



2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010

## **NSW IB TEAMS PRODUCE STRONG RESULTS AT THE IVOR BURGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

NSW teams represented NSW very strongly at the Ivor Burge National Championships (Men and Women with an intellectual disability), held last week at Gawler, South Australia.

NSW sent three IB teams to the Championships- Country Men, Country Women and Metro Women.

The NSW Metro Women played outstanding basketball throughout the Tournament, finishing second after each team had played each other twice.

Having been defeated by Victoria Metro during the early rounds, the women were always going to be up against it in the Gold Medal match, particularly playing against a side containing players who compete in a Victorian Metropolitan League week in and week out.

Despite a committed and strong showing in the Gold Medal game, the Metro Women were forced to settle with Silver, as they were over-powered by Victoria Metro.

The Metro Girls can be pleased with their individual performances as well, with Nicole Harris forcing her way in to the Pearls (Australian team for intellectual disabilities and ranked number one in the world) training squad alongside existing members Kim Perry (Captain), Karina Baines, Eliza Barden and Bernie Barden.

The NSW Country Women's team easily showed that they were the third best team at the Championships, competing strongly against NSW Metro and Victoria Metro, and then comfortably accounting for South Australia in the Bronze Medal Play-off.

NSW Country Men were in many ways the hard luck story of the Championships.



Coming in to their second last game during the round robin part of the Tournament, a victory to NSW Country over the ACT would have catapulted them in to the Gold Medal Play-Off.

Unfortunately, they instead lost by a couple of points, and due to the intensely competitive and even nature of the teams involved, they were forced in to a 5<sup>th</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup> Play-Off game, which they were successful in winning.

Overall, it was an excellent effort by all three teams, and they can be very proud of their achievements.

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