



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Olympic Games Boxer Paul Fleming thanks Girlfriend for her Support**

*Partner of Olympic Athlete Receives Grant to Go to the Games*

Johnson & Johnson Pacific today awarded another grant from their Athlete Family Support Program to the girlfriend of Beijing 2008 Australian Olympic Team boxer, Paul Fleming, enabling her to travel to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad to watch him in competition.

Paul, from Alexandra Headland, QLD, nominated his girlfriend, Sarah, for the Johnson & Johnson Athlete Family Support Program to thank her for the belief and support she has given him while working towards his Olympic dream.

"At 16, I made the decision to move away from my family and my disabled sister to train with a Boxing coach on the Sunshine Coast," said Paul. "It was here that I met Sarah and after just two months of being with her, I moved in with her and her family. Not only did Sarah and her family help me financially, they motivated me through the times when I was ready to give up Boxing. After I lost my Australian Boxing titles at the end of 2007, Sarah continued to believe in me and push me towards making the Australian Olympic team."

"Making it to the Olympic Games is the ultimate dream for me and to have Sarah in Beijing with me completes this amazing experience. Sarah is my strength and inspiration. With her in the crowd cheering me on, I believe I can win the gold medal!"

The Johnson & Johnson Athlete Family Support Program is a \$200,000 pledge to help the families of Australian athletes get to the Olympic Games. Johnson & Johnson Pacific is providing grants to assist athletes' families and support members to Beijing across all sports that will have Australian Olympic Team representation. In addition to the grants, discretionary funds are also being allocated to Australian Olympic athletes.

The awards are judged by a panel comprising: Commonwealth Games Medalist, Johanna Griggs; Johnson & Johnson Pacific Franchise Director, Rowena Millward; Olympic Decathlete, Peter Hadfield; and Australian Olympic Committee Executive Board representative, Helen Brownlee.

"Competing at the Games is a lifelong dream and with that dream comes immense pressure - having key support at the Games will hugely benefit the emotional and physical performance of our champions," said Johanna Griggs.

So far there have been over 200 applications for the Johnson & Johnson Athlete Family Support Program. Athletes are invited to apply for the Johnson & Johnson Athlete Support Program through their particular sporting federation or by visiting [www.jnjaustr.com.au/gettothegames](http://www.jnjaustr.com.au/gettothegames). Applications are judged on an individual needs basis, following confirmation of Australian Olympic team selection.





Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies is a Proud Partner of the Australian Olympic Team and a Worldwide Partner of the International Olympic Committee, and the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. For more information on the program and to track the progress of our athletes and their families in their quest to get to the games, visit [www.jnjaust.com.au/gettothegames](http://www.jnjaust.com.au/gettothegames)

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