



## Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

**Media Release**

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### **Young surfer just one local champion going places**

MARRAWAH surfer Zoe Grey can chase her sporting dream further with some help from the Rudd Labor Government.

Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP, said Zoe was one of five young sportspeople in the Braddon electorate to receive new grants under the first round of the Local Sporting Champions.

Mr Sidebottom said the Local Sporting Champions program had been very popular in the North-West region, and he was very happy to see the first young people to benefit.

“Sport is a very important part of the culture in this region, and these grants are aimed at making it a little easier for young people to pursue their chosen sports,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“I know how hard it is for young people to compete at top level, especially travelling from Tasmania, and this should help a few to go that step further.”

He said the popularity of the program had seen it take some time to award the first grants, in what was a national program.

Zoe will receive \$500 to go toward the costs of travel, accommodation and uniforms, after competing at the 2008 Australian Junior Surfing Titles in Western Australia last year.

Also receiving grants are Zachary Durkin (swimming) and Elliot Johnstone (tennis), both from Burnie, Hamish Chapman (surf lifesaving) from Ulverstone, and Samantha Koch (cross country) from Forth.

One team based in the region, the Triathlon Tasmania ITU Juniors, will also receive \$3000 toward their trip to compete at the Oceania Championships on the Gold Coast next month.

Mr Sidebottom said he had selected a panel of local sporting identities, led by former Latrobe Council general manager Grant Atkins, to help decide the young people to receive the grants, which were allocated quarterly.

More information on the program is available at - <http://www.ausport.gov.au> with another round opening at the end of March.

**For more information: Luke Sayer 0458 311 355**