



**Amanda Rishworth MP**  
Member for Kingston  
**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Congratulations to our local Paralympic Heroes**

Federal Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth, and Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children Services today congratulated local athlete who has just returned from a successful 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

"We would like to welcome home and congratulate all of our local elite Paralympians who have done Australia proud in Beijing," Amanda Rishworth MP said.

"The Australian Paralympic Team had a massive medal haul – bringing home 79 medals, including 23 gold," Mr Shorten said.

"Congratulations to all our wonderfully talented athletes, especially our fantastic local medal winner Kieran Modra, who won a Gold in the individual pursuit and a bronze in the 1km Time Trail."

"Mr Modra was part of our largest Team to ever compete abroad," Ms Rishworth MP said.

"Australia can be proud of our Teams' achievements, their sportsmanship and sheer drive to compete." Ms Rishworth MP said.

"The Australian Team finished fifth in the gold medal count - an amazing result given the tough competition against China, the USA and the UK."

Mr Shorten, who attend the last week of the Paralympic Games, also commended the dedicated families and friends and 600 strong supporters who made the journey.

"I feel privileged to have seen our Australian athletes compete and it was an absolute honour to meet and cheer with the athletes' families and friends," Mr Shorten said.

"At every event Aussies were vocal in the crowd and the Australian flag hung proudly - making the atmosphere electric."

The Australian Government provided more than \$26 million in support of the Australian Paralympic Team and we look forward to supporting the Team in the lead up to London 2012.