



07 JUN, 2023

## Sheryn to join Special Olympics athletes at World Games

Leader - Barossa Valley, Angaston



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**By Jem Nash**

Barossa's Sheryn Klose is preparing for the trip of a lifetime, joining Team Australia as its Assistant head of Delegation for the Special Olympics Summer World Games in Berlin.

Special Olympics is a global sporting inclusion organisation for people with an intellectual disability, and Klose has been volunteering for them for seven years.

She is the current Special

Olympics SA Sports Coordinator, assisting across several sports programs, and will fly out to Germany with the Australian team on Sunday.

"Over the years, I have coached and trained SA athletes across swimming, basketball and (provided) support to many other sports," she said.

"I have been fortunate enough to follow successful athlete pathways and travel both nationally and internationally."

In 2019, Klose assisted with the

Australian swimming team at the World Games in Abu Dhabi.

"This was a first for me and an absolutely exhausting, yet amazing experience," she said.

The first ever Special Olympics World Games was held in 1968 and has continued to grow, occurring every two years, alternating between summer and winter.

More than 7,000 athletes from approximately 170 countries will compete across 24 sports at this year's Games.



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Klose will join almost 100 Australian representatives, including 64 athletes alongside 28 coaches and officials that are competing across nine sports.

“For many of our athletes, it is the first time leaving their country and shining their light on the world stage,” she said.

“Opening and closing ceremonies are (a) sea of colour with excited athletes.

“With a week-long competition, we will also have opportunities from host towns to witness local attractions.”

Four South Australian basketballers will be part of Team Australia, selected after the Special Olympics National Games in Tasmania in October last year.

The Australian team has been busy in preparation for the Games, training hard while also raising funds.

Klose joined the SA quartet in Glenelg on May 28, as they were farewelled ahead of their trip.

The day was facilitated by the Law Enforcement Torch Run, where police officers and young SA athletes carried the flame of hope down Jetty

Road, with Nuriootpa High School's own Blake Brennand among the group of runners.

“We all felt extremely special as we received our official Team Australia uniforms, with families and friends wishing us well on our travels,” Klose said.

“We look forward to a safe journey, successful competitions and lots of fun and friendships made.”

Klose and the Australian team will fly off to Berlin on June 11, with the World Games running from June 17 to 25.



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Sheryn Klose will make up part of Team Australia at the Special Olympics Summer World Games in Berlin.