

**Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Martin Pakula–
2019 National Senior and Youth Table Tennis Championships**



On behalf of the Andrews Labor Government welcome to the sporting and major events capital of Australia and proud host of the 2019 National Senior and Youth Table Tennis Championships.

Victoria lives and breathes sport, and no one puts on an event like we do.

The Latrobe Valley is home to some of the biggest regional events in Australia including the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Tennis International and the Big Bash League between the Melbourne Stars and the Adelaide Strikers.

Surrounded by rolling hills and historic towns, Churchill is in the heart of Victoria's Latrobe Valley and over the next week some of our best table tennis stars will compete for coveted Australian titles and a spot on the national squad.

With more than 160 athletes and coaches as well as 500 spectators expected to visit Churchill during the week and live-streaming of the event across the globe, it's a great chance to showcase the best of Victoria.

That's why the Labor Government is proud to be investing in this event through the \$17.7 million *Significant Sporting Events Program*.

When you're not at the championships, I encourage you to explore the many things our beautiful state and this stunning region have to offer.

I wish all competitors the very best of luck and hope everyone enjoys the 2019 National Senior and Youth Table Tennis Championships.

THE HON MARTIN PAKULA MP
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

On behalf of the Board and staff of Table Tennis Australia Ltd., I extend a very warm welcome to all players, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers and supporters to the 2019 National Senior & Youth Championships in Latrobe Churchill, Victoria.

I wish to extend special thanks to the Victorian Government for having confidence to provide backing for the event. Thank you also to the City of Latrobe for providing generous support to enable the event to be brought to the region. All event sponsors and partners are to be commended, namely Equipment Sponsors Nittaku and DHS, Major Sponsors Table Tennis World and Rich & Delicious Restaurants, Event Sponsors AGMC, Medals Australia and Laser Tag in a Box, Narangba Autos and Gerflor and Broadcast Partner My Sport Live. We could not put the event together without you and we appreciate your willingness to support the event and TTA.

I am pleased to see more than 100 athletes competing, demonstrating growth in attendance. Thank you also to our friends from Oceania, namely New Caledonia and Tahiti, for making the journey to compete at our event.

Thank you also to the Tournament Director, Scott Houston and the Tournament Controllers, Bev and Brian James, for undertaking all the administrative and operational work to put the event together. I'm sure all the hard work over the past year will ensure the event is a resounding success.

The National Senior & Youth Championships is the premier national table tennis event held in Australia each year. This year has added significance given results will have an influence on the road to qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

I wish all athletes the best of luck and I hope you achieve your goals. Whilst it is not possible for all players to win, provided you play your best and conduct yourself in a sporting manner, then that is all that matters. I fervently hope that everyone enjoy these Championships.

Brett Sonnet

President – Table Tennis Australia Ltd.