




Speech by

Tim Mulherin

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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OLYMPIC GAMES, MACKAY ATHLETES

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.21 pm): Over the past few days many Australians, me included, have been enjoying with great pride the London Olympics. In the spirit of the Olympic Games, the most important thing is not to win but to take part. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well. Our inspirational Australian Olympic team includes representatives from across the nation. Tonight I pay tribute to a couple of Australian Olympians who call Mackay home.

Former Mackay junior hockey player, representative hockey player and St Patricks College student Matty Swann is a member of the Kookaburras team and made an impressive Olympic debut on Monday night. In their first game the Australian men's hockey team had a very convincing win, walloping South Africa six goals to nil. On Wednesday the Kookaburras will play against Spain and again Matty will represent Australia and Mackay with pride. If the Kookaburras win gold in London, it will be the second hockey gold medal to return to Mackay.

In 1988 at the Seoul Olympics as a member of the Hockeyroos Tracey Belbin won gold. This year Mackay again has representation in the Hockeyroos team with Teneal Attard. She played junior hockey in Mackay and will be flying the flag for Mackay in London. Unfortunately, the other night the Hockeyroos were defeated by New Zealand 1-0 in a very close game. We are hoping that one day Teneal will also bring home gold.

Mackay has a very proud sporting history and has produced many champion athletes who have gone on to represent Australia at various summer Olympics, including Tracey Belbin, Geoff Huegill, Linda Mackenzie and Paralympian Beau Menzies, who represented Australia in soccer at the Sydney games in 2000. Of course, Mackay's own Cathy Freeman won an inspiring gold in the 400 metres in Sydney.

The Olympics is a time for Australians to unite in support of our fellow country men and women and also to reflect on the attributes of peace, tolerance and sportsmanship that the Olympics promotes internationally. Local Olympic representatives from regional centres such as Mackay provide inspiration to ambitious youngsters hoping one day to follow in the footsteps of people such as Matty Swann and Teneal Attard. I wish all athletes wearing the green and gold in London all the very best and every success.