



# NEW ZEALAND MAJOR EVENTS

## **MEDF investment in FIBA World Cup Qualifying Series**

On: 25 June 2018

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The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Cup will take place in China in 2019, and New Zealand are hosting six qualifying games in the lead up. Starting in 2017, New Zealand and Australia have been included in the Asia region for FIBA's international basketball tournaments. This means more games at home and a much larger international audience for the Tall Blacks, who finished fourth in last year's FIBA Asia Cup.

MBIE has invested in the qualifying series through the Major Events Development Fund. The investment supports Basketball New Zealand (BBNZ) to deliver six international basketball games in New Zealand up until February 2019, as they establish themselves in this new region. The next two games will see the Tall Blacks facing Hong Kong in Rotorua on 28 June 2018, and then taking on China in Auckland on 1 July. Additional games in the series will be confirmed as the tournament progresses through into Round Two commencing September 2018.

Before now, international basketball in New Zealand has been a rare occurrence. Yet, as this is the second biggest sport in the world and basketball participation in New Zealand is seeing record highs, this is a great time to catch the opportunity with both hands! This is the first time New Zealand has hosted this many international games in a short time frame, and BBNZ is looking forward to making international basketball on home soil a more regular occurrence in the future.

[You can read more about the Tall Blacks and the FIBA World Cup Qualifiers here.](#)