



## Media Release

For release: 29 June 2012

### **New Zealand flag presented to young Olympic envoy**

*13-year old ANZ prize-winner to carry team flag to the London Games*

Tayla Young, 13, will this morning be presented the New Zealand team flag to carry to the Olympic Games in London.

Kereyn Smith, Secretary General of the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC), will officially handover the flag to Tayla at a special ceremony outside the Olympic Museum on Queens Wharf in Wellington.

Tayla, who won the ANZ Flag Envoy competition, will carry the New Zealand team flag to London and present it to the New Zealand team flag bearer at a dinner hosted by Governor-General of New Zealand, Lieutenant General The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, on 26 July.

Tayla's prize was announced at her school assembly at Rangitoto College yesterday morning.

"One minute I was sitting there listening to Hamish Carter talk about winning an Olympic Gold and the next minute I was up on the stage with him," says the aspiring actress, model and sports-mad teenager.

"I'm going to take my Mum and my Nana and Poppa. None of us have been to further than Australia. It's so exciting," she said.

Tayla's name was drawn from more than 16,000 entries around New Zealand. Customers from any of ANZ's businesses in New Zealand, including The National Bank, UDC, Direct Broking, OnePath, EFTPOS and Bonus Bonds, could nominate a child aged between eight and 16 years of age.



ANZ is the official insurance partner of the New Zealand team for the London Olympics, and is sponsoring the NZOC for the next three-years. It is also individually sponsoring rowers Hamish Bond, Eric Murray and Emma Twigg, cyclist Natasha Hanson and Olympic gold medal winners Sarah Ulmer and Hamish Carter.

"We're so proud to be supporting the NZOC and all of the amazing athletes competing for New Zealand," says Kerri Thompson, Managing Director of Retail for ANZ.

ANZ New Zealand is the country's largest financial institution and one of the nation's largest companies. Its brands include ANZ Bank, National Bank, UDC Finance, OnePath, EFTPOS Bonus Bonds, and Direct Broking. Around one in two New Zealanders has a financial relationship with ANZ New Zealand.

Also making an appearance at this morning's ceremony will be ANZ's Olympic bus – the bright blue double-decker bus which is visiting towns throughout the country, complete with past athletes and Olympians, sports equipment and technology to send messages to the NZ Olympic team.

"The Olympics isn't just about the athletes," says Mrs Thompson.

"It's about the whole country getting in behind them, cheering them on together. And we're happy to be doing our bit to support this."

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**For media inquiries contact: Jane Gilkison, Corporate Affairs, ANZ New Zealand, ph 09 252 4400 or 021 440 898**

#### **NOTES**

Ceremony details:

11 – 11:30am

Friday 29 June

Outside Olympic Museum on Queens Wharf, Wellington

Media contact on the day: Anna Calver, Sputnik, 021 022 15900