

Mondial Assistance serves it up for Tennis Australia

Mondial Assistance secures naming rights to Gold Coast's Women's Hardcourts

(Brisbane) Tuesday 16 August 2005 – One of Australia's premier women's tennis events is set for a new title, with Mondial Assistance signing on as naming rights sponsor of the Australian Women's Hardcourts for the next three years.

Soon to be ranked world number one in women's tennis and already 2004 Wimbledon titleholder, **Maria Sharapova** has signed on the 2006 **Mondial Assistance Australian Women's Hardcourts**, to be held in January at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast. Maria is the latest in a line of women's tennis greats to play the championship, including former world number one's Justine Henin-Hardenne and Venus Williams, Grand Slam legend Martina Navratilova and Anna Kournikova.

Mondial Assistance's announcement coincides with the Queensland Government's renewed commitment to the championship, with Premier Peter Beattie today pledging a further three years' support through Queensland Events Corporation.

Mondial Assistance is part of the global Mondial Assistance network, the world's largest provider of travel insurance, medical assistance for travellers, health insurance for students and automotive assistance services.

"We are excited at the prospect of being so closely aligned to an event that attracts the likes of Maria Sharapova and is followed by thousands of Australians. The Queensland Government's renewed commitment to the Mondial Australian Women's Hardcourts is especially welcome news on the day we announce our sponsorship," said Mondial Assistance Managing Director, Peter Edwards.

"We are keen to boost our profile and demonstrate our commitment to the safety of travellers, drivers and the business community across the country. Needless to say, we're looking forward to the Mondial Australian Women's Hardcourts championship in January and watching some world-class tennis on the Gold Coast," Mr Edwards added.

For more information on Mondial Assistance, visit www.mondial-assistance.com.au.

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Mondial Assistance Assistance Group: an intervention every 3 seconds, anywhere in the world. Worldwide leader in assistance, travel insurance and customer services, today Mondial Assistance Assistance Group counts nearly 7,600 staff members speaking over 40 languages. They work throughout the world in

collaboration with a network of 400,000 service providers and 240 correspondents. 250 million people, or 4% of the world population, benefit from the Group's services, which it proposes on 5 continents in 28 countries. The Group mainly operates under its three international brands: ELVIA, Mondial Assistance Assistance and World Access.

Mondial Assistance Assistance Group is a member of the Allianz Group through AGF and RAS International, each holding a 50% capital stake.

[www.Mondial Assistance-assistance.com.au](http://www.Mondial-Assistance-assistance.com.au)
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