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## SWIMMING VICTORIA PARTNER WITH SESF TO FUND 15 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund has today announced a three-year partnership with Swimming Victoria, funding 15 scholarships for swimmers from the state.

These \$1,000 scholarships will be provided to Victorian swimmers from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The scholarship aims to cover part of the costs associated with competing at a national level, removing financial barriers and ensuring young talent can reach their potential.

Swimming Victoria have long partnered with the SESF, and the extension of their partnership renews this financial commitment. The SESF was founded to help alleviate part of the financial burden placed on emerging athletes and their families through scholarships, with the foundation aiming for 100 scholarship recipients to participate in the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics.

In addition to the scholarship, recipients also have the opportunity to be mentored by SESF ambassadors such as Olympians Mack Horton, Brooke Stratton and Bec Henderson, to provide guidance and valuable advice as athletes embark on their professional pathway.

This partnership solidifies the SESF's commitment to supporting emerging swimmers from all corners of Victoria, with swimming a sport known for regular travel to events and ensures talent can access much needed funds for the next three years.

After a successful launch as a national charity in 2022 and an exceptional influx of applications to match, the foundation is continually looking for future partners who can contribute to the increasing reach of the foundation in 2023.

**Jason Hellwig, CEO Swimming Victoria said,** "Everyone at Swimming Victoria is thrilled to continue our support of the SESF and emerging Victorian swimmers".

"We look forward to continuing our work with the SESF to support Victorian swimmers from disadvantaged backgrounds and help provide them with opportunities they might not have been able to achieve without these scholarships."

**Andrew Horton, SESF Board Chair said,** "We are pleased to be able to continue our partnership with Swimming Victoria. As a member of a swimming family, I fully understand the time and financial commitment required to compete at the highest level."

"One in ten young athletes selected to represent their state or country face financial constraints which may prevent them from competing. There is an ongoing need to support Victorian swimmers to reach their sporting dreams, and this partnership will assist breaking those barriers."

For further enquires please contact:

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