

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000119

OUTCOME: 15 – Sport and Recreation

Topic: Female Representation on Boards

Type of Question: Hansard Page 91, 26 February 2014

Senator: Lundy Kate

Question:

I have been able to work out that currently 16 of 63 sports meet that target of 40 per cent female representation on their boards. How many of your top tier sports will meet the target by 2015?

If you could provide the committee a detailed analysis of the board representation and also the work you are doing with those sports to encourage them to meet their targets as forecast.

Answer:

The Mandatory Sports Governance Principles focus on structures for sport; board composition and operation; and sport transparency, reporting and integrity. There are 20 Mandatory Principles that the seven highest funded National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) need to fulfil to ensure full future funding from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). One of the 20 Mandatory Principles, Principle 2.6, states that NSOs should seek to achieve a target of a minimum of 40 per cent female representation on their boards by 2015.

The ASC remains confident that all of the top seven funded NSOs will meet this target and will continue to support each sport's governance reforms.

A breakdown of the board representation of the seven highest funded NSOs follows:

NSO	Female Board Members	Total Board Members	% of Female Board Members
Athletics	2	7	29%
Basketball	1	6	17%
Cycling	3	10	30%
Hockey	6	11	55%
Rowing	3	9	33%
Sailing	3	8	38%
Swimming	2	9	22%

The ASC is working directly with each of these NSOs to assist them in achieving a 40 per cent female representation on boards. Some of the work undertaken includes:

- board performance reviews and evaluations.
- governance education forums for directors.
- referral of board ready women from the Women in Sport Leadership Register (WiSLR) to NSOs seeking to fill board vacancies.
- collaboration with state and territory departments of sport and recreation to support good governance standards and to identify women for inclusion in the WiSLR.

The ASC has also requested the NSOs provide further detailed information on board nomination and election processes; dates of board vacancies; Annual General Meetings; and strategic planning forums. This information will be used to form detailed plans for each sport to achieve the target.

The ASC is influencing sports outside the seven highest funded NSOs to improve their governance arrangements and align better with the ASC's Sports Governance Principles. Substantial advances are being achieved in sports such as diving, water polo, badminton, volleyball, golf, surfing, triathlon and netball.