

Date: 15 May 2006

Subject **NIB Cup supports Hunter's young netballers**

NIB Health Funds Limited (NIB) and the Hunter Jaegers are giving some of the Hunter's finest young netballers the opportunity to play on the big stage when they compete for the NIB Cup as the curtain-raiser at Hunter Jaegers home matches at Newcastle Entertainment Centre.

Netball Associations from across the Hunter were invited to enter the competition. The eight teams participating are Cessnock, Charlestown, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Nelson Bay, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Singleton.

The NIB Cup is part of the NIB's major sponsorship of the Hunter Jaegers junior team, the NIB Hunter Jays, which competes in the NSW State League competition. It is the second year NIB has taken up the major sponsorship.

NIB's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mark Fitzgibbon, said the sponsorship of both the Hunter Jays and NIB Cup reinforces NIB's support of programs that promote an active lifestyle for young people.

"NIB is a great advocate of better health in the general community, and through our support of teams and sporting events such as this we hope to provide people with the chance to be active and stay fit and healthy," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"As an organisation, NIB has a long history of involvement with all levels of local sporting organisations such as the Newcastle Knights, the Hunter Academy of Sport and the Newcastle Netball Association.

Janelle Entwistle from the Hunter Jaegers said the response to the NIB Cup from the participating Association has been outstanding.

"The NIB Cup gives the teams important match practice leading up to the NSW State Age Championships to be held in Newcastle on 16-18 June," Ms Entwistle said.

"Equally important though, is the opportunity to play at Newcastle Entertainment Centre on a Jaegers match night.

"Having a national netball league team based in the Hunter has given our young netballers something to aim for and the Jaegers players have become role-models and heroes to a lot of our young players.

"To share the court with the Jaegers will be an enormous thrill for these young netballers.

"A big thank you and congratulations must go to NIB for providing this unique opportunity" Ms Entwistle said.

The winners of the NIB Cup will receive a trophy and prize pack from NIB, plus a coaching clinic conducted by members of the Hunter Jaegers.

NIB Health Funds Limited
A.B.N. 83 000 124 381

Head Office
384 Hunter Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: 13 14 63
Fax: 02 4921 2444
Web: nib.com.au

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