

EQUAL FIRST

About Equal First

Equal First is a series of straightforward initiatives designed to make the 2006 Commonwealth Games an event that welcomes all members of our community.

In practical terms, *Equal First* is about making it easier to find out about, get to and take part in Games activities – from the sports events to the local festivals. It is aimed at young people, seniors, Indigenous groups, people with disabilities and ethnic groups.

Some of the initiatives include:

- making critical Games information available in alternative formats, particularly for people with vision and hearing impairments
- free, wheelchair accessible shuttle bus services between public transport hubs like Flinders Street and key Games venues
- support for a mobility service that offers low-cost equipment hire to make getting around the CBD easier
- training for early school leavers, long term unemployed and recent migrants to help them open new doors through volunteer opportunities
- recognising and promoting Victoria's Celebrate Our Cultural Diversity Week and the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day which coincide with the Games in 2006

- extending the Companion Card scheme to Games events, enabling a support person to attend without paying for a second ticket
- including a dedicated youth festival in the Games cultural program.

Additional information

- One-in-four Victorians were born overseas, making us one of the most diverse parts of the Commonwealth.
- The Commonwealth Games is the only event of its size to integrate events for Elite Athletes with a Disability into its core program.

Lasting benefits

From a volunteer team made up of people from all ages and backgrounds to new infrastructure that is accessible to people of all abilities, *Equal First* will help set new benchmarks for inclusiveness at major events and in broader community life.

For more information visit
www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games

