

## Athletics NZ Statement – 2019 Junior Para Athlete Opportunities

In 2019, Athletics New Zealand (“Athletics NZ”) will provide its Junior Para athletes with opportunities to attend two international competitions, by the way of Junior Para Athlete Development Tours (“JPAD Tours”). The JPAD Tours will be in place of the 2019 World Para Athletics Junior Championships, which after extensive discussion and consideration, Athletics NZ has decided not to select and send a team to.

Athletics NZ sent a team to the 2017 World Para Athletics Junior Championships. However, it has been decided that the large cost, extent of travel required, and the level of competition doesn’t weigh up with the benefits athletes receive from the opportunity. Athletics NZ has concluded that it can provide a better international opportunity through the JPAD Tours for this group of athletes at a fraction of the cost and travel.

The replacement opportunity, the JPAD Tours, will provide a fantastic chance for these athletes to be exposed to two high-calibre international competitions, without the huge cost or travel requirements of the World Championships in Europe.

The JPAD Tours will include the following two Competitions:

1. 2019 Australian Junior Athletics Championships, 30 March – 7 April, Sydney, Australia
2. 2019 Arafura Games, 27 – 29 April, Darwin, NT, Australia

Some key points about the JPAD Tours:

- The expectation is that athletes will attend both, to get the full benefit of the JPAD Tours. However, Athletics NZ will consider any athletes that can only attend one, should there be a valid reason for this.
- There will be a 10-day (est.) gap between the two tours (i.e. athletes will fly back to NZ between Championships).
- The tours will be structured in a way to mimic an Athletics NZ team. This includes a full management team, physio support (if numbers allow), admin/logistics support (accommodation, food, transport) and chaperoning to competitions and classification. Athletes will be responsible for booking their own flights, however they will be guided on what flights to book based on the transport provided. i.e. please do not book any flights yet if you are interested in going on this tour.

Expressions of Interest have opened for the Australian Junior Championships tour, the information of which can be found [here](#).

Expressions of Interest for Arafura Games tour will open in mid-January, when there is further information available regarding the logistics of the trip.

If there are any questions in relation to the Development Tour, please contact [jess@athletics.org.nz](mailto:jess@athletics.org.nz).

If there are any questions in relation to the World Para Athletics Junior Championships withdrawal, please contact [teams@athletics.org.nz](mailto:teams@athletics.org.nz).