

**Speech by Mrs Gina Rinehart
Patron of the Australian Dolphins Swim Team
Executive Chairman of the Hancock Prospecting Group
2018 Swimming Australia Gala Dinner
Saturday 27 October 2018, Melbourne**

Good evening,

Unfortunately I am not able to attend in person tonight due to the date change for this occasion, which conflicts with an earlier long-standing commitment I have in another state, and sadly I understand, nor can our President John Bertrand be here.

But it is my great pleasure as Patron of Swimming Australia and also sponsor of this wonderful dolphin night, to warmly welcome our brilliant swimmers, their families and coaches, volunteers and other supporters here.

For decades now, since I initially decided to support swimming in 1992 in West Australia, as our company then had little resources, I have believed and still do in the importance of good role models for young people. Young people have so many distractions and options, both good and bad, and I would like to thank all our swimmers, with the great help of their families and coaches, for being terrific and valuable role models.

As a Dolphin, you have a unique opportunity to engage and excite the imagination of our youth, indeed, our country. This is a wonderful opportunity in your life.

Unknown too many is that the percentage of Australians who make it to become Olympians is just 0.00000292 per cent, and the percentage of Australian Olympians who achieve medals is 0.00000042 per cent.

You are unarguably exceptional and very special Australians.

In years to come I hope you will look back on this period of your life with satisfaction in your performances, and for being positive influences as role models and ambassadors for Australia.

Very, very few people ever have this opportunity, albeit an opportunity you work incredibly hard for so please seize it responsibly and with enthusiasm and energy!

There might be times you face unfair criticism such as from those who may be jealous that through your own huge efforts you have become outstanding Australians, respected by many, many good Australians, but please try not to let such criticism deter you, our country badly needs people who work hard and are good leaders.

In the meantime I warmly congratulate all the recipients of awards tonight, including the Patron Award winners, the Hancock Prospecting Swimmers' Swimmer and the Hancock Prospecting Olympic Program Coach of the Year.

Although I am sad not to be able to be here in person tonight, I am certainly sending you my very best wishes. And for those swimmers who want to reach me, I'm only an email away!

Your President and I wish you all a very enjoyable night.

And, thank you, wonderful Dawn for reading this speech on my behalf.