

MEDIA STATEMENT

28 March 2008

Kelly Fong retires from competition

NTIS Elite Scholarship holder Kelly Fong did not qualify for Beijing Olympics after winning a bronze medal during the recent Oceania Judo Championships in Christchurch.

Ms Fong said she knew she needed to win the competition in order to qualify for Beijing, but, could not pull it off on the day.

"I trained really hard for this and sacrificed so much judo but, at the end of the day, I am a much stronger person for it," she said.

Kelly lost her concentration during the final costing her the chance to qualify for the Senior Women's Under 52kg weight category. Only one person in the Oceania region can qualify for the Olympics in each weight category. Kelly has decided to retire from competition.

Competition highlights of Kelly's 13 year international judo career have been representing Australia at the Senior World Championships, World Team Championships, Junior World Championships as well as a number of Asian tours, Pac Rim Games, Commonwealth Championships and US Open Championships.

Kelly said she would like to thank the NTIS, Marrara Judo Club, her parents, coaches Sue Gardiner and Brad Fong. But, more importantly her mentor, Mr John Bradley, for helping her achieve such a long and successful competition career.

Kelly is now looking to focus on coaching at her club, Marrara Judo Club and has been accepted at the University of Bath, England to study a Foundation Degree in Sports Performance (judo) in 2009.

Ends

Media note: Kelly Fong politely declines to be interviewed on this matter but comments can be obtained through her coaches Bradley Fong on 0419 829 822 or Sue Gardiner on 0419 838224.