

# Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

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## NEW BASKETBALL TRAINING HUB FOR GEELONG

Young athletes in Geelong will be one step closer to becoming the next basketball superstars, with a new high-performance basketball training hub to be established in Geelong under a re-elected Andrews Labor Government.

The Geelong hub will be one of seven around the state, giving local kids access to the best training programs close to home, with a clear pathway to playing elite level basketball in Australia or the American NBA.

Operating out of each of the hubs, a new Intensive Training Program will see a dedicated High-Performance Coach work with male and female teams for kids under 14, 15, 16 and 18.

Teams for players with disabilities will also be established, helping to discover our next great Paralympic stars.

Each team will train together every week, plus individual one-on-one weekly sessions to work on shooting and strength conditioning.

As part of the program, local kids will also have the opportunity to compete in interstate and overseas tournaments, allowing them to advance their skills and increase their exposure to national and international talent scouts.

A re-elected Labor Government will invest \$5 million to establish the new training hubs, as part of a \$101 million plan to grow basketball from grassroots to elite level across the state.

This includes establishing a new Australian Basketball Centre of Excellence at the Knox Regional Sports Park – which Geelong’s new high-performance basketball training hub will feed into – with Basketball Australia relocating their training facilities from Canberra.

Existing basketball facilities at Knox will also be expanded to provide headquarters and training facilities for the new ninth National Basketball League (NBL) team, which will be a Melbourne team.

This will cement Victoria’s position as Australia’s home of basketball, with operations centred at Knox and supported by the high-performance basketball training hubs around the state, including Geelong.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Sport and Member for Lara John Eren

*“Only a re-elected Andrews Labor Government will help kids in Geelong and the Bellarine take their hoop dreams to the next level.”*

*“If your kids dream of playing basketball for Australia – we’ll give them a pathway to get there.”*

### Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

*“Victoria is Australia’s basketball capital and we want to make sure every kid in Geelong gets their shot on the court.”*

### Quote attributable to Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

*“Right now, parent with kids who play elite level sport are spending hours in the car every week. We’ll change that, bringing the best training close to home.”*

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