



28 February 2024

## Joint Media Release

### Paris 2024 Pacific Olympic and Paralympic Partnership – Pacific2Paris

Australia is partnering with the Australian Olympic Committee and Vanuatu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (VASANOC) to support Vanuatu athletes as they prepare to qualify, train and compete in the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Today, the Minister of Youth Development and Sport, the Hon Tomker Netvunei, joined the Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, President of the Vanuatu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (VASANOC), Antoine Boudier, along with Team Vanuatu's Olympians and Paralympians to launch the PacificAus Sports – Paris 2024 Pacific Olympic and Paralympic Partnership, #Pacific2Paris.

Through the program, the Australian Government, in partnership with the Australian Olympic Committee, is supporting more than 250 athletes from 13 Pacific nations for the final phases of preparation for the Paris2024 Olympics (26 July to 11 August 2024), and Paralympic Games (28 August to 8 September 2024).

In Vanuatu, the program will support 11 athletes and para-athletes across the sports of table tennis, boxing, judo, swimming, athletics, weightlifting and beach volleyball, to attend international qualification events; provide a high-performance training environment and dedicated training camps; as well as coaching, sports medicine and sports science fees.

The Honourable Netvunei thanked the Australian Government for the generous support towards the preparation of our athletes and reconfirmed the Government's support for Team Vanuatu's preparation and participation at the upcoming Olympic games in Paris.

High Commissioner Bootle said: "The Australian Government is pleased to be partnering with the Australian Olympic Committee to support so many talented athletes from across the Pacific to realise their Olympic and Paralympic dreams and continue to strengthen the deep connections between Vanuatu and Australia through our shared love of sport," said Australian High Commissioner Bootle.

The #Pacific2Paris program builds on similar support provided for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. It reaffirms Australia's commitment to promoting greater inclusion of women and girls in sport at the highest levels with equal representation of both male and female athletes included.



**Australian High Commission**  
Vanuatu



“Vasanoc would like to thank the Australian Government for the assistance provided to the whole of Oceania and in particular to Vanuatu and this precious help which will enable our Vanuatu athletes to have a very good preparation, to be able to train well enough to perform at international level in the world's biggest competition,” said Antoine Boudier.



Caption: Hon Tomker Netvunei, Minister of Youth Development and Sport; Excellency Heidi Bootle, Australian High Commissioner; Antoine Boudier, President of VASANOC; DG Russel Tamata, Ministry of Youth Development; Ms Lydie Patterson, Team Vanuatu Chef de Mission to Paris2024 and Vanuatu athletes (L-R; Ken Kahu, Marceline Moli, Jonathan Silas, Obediah Timbaci, Anna Bumseng, Priscilla Tommy)

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