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## **CHELTZIE LEE READY FOR WORLD TITLES**

### **Olympic success sees 20% increase in ice skating registrations**

Cheltzie Lee, Australia's 16 year old figure skating Olympian will take to the ice on Friday at the World Figure Skating Championships in Torino Italy.

After finishing in 20<sup>th</sup> spot and recording a personal best overall score of 138.16 at the recent Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Cheltzie heads to the Worlds with experience, confidence and determination to improve her world ranking.

"Going to the Olympic Games and competing on that level has made me even hungrier to win. I learnt a lot and can't wait to get to the Worlds and compete again," said Cheltzie.

"The experience has made me stronger as a competitor and was a huge reward for all the hard work I have put in."

Ice Dance Champions Danielle O'Brien and Gregory Merriman and men's Champion Mark Webster will also compete at the world titles.

Cheltzie's success at Vancouver 2010 has seen Ice Skating Australia's Aussie Skate program record a dramatic increase in the number of young people enrolling in the sport.

Macquarie Ice Rink in North Ryde has seen a 20% increase in attendants and registrations since the Winter Olympics. The rinks General Manager Wendy Rigg-Smith says "There is a real buzz around the place, the public have seen figure skating at the Olympics, watched Cheltzie perform and are keen to get in to the sport."

Melbourne's new "Icehouse" skating rink opened after the Olympics and bookings and attendance has exceeded expectations.

In Tasmania enrolment numbers for the Aussie Skate program have doubled since the Olympics. The sport has had and Brisbane rinks have also seen increases. General Sessions at Boondall and Acacia Ridge Iceworld has seen double the usual at most general sessions.

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