

## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### **KIDS MARATHON GETS SUPPORT FROM WORLD CHAMPION**

Former world triathlon champion and 2002 Commonwealth Games marathon bronze medallist Jackie Gallagher has thrown her support behind the inaugural Kids Marathon, to be held in conjunction with the annual New Balance Canberra Marathon on Sunday 18 April.

The Kids Marathon is a new concept where young people will run the first 40km of the marathon distance in small increments over as many as ten weeks leading up to the Canberra Marathon, then on race day they will complete the final 2.195km of the marathon journey along the real marathon route.

Gallagher, who is in her final weeks of preparation for her own marathon, said, "the Kids Marathon is a great concept which provides incentive and motivation to school age children to start a fitness program, encouraging activity and also achievement of a goal. Just by running small amounts, regularly each week, over a number of weeks, the kids will be rewarded on marathon day with the personal satisfaction that they have completed their 42.2km 'marathon'."

The major beneficiary of the new event will be the Children's Cancer Institute Australia which has been appointed as the official race charity.

"Participants in the marathon, associated fun runs and Kids Marathon will have an opportunity to raise money for this very worthwhile cause," said race director Fran Seton.

Last year participants in the New Balance Canberra Marathon and associated events raised over \$32000 for the Canberra Bushfire Recovery Appeal.

Gallagher is running the Nagoya Women's International Marathon in Japan on 14 March, where her focus is breaking 2 hours 32 minutes which is the qualifying time for the Athens Olympic Games.

On 18 April her marathon role will be far more relaxed when she will mentor the children who have entered the Kids Marathon. All school age children are eligible to participate in the program and are encouraged to start their training program in the next two weeks. Training hints and all relevant details, including entry forms, are on the website [www.canberramarathon.com.au](http://www.canberramarathon.com.au).

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