



Ice Skating Australia speaks out on Russia's Indigenous ice skating routine

21 January 2010 - The Russian Olympic figure skating team will be taking notes from Australia's champions, Danielle O' Brien and Greg Merriman as they perform their Aboriginal themed Original Dance next week at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Jeonju, South Korea.

The recent unveiling of the Russian World Champion's Aboriginal inspired dance has inspired debate within the ice dancing community. Danielle and Greg's respectful interpretation of Aboriginal culture was developed after a year in consultation with indigenous jazz company members, and was first performed in 2008. The Australian's routine is performed to an authentic, Australian Aboriginal music score.

The International Skating Union sets a different theme for the Original Dance category every season; this season's theme being 'Country / Folk'.

1.5 million Australians participate in ice sports each year. "The newly re-launched Aussie Skate™ program aims to recruit new participants into all ice sports including figure skating, ice hockey and speed skating, with a vision to produce the next Australian champions in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games and beyond" Ice Skating Australia President Cathy Taylor explains.

Belinda Noonan, Olympic Winter Institute Figure Skating Coordinator is available to talk about the Russian's ability to respectfully interpret Aboriginal culture in their competitive ice dance routine.

To arrange an interview contact Trisha Routledge +612 9775 7007 / trisha@markcomms.com.au

