



**Michael Daley**  
**Minister for Police**  
**Minister for Finance**

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **WorkCover scholarships helping Paralympic athletes fulfil their dreams**

Wednesday, 10 November 2010

Minister for Finance Michael Daley will today present four scholarships valued at \$10,000 each to Paralympic athletes to help them achieve their goal of representing Australia at the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

The scholarships are part of WorkCover NSW's four-year \$1.2 million sponsorship of the Australian Paralympic Committee.

The successful recipients were chosen by a panel consisting members of the Australian Paralympic Committee and WorkCover NSW.

Scholarships were awarded according to the benefit they would provide to each athlete's training and personal development.

The four athletes to receive scholarships are:

- Scott Reardon, 20, from Temora who is Australia's top ranked 100 and 200 metre runner in the T42 classification for above and through the knee amputees;
- Jayme Paris, 20, from Plumpton in western Sydney, the No1 ranked C1 paracyclist rider in the world;
- Brett Stibners, a 31 year old wheelchair basketball player from Oak Flats in the Illawarra and member of the Australian Wheelchair Basketball Team;
- Swimmer Sian Lucas, 20, from Grose Wold near Richmond who is the world's fifth ranked 100m backstroker in the S10 Class

Mr Daley said today's recipients are inspiring athletes who have overcome adversity to reach an elite level in their chosen sport.

"The NSW Government is proud to partner with the Australian Paralympic Committee to support these talented athletes in realising their dreams," Mr Daley said.

"This funding will help each athlete with their training, equipment and transport which could prove the difference between silver and gold in London in two years' time."

Mr Daley said WorkCover is also a proud supporter of the ***Paralympic Speakers Program*** which harnesses the powerful stories of Paralympic athletes injured at work to raise awareness about the importance of workplace safety.

"Participants in this program attend workplaces across the State and speak about how incidents have changed their lives and the challenges they have had to overcome in achieving their dream," Mr Daley said.

"Their stories are extremely emotional and honest and they resonate with the workforce of NSW. I hope that one day we will see some of today's recipients become part of this program."

Information on the WorkCover's Paralympian Sponsorship Program is available from [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) .

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## **2010 WorkCover NSW Scholarship Recipient profiles:**

### **Scott Reardon**

Originally from Temora in the Riverina, Scott had his right leg amputated through the knee as a result of an incident when erecting a fence on his family's property in 2002.

Hoping to win gold in the 100 and 200 metre events at the World Championships in New Zealand in January, Scott will use his scholarship to purchase equipment and assist with his studies to become a secondary school teacher at the University of Canberra.

### **Jayme Paris**

Jayme's competitive record includes first in the 500m Time Trial and the 3000m Individual Pursuit at the 2010 Australian Track Championships, first in the Road Time Trial and Road Race at the 2010 Australian Road Championships and second in the 500m Time Trial in the 2009 World Track Championships.

Jayme has Cerebellar Ataxia Gross Motor Retardation which affects her gross and fine motor skills.

Jayme is in training for the World Track Championships in December this year and the Australian Road and Track Championships in early 2011.

Jayme will use her scholarship to purchase bicycle equipment and to cover competition travel expenses.

### **Brett Stibners**

Brett was a member of the gold medal winning team at the 2010 Beijing Paralympic Games and has also represented Australia at the Paralympic World Cup and other international competitions.

Brett had his left leg amputated above the knee as a result of a car accident while working as an apprentice electrician in 2001.

Brett hopes to be selected in the Australian Wheelchair Basketball Team that will compete in the Paralympic World Cup in England in May 2011 as well as the Qualification Tournament for the 2012 London Paralympic Games which will be held in Korea next September.

Brett will use his scholarship to purchase parts for his wheelchair and to meet travel and training expenses.

### **Sian Lucas**

After finishing fifth in the S10 Class of the 100m backstroke at the Beijing Paralympic Games, Sian has had a number of other outstanding results in the 400m freestyle, 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke at national long and short-course meets.

Sian has a fused left knee and limited movement in her right knee as a result of a tractor incident at her family's farm.

Sian's next competitive meet will be the Australian Swimming Championships in April next year and she will use her scholarship to cover training, travel and education costs related to the Bachelor of Health Science that she is currently completing at Sydney University.