



Masters Swimming Australia Media Release

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Olympian and Commonwealth Games Champion Sally Hunter OLY / Dolphin #629 appointed as the inaugural Patron of Masters Swimming Australia

Masters Swimming Australia (MSA) is proud to announce the appointment of Olympian and Commonwealth Games champion Sally Hunter OLY / Dolphin #629 as its inaugural Patron, further strengthening the organisation's connection with the broader Australian swimming community and reinforcing its vision of *Swimming for Life*.

A highly respected figure in Australian swimming, Sally Hunter, has enjoyed an outstanding career at the highest level of the sport. First representing Australia at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, she went on to compete at the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games, she was a regular member of the Australian team (Dolphin #629), and claimed Commonwealth Games gold and silver medals, World Championship relay medals and numerous national honours throughout her distinguished career.

As Patron, Sally will serve as an ambassador for MSA, championing the organisation's commitment to promoting lifelong participation in swimming and encouraging Australians of all ages and abilities to enjoy the physical, mental and social benefits of being active in the water.

MSA President Jane Noake welcomed the appointment.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Sally as the inaugural Patron of MSA. Sally is one of Australia's most respected swimming identities and embodies the values of excellence, integrity and lifelong participation that are at the heart of our organisation.

"Her passion for swimming extends well beyond elite competition, and her ongoing commitment to Masters Swimming is inspiring others to enjoy the lifelong benefits of our sport making her an outstanding ambassador for MSA. We are thrilled to have Sally join the MSA family."

MSA General Manager Rob Abernethy said Sally's appointment represented an exciting opportunity for the organisation and its members.

"Sally is the epitome of the ***"I am a Swimmer"*** ethos, and brings exceptional experience, credibility, leadership and authenticity to this very important role. She understands the transformative impact swimming can have throughout every stage of life and is a passionate advocate for participation, community and wellbeing.

"Her appointment reflects MSA's commitment to building stronger connections across the Australian swimming community landscape while continuing to inspire adults to remain active, healthy and connected through swimming. We look forward to working with Sally as we continue to grow our organisation and promote the message that swimming truly is a sport for life."

Rob Woodhouse, Chief Executive of Swimming Australia added, "Congratulations to Masters Swimming Australia (MSA) on the appointment of Sally Hunter as its inaugural patron. Sally epitomises the MSA vision of ***"Swimming for Life"*** and is a wonderful role model and ambassador for the millions of Australians who enjoy a swim"

On behalf of the **Australian Swimmers Association**, "Congratulations to MSA and Sally Hunter on her appointment as inaugural Patron. This appointment recognises Sally's leadership and the contribution Australian Dolphins continue to make beyond their time on the Australian Swimming Team. Her passion and enthusiasm exemplify how Dolphins inspire participation and strengthen connections within the Masters community and across the wider swimming community."

Sally Hunter OLY said she was honoured to accept the role.

"I am incredibly honoured to accept the role of inaugural Patron of Masters Swimming Australia."

"Swimming has shaped my life in so many positive ways, and one of the things I love most about Masters Swimming is that it demonstrates there is no finish line when it comes to enjoying our sport. Whether it's for fitness, friendship, competition or simply the love of swimming, Masters Swimming provides opportunities for people of every age and ability to stay involved."

"I look forward to supporting MSA, celebrating the achievements of its members and encouraging more Australians to discover the lifelong benefits that swimming offers."

MSA is the national governing body for adult swimming in Australia, providing opportunities for fitness, friendship and competition for swimmers aged 18 years and over. With 214 registered clubs dotted across the country, MSA supports many thousands of members and an extended community to enjoy the many benefits of ***"Swimming for Life"***.

Bio - About Sally Hunter OLY:

Sally Hunter is one of Australia's most accomplished breaststroke swimmers, first representing Australia at the **Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games**, and the **Beijing 2008** and **London 2012 Olympic Games** amongst many team honours. She is a **Commonwealth Games** gold and silver medallist, **World Championship** relay medallist and **Australian Dolphins representative #629**.

Beyond her elite swimming career, Sally has remained a passionate advocate for the sport and is widely respected for her leadership, professionalism and commitment to encouraging lifelong participation in swimming.

As Patron of Masters Swimming Australia, and the epitome of the “**I am a Swimmer**” ethos, Sally will champion the organisation's vision of **Swimming for Life**, inspiring Australians of all ages and abilities to embrace swimming as a pathway to lifelong health, wellbeing and connection.

For further information please contact MSA General Manager, Rob Abernethy, at gm@mastersswimming.org.au or on mobile +61 (0)473 799 211.

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