

AUSTRALIA

Delegates: **Mrs Wilma Shakespear**
Position: Director
Institute: Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS)
Phone: 61 7 3404 3207
Facsimile: 61 7 3404 3205
Email: wilma.shakespear@dtsr.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Academy of Sport was officially launched in 1991 as an initiative of the Queensland Government. The Academy aims to assist talent athletes within the State to achieve excellence in their chosen sport and to foster their personal and professional development.

The QAS has progressed in leaps and bounds since those early days, now boasting 534 athletes from all over Queensland. These athletes make up 20 squad programs, and fill eleven individual scholarship places. The squads cover 18 sports including – athletics, athletes with a disability, baseball, basketball, canoeing, cycling, cricket, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rowing, softball, soccer, swimming, tennis, volleyball, water polo and triathlon.

Each squad supports up to 30 athletes, ranging from talented young juniors in sports such as basketball to World Champions and Olympic medallists in swimming, athletics, softball etc.

The QAS currently employs over 28 of the country's most accomplished coaches to head up these sporting programs, many of whom are past Olympic and World champions themselves.

Th QAS also offers an Individual Scholarship program each year to athletes who are ranked in the top ten individually in the world or in the top four teams in the world for their chosen sport.

Some of Australia's most exciting medal prospects for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games are training under international standard programs and coaches at the QAS, and the Academy is continuing to discover and develop outstanding new talent.