmark sporting events in a range of sports.

The term “high performance” relates to elite level athletes representing Western Australia or Australia at national or international level competitions.

Olympic Games

The fact that Australia has been represented at every modern Olympic Games underlines that as a nation, Australia has a long tradition of friendly participation and sportsmanship. Australia and Greece are the only two nations to hold this honour.²

Western Australian and Australian Olympic representation between 1984 and 2004³

Year	Host city and country ⁴	Number of Western Australian athletes	Number of Australian athletes	Western Australian proportion of Australian team (%)	Western Australian proportion of population (%) ^{5*}
2004	Athens, Greece	54	482	11.2	9.9
2000	Sydney, Australia	51	631	8.1	9.8
1996	Atlanta, USA	44	424	10.4	9.6
1992	Barcelona, Spain	40	290	13.8	9.5
1988	Seoul, Korea	28	263	10.6	9.3
1984	Los Angeles, USA	23	249	9.2	8.9

* Figures are based on estimated resident population as at June.

Olympic medal counts between 1984 and 2004

Australia's most successful Olympic Games were at Sydney in 2000, where the Australian Olympic Committee fielded a team of 631 athletes who garnered a medal count of 58 (16 gold, 25 silver and 17 bronze) and finished fourth on the medal tally.^{6,7}

The 2004 Olympic team was Australia's biggest and most successful away team ever, with 482 athletes winning 17 gold, 16 silver and 16 bronze medals, finishing fourth on the medal tally.⁸



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Western Australian and Australian Olympic medal counts between 1984 and 2004⁹

Year	Number of Western Australian medals*	Number of Western Australian medallists**	Number of Australian medals	Western Australian proportion of Australian medals (%)
2004	9	13	49	18.4
2000	7	12	58	12.1
1996	8	16	41	19.5
1992	2	6	27	7.4
1988	3	10	13	23.1
1984	4	4	24	16.7

*Where there were multiple Western Australians in a medal winning team, the tally counts them as one.

**Count includes each member of a team.

In 2004, a record of 54 Western Australian athletes transformed their Olympic dream into reality, returning home with four gold, five silver and four bronze medals. There were thirteen medal-winning performances from nine events and across five sports (cycling, swimming, rowing, athletics and hockey). This reflects Western Australia's best ever result on the medal tally in its 92-year Olympic history. This was an outstanding result for Western Australia, which had three more athletes in 2004 than 2000, in an Australian team of 149 fewer athletes (482 compared to 631).¹⁰

Western Australia's contingent in 2004 included:

- The state's first ever badminton Olympian, Travis Denney;
- A record five water polo players;
- A record six soccer players;
- A record eight swimmers, double Western Australia's previous highest representation; and
- Western Australia's first Indigenous Olympians, Anthony Little (boxing) and Jade North (football).¹¹

The 2008 Olympic Games will be held in Beijing, China from 8 to 25 August 2008.

For further information about Western Australian athletes participation in the Olympic Games please visit:

www.olympics.com.au/waoc

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Paralympic Games¹²

The Australian Paralympic team of 144 athletes and 93 support staff finished second on the overall medal tally in 2004, winning a total of 100 medals.

The Western Australian team of seventeen Paralympians and ten team staff took part in six sports (athletics, basketball, cycling, rugby, sailing and swimming). They returned home with a total of eight medals, which were won by six medallists.

Western Australian and Australian Paralympic medal counts in Athens 2004¹³

Medal	Western Australian medal count	Australian medal count
Gold	1	26
Silver	5	38
Bronze	2	36
Total	8	100

For more information about the Paralympics see:

- <http://www.accessibility.com.au/kids/paralympic.htm>
- Link to Paralympic Games, Athens 2004: <http://www.athens2004.com/athens2004/page/paralympic?lang=en&cid=6108b8e4a0ca8f00b8e4a0ca8f008119fea9RCRD>
- Link to Paralympic Games, Beijing 2008: http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main_Sections_Menu/Paralympic_Games/Beijing_2008/

Commonwealth Games

Australia is the undisputed sports champion of the Commonwealth, winning a total of 1684 medals between 1930 and 2002.¹⁴

Total Commonwealth Games medals won by the top five medal-winning countries between 1930 and 2002¹⁵

Country	Medal count (gold, silver and bronze)
Australia	1684
England	1584
Canada	1230
New Zealand	495
Scotland	301

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Western Australian achievements at the Commonwealth Games

Western Australian athletes have had outstanding success at the Commonwealth Games.¹⁶

At the Empire Games* in Sydney in 1938, twelve Western Australian athletes competed and in a remarkable feat, each returned home with a medal. At these Games, Decima Hamilton (Norman) won a record five athletics gold medals. This record stood as the most gold medals won at a single Games until Suzie O'Neill won six gold medals in 1998.¹⁷

*Note that from 1930 to 1950 the Games were known as the British Empire Games, Empire and Commonwealth Games until 1962. From 1966 to 1974 they were known as the British Commonwealth Games and from 1978 onwards they have been known as the Commonwealth Games.¹⁸

Since 1938, over 200 Western Australian athletes have been part of the Commonwealth Games team.¹⁹

Forty-three Western Australians (22 athletes and 21 officials) took part in the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, bringing home 24 medals (fifteen gold, eight silver and one bronze), across six sports. This was the biggest gold medal count in Western Australia's 64-year Commonwealth Games history. In 2002, gymnast Allana Slater won five medals and equalled the record set by swimmer Lynne Bates nee Watson in 1970 for the most number of medals won by a Western Australian athlete at a single Games.²⁰

Western Australian and Australian medal counts at various Commonwealth Games²¹

Year	Number of Western Australian Medals*	Number of Western Australian medallists**	Number of Australian medals	Western Australian proportion of Australian medals (%)
2002	20	24	207	9.7
1998	21	26	198	10.6
1994	16	13	182	8.8
1990	13	10	161	8.1
1986	11	12	121	9.1
1982	8	7	107	7.5
1962	11	11	105	10.5

*Where there were multiple Western Australians in a medal winning team, the tally counts them as one.

**Count includes each member of a team.

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Western Australian and Australian Commonwealth Games Representation²²

Year	Host	Number of Western Australian athletes	Number of Australian athletes	Western Australian proportion of Australian team (%)	Western Australian proportion of Australian population (%) ^{*,23}
2006	Melbourne, Australia	35	426	8.2	9.9
2002	Manchester, England	22	371	5.9	9.8
1998	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	32	320	10	9.7
1994	Victoria, Canada	23	249	9.2	9.5
1990	Auckland, New Zealand	17	247	6.9	9.5
1986	Edinburgh, Scotland	18	231	7.8	9.1
1982	Brisbane, Australia	14	207	6.8	8.8
1962	Perth, Australia	12	208	5.8	n.a.**

* Figures are based on estimated resident population as at June.

** n.a. – not available.

Australian host cities of Commonwealth Games²⁴

Melbourne hosted the 1956 Olympic Games and 50 years later, in 2006, hosted the Commonwealth Games. Australia has hosted the Commonwealth Games four times.

Australian host cities of Commonwealth Games²⁵

Year	Host city
2006	Melbourne
1982	Brisbane
1962	Perth
1938	Sydney

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Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

A record 35 Western Australian athletes were selected as part of the 426 member team to represent Australia at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. A further 20 team staff were part of the support team for the Melbourne 2006.²⁶

The Melbourne 2006 sports program comprises 12 individual and four team sports, with a total of 24 disciplines contested.²⁷

Thirty four WA athletes reached the medal rounds of at least one event and of these athletes 24 won at least one medal. Overall WA athletes contributed to 30 medal winning performances.

While WA athletes represented 8.2 per cent of the total Australian team size, they contributed to 10.9 per cent of Australia's total medal tally.

For further information on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games visit:

www.melbourne2006.com.au

or visit the Australian Commonwealth Games Association website:

www.commonwealthgames.org.au

Western Australian Institute of Sport²⁸

The Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) commenced in 1984 and is committed to excellence and generating world-class athletes. The WAIS purpose is "to provide opportunities for talented Western Australian athletes to achieve excellence in elite sport with support from their home environment". WAIS delivers high performance programs to Western Australia's elite and potential elite athletes through two programs:

- WAIS Individual Scholarship Scheme; and
- WAIS Sport Programs.

For more information on WAIS visit:

<http://www.wais.org.au>

Western Australian Olympic Council and Australian Commonwealth Games Association^{29, 30}

The Western Australian Olympic Council (WAOC) is the peak body for the Olympic movement in Western Australia and was established in 1947.

The Australian Commonwealth Games Association (Western Australian division) is the peak body for the Commonwealth Games movement and was established in 1946.

The two organisations work in partnership to provide a joint office to manage activities that focus on generating an acceptance of the Olympic and Commonwealth Games movements into Western Australia's community, whilst supporting Western Australian athletes who strive to achieve Olympic and Commonwealth Games selection. For more information visit www.olympics.com.au/waoc

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Department of Sport and Recreation

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) provides support to State sporting associations for a range of high performance initiatives as part of their annual funding; support includes travel for State teams to attend national championships, training camps and the Academy of Sport Program.

In 2002, Future Success A Strategic Plan for High Performance Sport in Western Australia Beyond 2002 was prepared by an independent working group with secretariat support from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Academy of Sport³¹

The Academy of Sport was inaugurated in the North West in 1998 and has since been expanded to other parts of Western Australia. It is funded from the Sports Lottery Account and plays an important role in helping State sporting associations to identify and develop talented athletes and coaches in rural areas; a key focus of the State Government's sport and recreation policy commitment. The Academy assists in the creation of genuine opportunities and pathways for talented athletes and coaches in regional Western Australia.

Through the Academy Program and other initiatives, links between talent and elite development are being built with a key objective to increase the number of country athletes representing Western Australia at the State and national level. The following sports are funded through the program:

1. TennisWest
2. TouchWest
3. Cricket (Dennis Lillee Fast Bowling Academy)
4. Netball
5. Swimming
6. Gymnastics.

In 2004/05 there were 77 athletes and 31 coaches involved in the program of which 19 athletes have been selected to represent Western Australia.

For information about the Academy and its funding program see:

<http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au>

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Footnotes

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- ² Western Australian Olympic Council. (01/09/2005: date of retrieval). Australia at the summer Olympic Games. <http://www.olympics.com.au/cp7/c9/webi/externaldocument/00001307aav.pdf>
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ International Olympic Committee. (01/09/05: date of retrieval). Olympic Games information. http://www.olympic.org/uk/games/index_uk.asp
- ⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (08/09/2005: date of retrieval). Time series spreadsheets: population by age and sex, Australian states and territories. No. 3201.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/abs@>. Combined tables 5 and 9.
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- ⁷ International Olympic Committee. (08/09/2005: date of retrieval). Olympic Games information: Sydney 2000 medal table. http://www.olympic.org/uk/games/past/table_uk.asp?OLGT=1&OLGY=2000
- ⁸ Western Australian Olympic Council. (01/09/2005: date of retrieval). Australia at the summer Olympic Games. op. cit.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Western Australian Olympic Council. (2005). Olympic Games information. <http://www.olympics.com.au/waoc>. Provided by Western Australian Olympic Council.
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- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Ibid.
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- ¹⁵ Ibid.
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- ¹⁹ Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Western Australian Division. (2005). Commonwealth Games information. Provided by Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Western Australian division.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (08/09/2005: date of retrieval). Time series spreadsheets: population by age and sex, Australian states and territories. No. 3201.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/abs@>. Combined tables 5 and 9.
- ²⁴ Australian Commonwealth Games Association. (31/08/05: date of retrieval). Past Commonwealth Games. http://www.commonwealthgames.org.au/GamesInfo/PastGames/PastGames_body.htm
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- ²⁶ Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Western Australian division. (2006). Melbourne 2006 information. Provided by Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Western Australian division.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Western Australian Institute of Sport. (2005). www.wais.org.au. Provided by Western Australian Institute of Sport.
- ²⁹ Western Australian Olympic Council. (2005). <http://www.olympics.com.au/waoc> Provided by Western Australian Olympic Council.
- ³⁰ Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Western Australian Division. (2005). Provided by Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Western Australian division.
- ³¹ Government of Western Australia. Academy of Sport report: Department of Sport and Recreation. unpublished.