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## **Australia Sends First Wheelchair Mixed Curling Team to World Championships**

Released 25 July 2024 - Curling Australia is proud to announce that Australia will be sending its first Wheelchair Mixed Curling team to compete at the 2024 World Wheelchair B Curling Championships in Lohja, Finland, this November.

This historic milestone is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes, as well as the crucial support we have received from various stakeholders. A key factor in achieving this milestone was the support from Paralympics Australia towards establishing a classifier in Australia. Australia now has a Level 1 International Wheelchair Curling Classifier, thanks to Perth-based physiotherapist Claire Tucak, who completed World Curling's 2023 Wheelchair Classifier course in Richmond, British Columbia. Claire's qualification, which adds to her expertise as an international classifier in athletics and wheelchair rugby, has been instrumental in the advancement of Wheelchair Curling.

Paralympics Australia's support in this initiative, including facilitating Claire's participation in the classifier course and providing expert guidance, has been invaluable. Without their assistance, we would not be celebrating this momentous occasion.

Each member of the Wheelchair Mixed Curling team will be accompanied by a support person, ensuring that our athletes have the necessary assistance and encouragement throughout the competition. Notably, all costs associated with the team's participation, including travel and accommodation, are being borne by the team itself. This underscores the dedication and commitment of our athletes and their support networks.

This is a significant first step on a pathway forward for Wheelchair Curling in Australia and a proud moment for all involved. Stay tuned for updates and join us in cheering on our team as they embark on this exciting journey at the World Wheelchair B Curling Championships!

## **About Curling Australia:**

Curling Australia is the governing body that leads, develops, and promotes the sport of Curling in Australia. We aid and support the individual State Associations and their grassroots endeavours to advance Curling whilst providing a pathway for curlers to compete at National and International events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

For more information, please reach out to the Company Secretary at: secretary@curling.org.au