



## NEWS RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP  
Federal Member for Cunningham

### **Congratulations to local Paralympic athletes**

Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children Services, Bill Shorten, have congratulated local athletes, Tristan Knowles and Brendan Dowler, for a successful 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

“The Australian Paralympic Team achieved a massive medals haul, including 23 gold medals.

“Local athletes, Tristan Knowles and Brendan Dowler are gold medal winners in the mens basketball”, Ms Bird said.

The Australian Paralympic Team finished fifth in the gold medal count, which was an amazing achievement given the tough competition from China, USA and UK.

The Commonwealth provided more than \$26 million in support of the Australian Paralympic Team and will continue to support the Team in the lead up to London 2012.

“Wollongong should feel proud of the tremendous achievements of both Mr Knowles and Mr Dowler at the 2008 Beijing Games”, Ms Bird said.

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25 September 2008