



# ***Media Release***

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## **ANZ Championship – a new era in netball**

The Trans Tasman Netball League today announced ANZ will be naming rights sponsor of the new semi - professional competition which brings together teams from Australia and New Zealand.

Commencing in April 2008, the new competition will see five Australian teams and five New Zealand teams play 69 games over 17 weeks to compete for the inaugural ANZ Championship title. The ANZ Championship will replace Australia's Commonwealth Bank Trophy and New Zealand's National Bank Cup, and is the first time teams from both countries have competed in a semi-professional netball league.

In officially launching the ANZ Championship and its new logo today, ANZ Group Managing Director Personal Division, Mr Brian Hartzler said: "ANZ is pleased to be supporting Australia's leading sport for womens' participation and we look forward to the continued growth of Netball in Australia and New Zealand.

"Sponsoring the ANZ Championship is a great fit for ANZ as we have strong ties to both countries. All our people across our branches and offices will be playing their part to promote the ANZ Championship throughout each season," Mr Hartzler said.

ANZ Championship Chairman Ms Noeleen Dix said: "We are delighted to have ANZ on board as the principal sponsor of the new League. ANZ has a long history of supporting Australian and New Zealand sport and will play a crucial role in creating the platform for our players to compete against the netball elite in a world class competition.

"Corporate support is the lifeblood of professional sport and with ANZ as our major sponsor this competition is in a strong position to cement a prominent place in the Australian and New Zealand sporting calendars," Ms Dix said.

Ms Dix said merging the two national leagues had enabled the creation of a competition that would include the best athletes from Australia and New Zealand, great venues across both countries, inter-country rivalry and passion, and all the ingredients of a world class competition.

For more information on the ANZ Championship visit: [www.anz-championship.com](http://www.anz-championship.com)

For media enquiries contact:

Katherine Rellos  
Media Relations, ANZ  
Tel: 03 9273 5257  
Mobile: 0403 269 362  
[katherine.rellos@anz.com](mailto:katherine.rellos@anz.com)

Georgie Cox  
Managing Director, CMS  
Tel: 03 9686 1186  
Mobile: 0419 334492  
[georgie@coxmarketing.com.au](mailto:georgie@coxmarketing.com.au)

Tracy Parish  
Public Affairs Manager, Netball  
Australia  
Tel: 03 8621 8600  
Mobile: 0403 755082  
[tracy.parish@netball.asn.au](mailto:tracy.parish@netball.asn.au)

