

Media Release

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SA Junior Squash Players make National Selection

The Squash Australian Junior Team selection has seen 4 South Australian players chosen to represent Australia. This is a record number of South Australian junior squash players selected in a single National team.

The team will play in a test match against the Malaysian Junior Team on 5 June, 2014 before competing in the Penang Junior Open from 7 to 12 June 2014. The Penang tournament will bring together players from across the Oceania and Asian regions including strong squash nations such as Pakistan and India.

Selected from South Australia are:

- Alexandra Haydon, Girls U13 (Adelaide Malibu Squash Club, Henley Beach)
- Lauren McInerney Girls U15 (Clare Squash Club)
- Lauren Aspinall Girls U17 (Campbelltown Squash Club)
- Alex Oswald Boys U17 (Norwood Squash)

James Rogers, State Coach says *"I was so pleased to see that we got four players selected in the national team, it shows that the hard work of the past few years has paid off."*

In Malaysia, squash is considered a national sport and is supported with strong regional institutes and a squash program in the national sporting school (Kuala Lumpur) where elite players train daily in world-class squash facilities.

Squash SA General Manager, Phil Sinnott understands the importance of world-class facilities on player performance and development. *"Our model is to partner with government in multi-purpose sporting hubs which has resulted in the new squash centres being built in South Australia. Modern Squash courts are now designed with moveable walls which enable them to be used for a variety of activities."*

A six court multi-purpose facility has been built in the Barossa (Tanunda) and plans are approved for a similar facility at the Campbelltown Leisure Centre.

Squash SA contribute approximately \$155,000 per annum to junior squash in South Australia through grass roots and talent development programs. Squash SA spend more on junior development than all other Australian State Body's combined but are the only Australian State without a State Facility. Discussions have commenced with Renewal SA to develop a State Squash Facility at Tonsley, with multi-use for additional sport and fitness activities.

Former World No 1 and Squash Legend, Chris Dittmar, says *"Squash SA have a solid facility strategy that creates a pathway for players, supported with a commitment to see new facilities developed in partnership with government. As a junior squash player, I remember squash was available to me with new centres always popping up around the corner to play at. As today's training needs are becoming more sophisticated, and facility numbers are less, facilities must remain in the forefront of development to attract and provide for young players."*