

Community Affairs Committee
Examination of Budget Estimates 2008-2009
Additional Information Received
CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 2
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Outcomes 4 to 15

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 2008-2009

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the budget estimates hearings on 4 and 5 June 2008

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Outcome 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing	Vol. 2 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
	T5 tabled at hearing	Health and Hospitals Reform – Aged Care – National Elderly Commissioner – Ambassador for Ageing: Ambassador activities 12 April – 30 May 2008		24.06.08
	T6 tabled at hearing	Photo: Minister for Ageing, Hon Justine Elliot, MP; Ms Noeline Brown, Ambassador for Ageing; Mr Michael O'Neil, Chief Executive of National Seniors		24.06.08
	T7 tabled at hearing	Contract for services between DoHA and Wintergreen Pty Ltd for the provision of services in relation to the Ambassador for Ageing		24.06.08
Adams	67	National Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) review		04.09.08
Adams	136	Reviews of funding claims		04.09.08
Adams	146	Under-subscription of places		04.09.08
Adams	148	Campbell report		04.09.08
Humphries	99	Six-monthly Complaints Investigation Scheme Report		04.09.08
Adams	135	Review of the Conditional Adjustment Payment (CAP)		04.09.08
Adams	139, 140	Transition care places		04.09.08
Adams	66	Rapid response team		04.09.08
Boyce	69	Lapse of allocations		04.09.08
Adams	138	Transition care places		04.09.08
Adams	141	Community care		04.09.08
Adams	142	Community care subsidy		04.09.08
Adams	143	Community care		04.09.08
Adams	144	2008 aged care approvals round		04.09.08
Adams	145	Efficiency review of the aged care approvals round		04.09.08
Boyce	68	Evans Head		04.09.08
Boyce	70	Approvals for places		04.09.08
Adams	137	Conditional adjustment payment		04.09.08
		Letter from Departmental Secretary dd 3 Sep 08 restoring a statement made at the estimates hearing on 4 June 2008 re number of residents remaining in Alton Court		25.09.08

Outcome 5: Primary Care

	T8 tabled at hearing	GP Super Clinics National Program Guide 2008	24.06.08
Adams	15	GP super clinics	04.09.08

Outcome 6: Rural Health

Colbeck	111, 112	Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program	04.09.08
Adams	151	Country health services	04.09.08
Colbeck	113	Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP)	04.09.08

Outcome 7: Hearing Services

Humphries	47	New rehabilitation service	04.09.08
Humphries	48	Frequency modulation (FM) systems	04.09.08

Outcome 8: Indigenous Health

		Letter dated 17 June 08 correcting evidence given at hearing 5 June 08	24.06.08
Adams	153	Indigenous health	04.09.08
Adams	155	Indigenous health statistics	04.09.08
Adams	156, 157	Indigenous health	04.09.08
Siewert	29	Secure Aboriginal Medical Service information system	04.09.08
Siewert	30	OATSIH service collection analysis reporting	04.09.08
Siewert	31	Service activity reporting	04.09.08
Siewert	61	Alcohol	04.09.08
Siewert	62	Resources for drug and alcohol residential and treatment services	04.09.08
Siewert	63	Swimming pools	04.09.08
Siewert	64	Trachoma	04.09.08
Adams	65	Opal fuel	04.09.08
Adams	158	Indigenous mental health	04.09.08
Adams	159	Fetal alcohol syndrome	04.09.08
Adams	160	Indigenous health workforce	04.09.08
Adams	189	Intervention for dental health	04.09.08
Adams	190	Remote Area Health Corps	04.09.08
Adams	191	Intervention – nursing workforce	04.09.08
Siewert	197	program evaluation	04.09.08
Adams	198	Youth diversionary projects	04.09.08
Siewert	27	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation	04.09.08

Outcome 9: Private Health

Boyce	18	Medicare levy	04.09.08
Boyce	19	Takeover of MBF	04.09.08
Cormann	43	Press releases	04.09.08
Cormann	44	Single Equivalent Units (SEU)	04.09.08

Cormann	6	Medicare Levy surcharge	04.09.08
Cormann	8	Private health insurance rebate	04.09.08
Cormann	9, 72	Medicare Levy surcharge	04.09.08
Cormann	74	Lifetime Health cover changes	04.09.08
Cormann	75, 77	Medicare Levy surcharge	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	78	Private health insurance premiums	04.09.08
Humphries	81	Private health insurance target participation	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	193	Premium process	04.09.08
Cormann	7, 71	Medicare levy surcharge	04.09.08
Cormann	73	Private health insurance rebate	04.09.08
Lundy	79	Private health insurance rebate	04.09.08
Polley	194	Lifetime health cover loadings	04.09.08
Colbeck	199	Insulin pumps	04.09.08
Colbeck	122	Efficiency dividend	04.09.08
Colbeck	123	Chief Executive officer selection	04.09.08
Colbeck	125	Financial operations of health insurers	04.09.08
Cormann	5	Medicare Levy surcharge	04.09.08
Colbeck	124	Medicare Levy surcharge	04.09.08
Cormann	76, 80	Medicare Levy surcharge	04.09.08

Outcome 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Adams	170	National Bowel Cancer Screening Program	04.09.08
Moore	1	Official Development Assistance	04.09.08
Humphries	33, 34	International health	04.09.08
Humphries	188	Asthma friendly schools program	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	22	Chronic disease – treatment programs for arthritis	04.09.08
Colbeck	120	Palliative care – care planning projects	04.09.08
Colbeck	121	Palliative care	04.09.08

Outcome 11: Mental Health

Outcome 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Tabled by Senator Adams	T9 tabled at hearing	Letter from Dr David Tadj to Mr John Fielding, A/g Director, WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt, Northam WA dated 27 May 2008	24.06.08
Tabled by Senator Adams	T10 tabled at hearing	West Australian newspaper article, 5 June 2008, titled Wheatbelt town hit by Nyoongar suicides	24.06.08
Adams	49	Workforce shortages	04.09.08
Colbeck	50	Bringing nurses back into the workforce	04.09.08
Adams	100	Rural and remote health workforce	04.09.08
Colbeck	104	Chief Nursing and Midwifery officer (CNMO)	04.09.08
Adams	149	Allied health service	04.09.08
Adams	150	Rural clinical schools	04.09.08
Siewert	28	Doctors in Aboriginal communities	04.09.08

Outcome 13: Acute Care

Colbeck	115	National Blood Authority budget	04.09.08
Colbeck	116	National Blood Authority	04.09.08
Colbeck	117	Request for tender	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	25	Organ donation rates	04.09.08
Colbeck	97, 98	Teen dental plan	04.09.08
Colbeck	83, 84, 101, 119	Mersey Hospital	04.09.08
Colbeck	82	Elective surgery	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	23	Organ donation – Cognate Committee on Organ Donation	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	24	National Clinical Taskforce on Organ Donation Report	04.09.08
Brown, Carol	26	In hospital programs	04.09.08
Colbeck	200	National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission – staffing	04.09.08
Colbeck	201	National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission – program of visits	04.09.08

Outcome 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Siewert	3	Antibiotic resistance	04.09.08
Bernardi	192	TB in Australia	04.09.08

Outcome 15:

Bernardi	58	Board of the Australian Sports Commission	04.09.08
Bernardi	85	Board members	04.09.08
Bernardi	185	Retiring members	04.09.08
Bernardi	86	Anti-doping tests	04.09.08
Bernardi	87	Staffing at the Australian sports Anti-Doping Authority	04.09.08
Bernardi	88	National illicit drugs in sports campaign	04.09.08
Bernardi	89	Drug education	04.09.08
Bernardi	90	Staffing resources	04.09.08
Bernardi	91	ADADA hotlines	04.09.08
Bernardi	51	Taekwondo	04.09.08
Bernardi	172	Sports grants	04.09.08
Bernardi	175	Election commitments	04.09.08
Kemp	176	Election commitments	04.09.08
Humphries	2	Sports grants	04.09.08
Lundy	52	Taekwondo Australia	04.09.08
Kemp	53	2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games	04.09.08
Kemp	54	International comparison of sport funding	04.09.08
Kemp	55	Major Australian Government sport funding initiatives	04.09.08
Kemp	56	Funding for sport	04.09.08
Humphries	59	Press clippings	04.09.08
Bernardi	60	Australian Sports Foundation	04.09.08
Bernardi	92	National Elite Sports Council	04.09.08
Bernardi	93	High performance network funding	04.09.08
Kemp	174	Election commitments	04.09.08
Lundy	178	Sport Taekwondo	04.09.08

Bernardi	95	Scholarships	04.09.08
Bernardi	94	Institutes of sport	04.09.08
Lundy	181	High performance sport	04.09.08
Bernardi	173	Election commitments	04.09.08

**T5
Health and Hospitals Reform – Aged Care – National Elderly
Commissioner - Ambassador for Ageing**

Ambassador Activities 12 April – 30 May 2008

Relevant date/s	Request from / media contacted	Details
12 Apr 08	Sun Herald	Newspaper interview
12 Apr 08	2GB News	Radio interview
12 Apr 08	2SM News	Radio interview
12 Apr 08	SBS Radio News	Radio interview
12 Apr 08	Gold 104.3 News Melb	Radio interview
12 Apr 08	2UE News	Radio interview
12 Apr 08	4BC News Bris	Radio interview
14 Apr 08	ABC Radio Brisbane	Radio interview
14 Apr 08	2UE Radio	Radio interview
14 Apr 08	ABC Illawarra	Radio interview
14 Apr 08	ABC Canberra – Triple 6	Radio interview on the Louise Mahar program
14 Apr 08	Southern Highland News	Newspaper interview

15 Apr 08	ABC Radio Newcastle	Phil Ashley-Brown Program
15 Apr 08	ABC North Coast - NSW	Radio interview – Brooke Daniel Program
15 Apr 08	Territory FM Darwin	Radio interview – Daryl Manzie Program
15 Apr 08	The Senior Newspaper	Newspaper interview
16 Apr 08	ABC Radio Perth	Ian Cameron Program
16 Apr 08	Fifty Plus News (Victorian based monthly newspaper)	Newspaper interview
17 Apr 08	3AW Radio Melb	Neil Mitchell Program
17 Apr 08	Australian Ageing Agenda (independent magazine for the aged care and retirement living sectors)	Magazine interview
18 Apr 08	Mike Swinson – freelance journalist	Magazine interview - interview for a story profiling Noeline's life and what her role will be as Ambassador
18 Apr 08	2NBC Radio	Bryan Bateman Program interview
19 Apr 08	2UE Radio Sydney	George and Paul Show
19 Apr 08	4BC Radio Brisbane	Walter Williams Program interview with Noeline
23 Apr 08	Kerri-Anne Kennerley TV Program	Pre-record show for Anzac Day

	Nine Network Studios	
28 Apr 08	ABC Radio Brisbane	Live with Madonna King –interview
28 Apr 08	Insite (aged care industry newspaper)	Newspaper interview
29 Apr 08	Highland FM (FM 107.1) radio interview	Frank Conroy Tuesday Magazine program – 'Residents in the Southern Highlands program'
8 May 08	The Inner Wheel Club of Grafton	Guest Speaker at the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. Community has a lot of aged people and they support this event.
13 May 08	Australian Red Cross	Speak to Aust Red Cross volunteers in Bowral.
14 May 08	National Community Care Conference – Dockside Function Centre Cockle Bay, Sydney	Speech at conference dinner
15 May 08	Royal Life Saving Society Australia - Australian Water Safety Conference Darling Harbour	Opening address at conference * Ambassador to talk about the healthy active ageing, grey medallion and Govt's injury prevention program involving seniors and local swimming pools / activities
15 May 08	Illawarra Retirement Trust (IRT)	Invitation to attend an IRT presentation night – to celebrate volunteers * speech
17 May 08	Killara Gardens Aged Care Nursing Facility	Attend Community Open Day * local schools attend
19 May 08	Churches of Christ Homes & Community Services Incorp - Rockingham WA	Launch of 'The Bethanie Group Inc' - Churches of Christ Homes - they provide residential and community care services for the aged in WA. Event will be held at a 160 bed aged care facility, with adult day centre and 160

		independent living units. Speech.
19 May 08	Rockingham Autumn Centre Facility for Senior Citizens	Visit the Centre and then go to the Council Building & give a speech about the role of Ambassador
20 May 08	Morning Tea with COTA	Meet and talk with seniors <u>Venue:</u> Good Earth Hotel 195 Adelaide Terrace East Perth
20 May 08	Visit Independent Living Centre of WA (Inc)	Visit facility and meet with staff <u>Venue:</u> Niche Suite A 11 Aberdare Road Nedlands
29 May 2008	COTA National Policy Forum National Press Club Canberra	Lunch presentation reflecting on ageing issues, active ageing and role of Ambassador.

T6 Photo: Minister for Ageing, Hon Justine Elliot, MP; Ms Noeline Brown, Ambassador for Ageing; Mr Michael O'Neil, Chief Executive of National Seniors



T7 Contract for services between DoHA and Wintergreen Pty Ltd for the provision of services in relation to the Ambassador for Ageing

[Note: the document was tabled in the Senate on 24.06.08 and has not been included in the electronic/printed volume]

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-067

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: NATIONAL AGED CARE ASSESSMENT TEAM (ACAT) REVIEW

Hansard Page: CA 107

Senator Adams asked:

Would the Committee be able to have a copy of the ACAT Review and its response (released by Minister Elliot in March)?

Answer:

The National ACAT Review 2007 by Communio Pty Ltd and the Response to the Recommendations is available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website: www.health.gov.au/acats

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-136

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: REVIEWS OF FUNDING CLAIMS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Labour announced in Budget that they want to increase the number of reviews of funding claims made by aged care providers, achieving net savings of \$18.1 million over two years, to ensure aged care providers are being correctly funded to meet the needs of their residents.
- b) Could Government please explain how they want to achieve these net savings?

Answer:

a and b)

Funding claims are made by approved providers based on their own assessments of resident care needs. Commonwealth Nursing Officers (CNOs) visit aged care homes to audit whether a claim is correct. If an aged care provider has incorrectly assessed a resident's care needs resulting in over claiming, then the claim will be adjusted and the over claimed funding recovered.

The Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) replaced the Resident Classification Scale on 20 March 2008. To ensure that no resident would receive less funding under the new funding instrument, 'grand parenting' arrangements were introduced that apply to existing residents. A resident will remain at their pre-ACFI rate of funding, if the ACFI rate that applies to them would be lower.

The number of reviews of funding claims will be increased for six months, commencing 1 July 2008.

The reviews will be targeted at those services assessed as having a higher risk of inaccurate appraisals and will target over-claiming of subsidies under 'grand parenting' arrangements.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-146

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: UNDER-SUBSCRIPTION OF PLACES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How and when will the consultation on strengthening residential care accreditation and monitoring systems occur?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing is planning to undertake consultations with key aged care stakeholders and peak bodies. Consultations have already commenced through the recently established Ageing Consultative Committee.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-148

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: CAMPBELL REPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

When will the Campbell Report into accreditation quality effectiveness be released and will you provide a copy to me when available or will it be made publicly available on the Department's website?

Answer:

The Campbell Reports arising from the evaluation of the impact of accreditation on the quality of care and quality of life in residential aged care were released on 3 June 2008. The Reports are publicly available on the website of the Department of Health and Ageing.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-099

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: SIX MONTHLY COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATION SCHEME REPORT

Hansard Page: CA128-131

Senator Humphries asked:

- a) When was it (the Report) put on the (Departmental) website?
- b) Who else other than the Department had the Report?
- c) There were 64 Notices of Required Action that were outstanding at the time of the leaking of the Report. Are any of those still outstanding?

Answer:

- a) *The Report on the Operation of the Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance, 1 July to 31 December 2007* was put on the Department of Health and Ageing website on 21 April 2008.
- b) The Report was provided to peak bodies and members of the public who requested it. Staff of Minister Elliott's Office also had the Report.
- c) One Notice of Required Action from those identified in the Report continues to be monitored as at 19 June 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-135

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: REVIEW OF THE CONDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT PAYMENT (CAP)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Why has the Department not yet released to the aged care industry the de-identified national comparative data from the 05-06 analysis?
- b) Was it not part of the Department/industry negotiations to provide de-identified national data to the industry to better inform aged care providers.
- c) Who will be the officers from Treasury/Finance and DoHA undertaking this review?
- d) What expertise will these officers have to equip themselves for this task?
- e) How will the review team evaluate system efficiencies?
- f) On what basis will the review team determine whether the existing CAP support for the industry should be maintained?

Answer:

- a) A summary of the 2005-06 financial data was sent to each provider that submitted their 2005-06 financial return and included comparative national data overall, and by locality and sector.
- b) It is a legislative requirement that to be eligible to receive the CAP providers must, inter alia, prepare general purpose financial reports and provide them to the Department if requested. The Department did undertake to provide a summary of the 2005-06 financial data to each provider that submitted their 2005-06 financial return and include comparative national data overall, and by locality and sector. This was done.
- c), d) and e) Officers with relevant expertise will be seconded to the Review as appropriate. The Review will also commission external analyses as required.
- f) The Review team will supply advice to Government on the basis of its analysis of the available data and submissions received.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-139

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: TRANSITION CARE PLACES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

In November 2007 the Howard Government agreed to fund these 2,000 transition care beds with \$117 million over four years:

- a) How does the Government explain the increase of the spending to \$293 million?
- b) This program is designed to help older patients in the hospital earlier. What fiscally effect will this scheme have on the hospitals' balances of accounts?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government is fully funding the recurrent cost to governments of \$293.2 million over four years for these additional transition care places. The former government proposal was for joint funding with states/territories.
- b) The Transition Care Program is designed to assist older people after they have completed their acute and sub acute hospital episodes. It is not designed to help older people in the hospital earlier.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-140

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: TRANSITION CARE PLACES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

In November 2007 it was also announced that another 4,200 patients would be offered at-home care with the creation of an extra 1000 aged-care places in the community. Capital funds of \$46 million were sought for smaller aged-care homes to build or upgrade facilities. What has happened to this plan?

Answer:

This was a commitment made by the former Federal Government in the lead up to the 2007 Federal election.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-066

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

Hansard Page: CA 106-107

Senator Adams asked:

- a) At today's date, how many older Australians has the mobile rapid response team assisted?
- b) Do you know how many assessments are outstanding that trial area?
- c) When does the Government expect to clear the backlog, if there are outstanding

Answer:

- a) At this date, data on how many older Australians have been assisted is not available.
- b) There is no data available on how many assessments are outstanding in that trial area as at 4 June 2008.
- c) NSW Health has indicated that final reports detailing the outcomes of the Mobile Assessment Support Team project, including pre and post wait time measures, are due in September 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-069

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: LAPSE OF ALLOCATIONS

Hansard Page: CA 119

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Can you give me a sense of the scale - of the number of times you would have allowed allocations to lapse? I am not looking for an actual figure, but a percentage.
- b) If possible, if you are able to do it without much effort, could I have a state breakdown of those figures?

Answer:

- a) Over the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, 1.9 per cent of the total mainstream residential provisional allocations lapsed or were surrendered.
- b) A state breakdown of lapsed and surrendered mainstream residential provisional allocations is summarised below.

	Number of Places
NSW/ACT	246
VIC	70
QLD	76
TAS	57
TOTAL	449

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-138

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: TRANSITION CARE PLACES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Minister Elliot announced to reform the aged sector to meet changing Australian demographics which is expected to double to 4 million people over 70 in the next 20 years. Government has confirmed it will provide an additional \$293 million in the next four years for 2,000 transition care places to elderly people on longer requiring hospitalisation.

- a) How many of these places will be available in Western Australia and where will they be located?
- b) How many transition places are already available today in Western Australia and where are they located?

Answer:

- a) From the first tranche of new places, Western Australia has been allocated 18 additional transition care places to become operational in 2008-09. These additional places are located in the Northern metropolitan suburb of Kingsley. The number, based on population, and location of future transition care places for Western Australia will be subject to further planning processes.
- b) Currently, there are 160 transition care places in Western Australia which are operated by the Western Australian Department of Health. 110 are provided in the Midwest Murchison Health Region with a focus on the Geraldton area, in the Lower Great Southern Health Region with a focus on Bunbury/Busselton, and in the South West Health Region with a focus on Albany. 20 are provided by Aegis-Transitional Care Service in Yokine and 30 are provided at Carinya on Bristol in Bicton.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-141

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: COMMUNITY CARE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How and when will the report on the Review of Subsidies and Services in Community Care be made available - can you provide a copy to me when available or will it be made publicly available on the Department's website?

Answer:

The review was established by the previous government to gather evidence on issues with the current system.

The Minister is considering the work of the Department on this review to date, thinking about the future direction of the review and talking to sector representatives about it.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-142

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: COMMUNITY CARE SUBSIDY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How and when will the restructure of the community care subsidy arrangements occur?

Answer:

Funding arrangements for community aged care packages was a key consideration for the Review of Subsidies and Services in Australian Government Funded Community Aged Care Programs, which was established by the previous government.

The Minister is considering the work of the Department on this review to date, thinking about the future direction of the review and talking to sector representatives about it.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-143

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: COMMUNITY CARE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How and when will the matter of addressing the improvement to equity and consumer choice in community care occur?

Answer:

A key consideration of the Review of Subsidies and Services in Australian Government Funded Community Aged Care Programs was how well current arrangements in community care could be improved to ensure equity, choice and value for money.

The Minister is considering the work of the Department on this review to date, thinking about the future direction of the review and talking to sector representatives about it.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-144

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: 2008 AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- c) When will the 2008 Aged Care Approvals Round be announced?
- d) How many residential, EACH, CACP places are being released for the 2008 Aged Care Approvals Round?

Answer:

- a) The 2008 Aged Care Approvals (ACAR) is not due to commence until the completion and announcement of the results of the 2008 Zero Real Interest Loans Round, which is expected in August 2008.
- b) Indicative numbers for the 2008 ACAR were published in the 2007 ACAR Essential Guide. The actual numbers for the 2008 ACAR will be determined by the Minister for Ageing during the planning phase of the 2008 ACAR.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-145

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: EFFICIENCY REVIEW OF THE AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How and when will the Aged Care Assessment Round improvement and efficiency consultation occur?

Answer:

Informal consultation on the review of the efficiency of the aged care place allocation process has already commenced. The Government's new Ageing Consultative Committee met for the first time on 26 June 2008 to consider approaches to implementation of the Government's election commitments, including this review. The Committee will meet again in August 2008 to consider, amongst other things, a discussion paper identifying key issues pertaining to the aged care place planning and allocation process and opportunities to address these issues.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2007-2008, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-068

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: EVANS HEAD

Hansard Page: CA 118

Senator Boyce asked:

They are remediating the site now? When did that start?

Answer:

The Department of Defence started work on a Remediation Action Plan in 2007.

The Department of Defence has advised us that a proposed Action Plan (along with an offer to contribute to funding) has been submitted to the Richmond Valley Council for its consideration.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-070

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: APPROVALS FOR PLACES

Hansard Page: CA 124

Senator Boyce asked:

Over the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, how many approvals have there been for community care, residential high and low care that have been returned to the Department, and from which aged care planning regions were these returned?

Answer:

Over the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to 31 December 2007), 1,480 provisional allocations were returned to the Department of Health and Ageing. These comprised lapsed and surrendered provisional allocations. A breakdown of the total returned provisional allocations is summarised in the table overleaf.

Provisional Allocations Returned to the Department of Health and Ageing

State	Aged Care Planning Regions	2005-06				2006-07				2007-08*			
		High	Low	Comm	Total	High	Low	Comm	Total	High	Low	Comm	Total
NSW	Central Coast	28	145		173				0				0
	Central West	6			6				0				0
	Far North Coast				0	20	57		77				0
	Hunter	13			13				0				0
	Illawarra				0		19		19		30		30
	Inner West			42	42				0				0
	Mid North Coast				0		7		7				0
	Nepean		55		55				0		60		60
	New England		22		22				0				0
	Northern Sydney				0				0		11		11
	Orana Far West				0	2	14		16				0
	Riverina/Murray				0		40		40				0
	South East Sydney				0		66		66				0
	Southern Highlands	10	10		20				0				0
NSW Total		57	232	42	331	22	203	0	225	0	101	0	101
VIC	Barwon-South Western		32		32		15		15				0
	Eastern Metro	10	24		34		6		6				0
	Gippsland				0				0	25	10		35
	Grampians	25			25				0				0
	Loddon-Mallee				0	30			30	30			30
	Northern Metro	55	10		65	19			19				0
	Southern Metro	50			50				0				0
	Western Metro		16		16				0				0
VIC Total		140	82	0	222	49	21	0	70	55	10	0	65
QLD	Brisbane North	11	79		90				0				0
	Cabool				0	36	30		66				0
	Fitzroy		1	3	4	0			0	3	12		15
	Logan River Valley		7		7				0				0
	North West				0	10			10				0
	Northern	5	5		10				0				0
	QLD Total		16	92	3	111	46	30	0	76	3	12	0
WA	Metropolitan East		20		20				0				0
	Metropolitan North		36		36				0				0
	Metropolitan South				0				0		6		6
	East				0				0				0
WA Total		0	56	0	56	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
TAS	Northern Tasmania				0	15	15		30	12			0
	Southern Tasmania				0	20	7		27	35			35
TAS Total		0	0	0	0	35	22	0	57	47	0	0	47
ACT	ACT				0	11	10		21		37		37
ACT Total		0	0	0	0	11	10	0	21	0	37	0	37
NT	Darwin	23	17		40				0				0
NT Total		23	17	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia Total		236	479	45	760	163	286	0	449	105	166	0	271

* Note: Up to 31 December 2007

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08 - 137

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: CONDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT PAYMENT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Judith Adams asked:

- g) Given that inflation has been running at 4.1% nationally, 4.4% in WA and with COPO adjustments at approx 2% together with CAP adjustment of 1.75%, what provisions are being made to cover the inflationary deficit of nearly 0.7% that aged care providers will have to find this year?
- h) Why has a CAP cost adjustment not been made available for community care services when they are subject to the same cost pressures as residential care?
- i) Will the CAP review address the need for a sustainable indexation method, which will accurately measure and fund the costs of care, for aged care services?
- j) What will the impact of the changes to superannuation and FBT be on low paid – predominantly part time and female – workers be?

Answer:

- c) The changes in accommodation and care subsidies and fees which occurred on 20 March 2008 will, together with the Government's other initiatives, increase the amount of Government subsidy per resident (at a given level of frailty) by more than eight per cent in 2008-09 over the level of payment in 2007-08.
- d) The Conditional Adjustment Payment (CAP) was introduced in response to a recommendation of the 2004 Hogan Review of Pricing Arrangements in Residential Aged Care. That review did not recommend its payment to Community Care providers.
- e) The terms of reference of the Review of the CAP were released on Budget night.
- f) This question would be more appropriately responded to by the Portfolio of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs.



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



SECRETARY

Mr Elton Humphery
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Mr Humphery

**Request for Restoration of Evidence Provided at the Senate Standing Committee on
Community Affairs Estimates (Budget Estimates) Hearing on 4 June 2008: Outcome 4**

I am writing to restore a statement made at the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 4 June 2008.

By way of background, at the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 4 June 2008, Senator Humphries asked the following question of Ms Allison Rosevear, Assistant Secretary, Residential Program Management Branch (CA 135):

“How many residents in total have to be relocated under that process?”

Ms Rosevear answered that there were 33 residents remaining in Alton Court. I was asked to later correct the record to 14 residents. This information was subsequently found to be erroneous because it referred only to those who remained who had paid an accommodation bond. The correct number of remaining residents was still in fact 33 at the time of the hearing.

Please accept my apologies for the error.

Yours sincerely

Jane Halton PSM
Secretary

3 September 2008

T8

GP Super Clinics National Program Guide 2008

<http://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pacd-gpsuperclincs-programguide>

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-015

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) When was the minute re this document signed off?
- b) When was the brochure signed of?
- c) When was the brochure printed?
- d) When was the brochure received by department?
- e) Why was the brochure not available prior to Health and Ageing Estimates?

Answer:

- a) The approval Minute for the printing of the brochure was signed on 14 May 2008.
- b) The text for the brochure was signed off on 12 May 2008.
- c) The brochure was printed by 16 May 2008.
- d) The brochure was received by the Department on 17 May 2008.
- e) Information covered in the brochure was available on the GP Super Clinics website (www.health.gov.au/gpsuperclinics) from 30 April 2008. The brochure was available from 19 May 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-111

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: MEDICAL SPECIALIST OUTREACH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

Which specialists are expected to be funded?

Answer:

All registered medical specialists in all disciplines, except cosmetic surgery for enhancement, can seek support through the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-112

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: MEDICAL SPECIALIST OUTREACH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

How is this programme broken down, State by State?

Answer:

In 2007-08, the annual budget for the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP) was approximately \$15.5 million. Funding was allocated as follows:

STATE/NT	FUNDHOLDER	2007-08 MSOAP Allocation
NSW	NSW Rural Doctors Network	\$2,348,204
	Greater Southern Area Health Service (NSW Health)	\$1,626,094
VIC	Rural Workforce Agency, Victoria	\$2,994,858
QLD	General Practice Queensland (previously QDGP)	\$1,716,991
	Queensland Health	\$1,643,141
TAS	Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services	\$870,828
SA	SA Rural Doctors Workforce Agency	\$1,389,451
WA	Rural Health West	\$1,711,645
NT	NT Department of Health and Community Services	\$1,146,778
TOTAL		\$15,447,990

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-151

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

In Western Australia, The Country Health Services (WACHS) allied health salaries are way above the rates the General Practice Networks can afford to pay their allied health staff. As a result they are losing staff and contractors to WACHS. How does Government intend to have competitive salaries given the fact that allocated granted funding for 2008-09 is the same as granted in 2007-08?

Answer:

The *More Allied Health Services* (MAHS) Program is administered by Divisions of General Practice and provides funding for clinical care by allied health workers in rural communities.

The types of allied health services delivered under the MAHS program are determined by individual Divisions of General Practice using results of a needs assessment for the region.

A range of engagement and service delivery models are available to Divisions. In developing a service delivery model, most suited to their local area, Divisions are encouraged to plan a cost-effective approach that results in maximum services on the ground.

Funding for 2008-09 includes a two per cent wage cost index increase to assist with increased costs.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-113

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: MEDICAL SPECIALIST OUTREACH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MSOAP)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) What proportion of funding from this programme will go to visiting specialists who provide support to local GPs and other specialists, and what proportion directly to specialists?
- b) Why is the funding not indexed, given that the cost of providing the service will increase over the three out-years?

Answer:

- a) Upskilling and professional support are not mandatory requirements of specialists providing MSOAP supported outreach services. Visiting specialists are, however, encouraged to provide educational and upskilling activities, of either a theoretical or clinical nature, to local medical practitioners and health professionals which are aimed at developing or enhancing specific skills, and sharing knowledge to enhance on-going patient care. Specialists can provide their contact information to GPs at the outreach location so that telephone/email support is available for patient care when the specialist has returned to their principal practice.
- b) Funding of \$57.5 million originally allocated to the MSOAP is indexed by WC1-3 over the next three years. The increased funding of \$9 million over three years was appropriated as a finite additional \$3 million per annum to the original increased base allocation.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-047

OUTCOME 7: Hearing Services

Topic: NEW REHABILITATION SERVICE

Hansard Page: CA 100

Senator Humphries asked:

How many people are likely to benefit from the new rehabilitation service?

Answer:

It is estimated that approximately 65,000 people may benefit in 2008-09 from the provision of the new rehabilitation item in the Hearing Services Program.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-048

OUTCOME 7: Hearing Services

Topic: FREQUENCY MODULATION (FM) SYSTEMS

Hansard Page: CA 100

Senator Humphries asked:

How many students are likely to benefit from FM systems?

Answer:

Approximately 1,500 children are expected to benefit from the FM systems over a period of two years (2007/08 and 2008/09).



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Mr Elton Humphery
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Mr Humphery

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at the Community Affairs Committee
Hearing, 5 June 2008: Outcome 8: Indigenous Health**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 5 June 2008.

Senator Siewert asked the following question:

"I understand that you have reprinted Dr Maggie Brady's *The Grog Book: Strengthening Indigenous Community Action on Alcohol*, a resource for communities to take action to deal with grog."

My response was as follows:

"That is correct."

It has been brought to my notice that my response was incorrect and should now be amended to read as follows:

"The Department has distributed copies of the publication, but has not reprinted additional copies."

Yours sincerely

Dr John Walker
A/g Assistant Secretary
Health Strategies Branch
17 June 2008

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-153

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Which sections of the DoHA are leading the work on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (NATSINSAP)?
- b) Does the DoHA support the proposal for a national nutrition unit to implement NATSINSAP?
- c) What support is being provided to remote Indigenous stores to enable them to price fruit and vegetables more affordably than 'junk food', and to make fresh water available as an attractive alternative to soft drinks?
- d) What steps are being taken to augment the workforce involved with Indigenous nutrition?

Answer:

- a) The Nutrition Section in the Population Health Division lead work on the NATSINSAP.
- b) Currently the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee (APHDPC) of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) oversees NATSINSAP. The APHDPC provided in-principle support to the request for funding the evaluation of the NATSINSAP 2000-2010 framework at their meeting on 1 February 2008. Final approval is being sought for funding proposals 2008/09 at the 22 July 2008 AHMAC meeting.

If funding is approved by AHMAC, this project will produce an independent evaluation report that will consider the current arrangements for the implementation of NATSINSAP. Mechanisms to implement NATSINSAP, such as a national nutrition unit, could be considered in the evaluation.

- c) The Remote Indigenous Stores and Takeaways (RIST) project (2005-08) aims to improve access to good quality, affordable, healthy foods, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Australian Government provided \$150,000 to this project, which also received financial support from health departments in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Overall commitment was \$780,000.

The RIST Project developed a common set of guidelines and resources that promote access to healthy foods and discourage the promotion of energy dense / nutrient poor food and drinks; and implemented and evaluated these guidelines and resources across a number of remote community store and takeaway trial sites.

Another important initiative that aims to make a difference in remote Indigenous communities is the Outback Stores Initiative. Outback Stores received \$48 million over four years as part of the 2005-06 Federal Budget. As well as improving the viability and efficiency of remote community stores and increasing employment, the initiative will support stores to provide a better range of goods and services, including healthy foods, at affordable prices.

The RIST Project and Outback Stores have been working collaboratively to improve the affordability and availability of nutritious food in remote Indigenous communities. The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and Indigenous Business Australia have been jointly funding Outback Stores to employ a nutritionist to work as part of the Outback Stores team. The Outback Stores nutritionist is ensuring that RIST principles, practices and guidelines are incorporated into Outback Stores' policies and practices when appropriate.

Similarly, Mai Wiru Regional Stores, on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands have a policy that aims to ensure continuous access to safe, nutritious and affordable food, as well as providing essential health items through community stores.

- d) Building the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Workforce' is a key action area in the NATSINSAP.

A key priority identified within NATSINSAP is increasing the numbers and developing the capacity of the nutrition workforce to support food and nutrition initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This includes both:

- increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the nutrition workforce, and
- increasing and supporting the non-Indigenous nutrition workforce contributing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

A major achievement for the implementation of NATSINSAP has been the inclusion of nutrition as a core unit in the finalised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care qualification (practice stream) in February 2007. This means every health worker undertaking the 'practice' stream around Australia will study nutrition as part of their training. Another achievement of NATSINSAP has been the increased Indigenous content in mainstream nutrition courses, and the development of specialist Indigenous nutrition courses at a number of universities.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-155

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS HEALTH STATISTICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Can Government provide Statistics on Diseases Prevalent in Indigenous Populations - heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease etc - as these are higher than in the general population?
- b) What programmes are there to tackle these diseases?
- c) How much money has been put into chronic disease prevention/management/treatment?

Answer:

a) **Heart disease (Ischaemic heart disease)**

In 2004–05, an estimated 12 per cent of Indigenous people reported suffering from heart disease and/or other circulatory conditions. Hypertensive disease (high blood pressure) was the most common type of heart or other circulatory condition reported by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in 2004–05 (15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively). After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous people were one-and-a-half times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have hypertensive disease.

During the period 2001-2005, Ischaemic heart disease was a major cause of death for Indigenous people aged 35-54. Ischaemic heart disease mortality rates for Indigenous males and females were 7 to 14 times non-Indigenous males and female mortality rates.

Chronic kidney disease

Chronic kidney disease includes diabetic nephropathy, hypertensive renal disease, glomerular disease, chronic renal failure and end-stage renal disease. In 2004–05, an estimated 1.8 per cent of Indigenous people reported suffering from chronic kidney disease. After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous people were ten times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have chronic kidney disease.

End-stage renal disease (ESRD) results when the kidneys cease functioning almost entirely. This is the last and most debilitating stage of chronic kidney disease. In 2005, the Indigenous ESRD incidence rate was seven times higher than other Australians.

Liver disease

During the period 2001-2005 diseases of the liver (i.e. alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis of the liver), were a major cause of death for Indigenous people aged 35-54. Indigenous male and female mortality rates are 9–14 times non-Indigenous male and female mortality rates.

Diabetes

The overall proportion of Indigenous Australians reporting diabetes as a long-term health condition in 2004–05 was 6 per cent. Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely to report having diabetes than those in non-remote areas (9 per cent and 5 per cent respectively). Prevalence of diabetes was highest among Indigenous people aged 55 years and over (32 per cent). After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous people were three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to report having diabetes in 2004–05.

Leading causes of death

During the period 2001 to 2005 leading causes of Indigenous mortality were circulatory diseases (27 per cent of all deaths), injury (16 per cent) and cancer (15 per cent) in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australian and the Northern Territory, where reliable data is available. Mortality rates were higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples than other Australians for all causes of death, ranging from around 50 per cent higher for cancer to seven times higher for endocrine, metabolic and nutritional disorders (which includes diabetes).

Sources:

AIHW and ABS, (2008) The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2008.

ABS, (2006) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2004-05.

- b) Refer to E08000156.
- c) Data is not available to answer this question, as much Australian Government funding has a direct or indirect impact on chronic disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and it is not possible to quantify the proportion of health funding spent on chronic disease of the overall spending on health. Nevertheless it is well established that access to comprehensive primary health care services is an essential element in combating chronic disease. 30 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people report going to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care service if they have a problem with their health (AHMAC 2006 Health Performance Framework Report 2006). Improved prevention, early detection and management of chronic disease are a key focus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services. In 2008-09, more than \$530 million has been allocated for Indigenous specific health care through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care program.

In addition, the *Healthy for Life* program has expended \$44,167,071 since 2005-06 to improve chronic disease management and child and maternal health through over 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services participating in the program in 53 sites.

The Australian Government is supporting a number of initiatives to improve chronic disease management for Australians (including Indigenous Australians). Some examples are noted in the answer to E08-156.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-156

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

What is the Government doing to address:

- a) renal disease (9 x as common in indig),
- b) heart disease (1.3 x more common in indig),
- c) hypertension (1.5 x as common in indig),
- d) recent reports high rates MRSA (methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus) – how will they manage outbreaks and control this infection?
- e) suppurating ear disease,
- f) sexually transmitted infections, syphilis,
- g) poor child nutrition,
- h) low rates pap tests and high rates cervical cancer,
- i) diabetes (3.5 x as common in indig),
- j) high rates of injury,
- k) accident and self harm,
- l) asthma (1.6x as common in indig),
- m) TB (10x as common in indigo),
- n) infections with vaccine-preventable diseases such as meningococcal, haemophilus influenzae type B and pneumococcal infections,
- o) blindness (1.5x as common in indigo),
- p) scabies,
- q) school sores

Answer:

d, e, f, j, k, m, n, o, p and q)

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to experience significant disparities in health status compared to other Australians.
- Whilst there have been some recent improvements, such as a reduction in infant mortality rates, there are still areas of ongoing concern that must be addressed in order to achieve equality in health status and to close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

- The Australian Government provides significant funds for chronic disease prevention, management and treatment through its primary care funding (e.g. MBS and PBS) and through funding to state and territory governments under the Australian Health Care Agreements.
- Access to comprehensive primary health care services is an essential element to improve health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- In 2008-09, more than \$530 million has been allocated for Indigenous specific health care through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care program. This funding provides high quality, coordinated primary health care, substance use, and social and emotional well-being services for Indigenous Australians.
- At present 245 direct service providers are funded, of which 197 or 80 per cent are Indigenous community controlled organisations.
- Improved prevention, early detection and management of illness and chronic disease are a key focus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care services. As noted in the answer to E08-155), because of the diverse nature of programs delivered by these services, it is not possible to separate out the funding used for specific initiatives.
- OATSIH also funds a number of programs that aim to improve the prevention and management of illness and chronic disease.
- Since 2005-06, the *Healthy for Life Program* has enhanced the capacity of over 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services to improve the quality of child and maternal health services and chronic disease care, and to improve the capacity of the Indigenous health workforce.
- Currently over 83 primary health care services are participating in the program through 53 sites; 79 per cent of primary health care services funded through *Healthy for Life* are located in regional and remote areas; and over 30 services are in areas with little or no Australian Government provided health service.
- The Australian Government has recently established several initiatives that seek to prevent chronic disease including:
 - a National Preventative Health Taskforce to develop a National Preventative Health Strategy by June 2009; and
 - a \$14.5 million Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative.
- The Australia Government provides funding to the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare to manage National Monitoring Centres for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic kidney disease to help monitor the factors contributing to these diseases. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are one of the population groups that are often targeted for monitoring and reporting.

a) **Renal Disease**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately affected by renal disease, with an incidence rate of end stage renal disease (ESRD) seven times higher than that other Australians¹.
- The Northern Territory (NT) has some of the highest rates of ESRD in Australia, with the majority of people receiving renal replacement therapies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from remote communities.

¹ 2005 figure

- In response, the Australian Government is contributing new funding of \$5.3 million over five years to improve access to renal dialysis services for remote communities in the NT. OATSIH is currently working with the NT Government to implement the initiative.
- The enhancement of renal services in the NT will complement a number of existing initiatives currently funded by OATSIH including:
 - a joint project with the NT Government to support renal patients to undertake self-care dialysis in their home communities;
 - funding for Renal Nurse Case Managers in four Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the NT; and
 - funding support through a Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA) between Australian Government agencies and Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (Western Desert Dialysis) to consolidate the dialysis services it provides in Kintore and Alice Springs.
- The Australian Government also has a focus on preventing or delaying the need for transplantation or dialysis by improving access to primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2005-06, 43 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services provided or facilitated access to renal screening.
- The Australian Government provides significant funds for renal disease prevention, management and treatment through its primary care funding (eg. MBS and PBS) and through funding to state and territory Governments under the Australian Health Care Agreements.

b and c) **Heart disease and hypertension**

- Risk assessment and early detection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with vascular health issues is a major priority area for the Australian Government.
- Identification and management of hypertension and vascular health issues is a focus of primary health care services funded by OATSIH. In 2005-06, 53 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services provided or facilitated access to cardio-vascular screening.
- The development, dissemination and promotion of uptake of best practice guidelines for detecting, treating and managing vascular health issues is also of importance.
- In 2005, the National Health and Medical Research Council developed *Strengthening Cardiac Rehabilitation and Secondary Prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: A Guide for Health Professionals* (NHMRC 2005) which was distributed to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, state and territory health departments and relevant professional colleges.
- The Department is also providing funding for a pilot cardiac rehabilitation program, based on the cardiac rehabilitation guidelines, which is anticipated to involve an Aboriginal Medical Service in partnership with major teaching hospitals across the metropolitan region. The pilot aims to develop culturally appropriate resources in late 2008.

- The Australian Government also provides funding for medical research in this area through the 2007-08 Budget initiative ‘Medical research facilities – grants for development and expansion’ including:
 - \$14.3 million over five years for a new National Heart and Diabetes Research Institute targeting obesity and associated diseases and a new vascular research centre in Alice Springs; and
 - \$5.3 million over five years for the expansion of the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin to extend its Indigenous health research, including in metabolic and vascular health.

g) Poor child nutrition

A number of targeted initiatives are being implemented by the Australian Government to address poor child nutrition. These include:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2000-2010 (NATSINSAP) - provides a framework for national action through all Indigenous nutrition stakeholders to improve the nutritional status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A current priority action area of NATSINSAP includes maternal and child nutrition.
- Healthy For Life program - to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies and children. It also aims to improve the quality of life for people with a chronic condition and, over time, reduce the incidence of adult chronic disease. *Healthy for Life* will also increase the number of Indigenous Australians being trained as health professionals.
- Healthy Kids Check - for all four year olds to help ensure they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school. This basic health check will be conducted by a General Practitioner or Practice Nurse and will include height, weight, eyesight and hearing.
- Get Set 4 Life Guide - habits for healthy kids – practical information for parents and carers on key areas on their child’s health and development such as: healthy eating, regular exercise, sun protection and hygiene. The Guide will be provided to parents/carers of four-year old children in-conjunction with the Healthy Kids Check and four year immunisation.
- The National Healthy School Canteens Project - aims to develop a food categorisation system and training resources to assist canteen managers to make appropriate canteen menu choices that will encourage the development and reinforcement of healthy eating patterns in students.
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation initiative - to be implemented in 190 schools nationally, for primary school students to learn how to grow, cook and share fresh food in the belief that this approach will provide a better chance of positively influencing children’s food choices.
- Review of the evidence-based national nutrition publications – to promote the potential benefits of healthy eating to all Australians, not only to reduce the risks of

diet-related illness but also to improve the community's health and wellbeing. Funding has been provided to analyse the Core Food Groups and review and update of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and the Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents.

- *Healthy Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings* – funding has been provided to develop and distribute guidelines on healthy eating and physical activity in early childhood settings.

h) Low rates pap tests and high rates cervical cancer

The Australian Government is implementing a number of strategies to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the National Cervical Screening Program including:

- exploring mechanisms to collect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation data for monitoring purposes and developing strategies aimed at improving participation to complement these data collection mechanisms;
- planning a qualitative research project to consider how to facilitate participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in screening; and
- developing a range of culturally appropriate cervical screening health promotion resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Starting in April 2007, the Australian Government is providing a vaccine, Gardasil, free to girls aged between 12 and 13 years through the National HPV Vaccination Program on an ongoing basis.

i) Diabetes

- Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services are conducting innovative programs to reduce the prevalence of risk factors that lead to diabetes, whilst improving patient recall systems and offering support to patients with diabetes to help manage their condition.
- In 2005-06, 73 per cent of services (110 out of 150) that responded to the Service Activity Reporting questionnaire were involved in the provision of dietary and nutrition programs; 77 per cent conducted diabetic screening; and 59 per cent conducted healthy weight programs.
- Examples of innovative programs include:
 - Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation Chronic disease program comprising a health promotion bus; cooking and nutrition classes (the Grow Well Kitchen); prevention and care planning; gym programs; and yoga classes; and
 - Central Australian Aboriginal Congress health information DVD titled 'The Diabetes Story' for clients with low medical literacy levels and comprehension of written material.

- These approaches will improve the evidence base on diabetes prevention and management in Indigenous communities.
- OATSIH also provided funding for the Unity of First People of Australia (UFPA) Diabetes Management and Care Program in Lombadina/ Djarindjin and Mowanjum in the Kimberley Region of WA in 2007-08.
- The program aimed to implement a sustainable 'Aboriginal driven' intervention model for the prevention, early detection and self management of diabetes within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Volunteer carers provide one-to-one support for people with diabetes in remote communities, encouraging them to take responsibility for their condition and adopt healthy diets and active lifestyles.
- In April 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced a shared initiative of approximately \$200 million over four years between the Australian Government and the state and territory Governments to address the growth in type 2 diabetes. There are three components: a cost shared initiative, a Commonwealth only initiative, and state and territory activities.
- The Australian Government is contributing approximately \$100 million over three years for this initiative, which includes:
 - the introduction of a new Medicare item from 1 July 2008 for general practitioners (GPs) to undertake a diabetes risk evaluation and provide risk modification advice for people in the 40-49 year age group who are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes; and
 - subsidised lifestyle modification programs provided or purchased by the Divisions of General Practice for eligible patients referred through the new Medicare item.
- The Department is providing funds to the Sax Institute to employ a research assistant for a period of 12 months to conduct clinical audits, focus groups and interviews with NSW Aboriginal Medical Services in support of the Aboriginal Study to Reduce the Incidence of Diabetes through Early intervention (STRIDE) project.
- The Aboriginal STRIDE project aims to determine the effectiveness of a culturally specific nutritional and physical activity intervention among Aboriginal adults aged 15 to 45 years with Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT).
- A suite of 11 national evidence based guidelines are being prepared for the prevention, detection and management of type 1 and type 2 diabetes in accordance with the NHMRC approval and ratification process. To date, eight guidelines have been endorsed by the NHMRC. Two are under development and another three are currently being reviewed and updated.
- The Australian Government is also providing funding for medical research related to diabetes (refer to B and C) Heart disease and hypertension for details).
- The NHMRC directed a total of \$42.27 million (GST exclusive) towards diabetes related research in 2007.

1) Asthma

- The early detection and management of chronic diseases, including asthma, is a component of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services.
- Since 2006, in response to evidence that patient access to spacer devices was a problem for 80 per cent of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, OATSIH has funded the Asthma Spacers Ordering System (ASOS).

- ASOS is a central ordering and distribution system for OATSIH funded services that: supplies asthma spacers at discounted rates; offers educational materials and advice to clients and medical staff; tracks stock flows; and advises the Department of any problems encountered by services.
- The Asthma Foundations of Australia negotiated bulk purchase discounts of between 50 per cent and 65 per cent below retail for three different types of spacers that will meet the needs of all services. With the discount, all three spacers sell for less than \$9 per unit.
- The Australian Government funds a number of other initiatives addressing Asthma including:
 - The Asthma Management Program (AMP) which manages a range of asthma initiatives including an Asthma Community Support Program and Asthma Community Grants Program. These program's include a focus on high priority groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - Chronic Disease Management Medicare items support General Practitioners to develop patient management plans for chronic medical conditions, including asthma;
 - The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) to encourage general practitioners to complete best practice care for people with moderate to severe asthma; and
 - The national multi-year Asthma Awareness Campaign to raise awareness of the symptoms and seriousness of asthma and to encourage people with asthma to see their GP to receive a written asthma action plan. The campaign promotes and provides asthma information to health professionals and clients in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services through an Indigenous-specific campaign component. It is proposed that further rounds of campaign activity will be conducted in 2009.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-157

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

We know Indigenous Australians are twice as likely to die of cancer if they get it as non-Indigenous Australians. What will they do to address this?

Answer:

The Australian Government is committed to improving the well-being and health outcomes of all Australians affected by cancer by funding early detection, access and treatment, support initiatives and research through the *Fighting Cancer- Australia's Biggest Killer* package of initiatives.

The Australian Government, through Cancer Australia, funds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific programs to reduce the burden of cancer in this population group. These programs include:

- Specifically identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as one of three priority areas in Round 3 of the *Building Cancer Support Networks* Grants program. These contract negotiations are currently being finalised;
- Expanding the framework of the '*Developing Training Courses for Cancer Nurses*' (EdCaN) initiative to include Indigenous Health Workers (IHW), in recognition of the essential role IHWs play in improving cancer care for this population group;
- Developing the *Cancer Service Networks National Demonstration Program* (CanNET), in collaboration with the state and Northern Territory governments, to improve access to quality and clinically-effective cancer services, particularly for specific population groups that currently have poorer outcomes including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people living in rural and regional areas;
- Ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population groups are well represented in the various strategic, consumer and advisory forums and groups. Cancer Australia has recently recruited four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumer representatives to participate in Cancer Australia's National Consumer Advisory Group, the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers Advisory Group and the Lung Cancer National Reference Group, and recruited the CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) to participate in Cancer Australia's Strategic Forum; and
- Encouraging the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples into clinical trials. The multi-site, national collaborative cancer clinical trials groups, which are supported under the *Support for Cancer Clinical Trials Program*, are

required to review how the collection of data on clinical trials can include higher quality information regarding the participation of this population group.

In addition, the Australian Government also provides significant funding to the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) to provide breast and ovarian cancer programs for all Australians. NBOCC has been active in targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and has implemented projects to support improved outcomes for women of this population group, including:

- Providing scholarships to support IHW and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses;
- Funding training workshops to increase breast awareness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women;
- Funding the duplication and widespread dissemination of the 'My Story' DVD and booklet developed by James Cook University to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with breast cancer had access to stories from other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women about their diagnosis and treatment;
- Developing (in collaboration with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working group) a workshop module for IHWs and a pamphlet for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers about secondary lymphoedema; and
- Undertaking a survey of oncology clinicians to gather their perceptions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competency and their training needs, in order to highlight the different areas for future research around workforce and health service interventions; and a systematic review of the literature on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competency.

Currently, NBOCC is undertaking a major, three year program to reduce the disparity in breast cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by focusing on improving early detection rates. Strategies that emphasise a narrative and visual approach to engage with women at a community level are being undertaken, including new media kiosks in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia and an 'Aunties talk early detection' tour. This tour facilitates a story telling, face to face approach of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women talking to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in communities across their state, linking in with community events and will be undertaken in conjunction with local community health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services.

The Australian Government is also funding a range of cancer-related measures that will benefit all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, including:

- \$15 million to CanTeen over three years from 2008-09 towards the establishment of youth cancer works that will provide care and support to teenagers and young adults with cancer across Australia;
- \$15 million over two years from 2008-09 for the construction of a purpose-built Children's Cancer Centre at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide that will establish a fully integrated, dedicated children's cancer facility and provide state-of-the-art care and treatment facilities;
- \$15 million over two years from 2008-09 toward the establishment of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne that will combine cancer treatment services with the clinical research programs currently run by Austin Health and the International Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research;
- \$50 million over three years from 2008-09 for the establishment of a Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital that will combine cancer

treatment facilities with cancer research facilities and will also pursue academic training , clinical training and career development for young cancer specialists and researchers in all disciplines; and

- \$12 million over four years from 2008-09 for the establishment of two dedicated prostate cancer research centres that will develop improved diagnostic tests, screening tools and treatments for prostate cancer;
- \$15 million over three years from 2008-09 to boost funding for cancer research;
- \$5.1 million over three years from 2008-09 in additional funding for the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers;
- \$12 million over four years from 2007-08 to the McGrath Foundation to train, recruit and employ 30 new breast cancer nurses throughout Australia, the majority of whom will be placed in rural or regional areas; and
- \$31 million over five years from 2007-08 for the reimbursement of up to \$400 for both new and replacement external breast prostheses to all Australian women who have had a mastectomy as a result of breast cancer.

In addition, in the area of cancer screening the Australian Government is also:

- working in partnership with the states and territories to implement pilots in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to test alternative service delivery arrangements in these communities and evaluate the impact on participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP);
- identifying under-screened communities and testing methods to effectively communicate with these communities to increase participation within the NBCSP, National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) and BreastScreen Australia;
- exploring mechanisms to collect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation data for monitoring purposes and developing strategies aimed at improving participation to complement these data collection mechanisms;
- developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources for the NBCSP and NCSP programs; and
- planning a qualitative research project to consider how to facilitate the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in screening.

The Australian Government also aims to reduce the cancer rates in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by reducing high rates of tobacco consumption. To begin tackling this problem the Australian Government has invested \$14.5 million into an Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative.

Anti-smoking initiatives under the \$14.5 million Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative will continue to reduce the rates of cancer and other chronic diseases by:

- building an evidence-base through conducting essential formative research to understand the reasons for the higher rates of smoking, the barriers to quitting, as well as identifying what strategies might work, the key messages, and the audiences to be targeted;
- trialing community interventions such as smoking prevention and cessation programs, and targeted communication approaches; and
- offering smoking prevention and cessation training and support to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce to enhance the effectiveness of other community interventions.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-029

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: SECURE ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

What does the department see as the future of the Secured Aboriginal Medical Service Information System (SAMSIS) developed between the Department and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing, through the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), will provide funding for the continuation of project management, project coordination and administration activities associated with the maintenance of the Secure Aboriginal Medical Service Information System (SAMSIS) in 2008/09. As part of this phase, OATSIH will manage an independent evaluation of the project, the results of which will be used to inform future funding decisions regarding SAMSIS beyond 2008/09.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-030

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: OATSIH SERVICE COLLECTION ANALYSIS REPORTING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) What relationship does the department see the new data information reporting systems being developed for OATSIH, such as OSCAR (OATSIH Service Collection Analysis Reporting) have to SAMSIS?
- b) What will be the difference in the data governance or ownership arrangements with Aboriginal bodies between data supplied to the department via SAMSIS and OSCAR including once the data is nationally aggregated?
- c) How will the ability to use this data for evidence based decision making by the state and national peak bodies for Aboriginal community controlled health services be affected by lessening their access to data generated by OSCAR compared to SAMSIS?
- d) Will OATSIH's new data collection systems be subject to the Information Agreement between the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Department of Health and Ageing signed by Ms Helen Evans in November 1998?
- e) If not, why not?

Answer:

- a) These are separate systems with different purposes. SAMSIS is a national on-line system developed by NACCHO Affiliates for their member services. It is designed to allow individual participating Aboriginal community controlled health services (ACCHSs) to develop their business information and reporting capacity. SAMSIS compiles information for planning service delivery and access. This is done via four interdependent components, these being: Health Services Directory; Workforce Directory; Community Profiles; and Population Profiles. SAMSIS draws data from multiple sources.

OATSIH has a number of accountability reporting arrangements from OATSIH funded services. These include: Service Activity Report (SAR); *Drug and Alcohol Services Report (DASR)*; *Urban Brokerage Services Report (UBSR)*; *Bringing Them Home* and *COAG Mental Health Counsellor Positions Report (BTH)*; *Health@Home Plus Nurse Home Visits Report (H@H+)*; and *Healthy for Life Services Reports*.

Of the OATSIH accountability reports, only SAR data is incorporated into SAMSIS and only from those ACCHSs that have authorised their data to be in SAMSIS. None of the other reports are in SAMSIS.

The OSCAR is for all *Healthy for Life* services and not just those that are members of NACCHO. To support services reporting, the OSCAR system is being developed as a web based system with features that do not exist in SAMSIS. The OSCAR system will allow all *Healthy for Life* services to submit their data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), obtain individual service reports from the AIHW, and access resources. OSCAR will provide summary AIHW reports back to services, AIHW reports on data quality, and over time, comparisons with their own previous data and with national data. Once it is fully functioning, the OSCAR website "<https://scarf.aihw.gov.au>" will provide information about *Healthy for Life* for the public as well as the secure link to the OSCAR system. It is also anticipated that the OSCAR system will be able to obtain relevant aggregated data automatically from participating services PIRS (Patient Information Recall Systems). The AIHW is not involved in SAMSIS.

- b) There is no difference as each individual service is the data custodian of their own data, in line with self determination principles, whether it is SAR, DASR, or *Healthy for Life* data or data for the other OATSIH reports. For Indigenous health data collections, OATSIH and all jurisdictions abide by the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Principles*, agreed by AHMAC on 26 October 2006.

The reporting from OATSIH funded organisations is for accountability purposes and most comes directly to the Department under the Funding Agreements with each service. Most SAR data is supplied directly to the Department and not via SAMSIS. For the SAR data, there is a SAR Steering Committee that is comprised only of NACCHO, NACCHO Affiliates and OATSIH. This arrangement does not apply to the DASR, the BTH, the UBSR or the H@H+ reports.

For the *Healthy for Life* data, the SCARF (Service Collection Analysis and Reporting Function) team developing OSCAR has entered into a signed Service Participation Agreement with each service. As part of this, the SCARF team has a data management plan that describes how the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Principles* and all relevant Commonwealth legislation will be complied with. The AIHW store and analyse the data in a secure environment. Governance of the SCARF includes the *Healthy for Life Data Development Reference Group* and the *Healthy for Life Evaluation and Outcomes Framework Reference Group* both of which includes a majority of Aboriginal members. Both NACCHO members and non-NACCHO members comprise the membership of the Reference Group and it has an independent Aboriginal chair.

- c) Evidence based planning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health happens at the jurisdictional and regional level under the Aboriginal Health Forums (AHF). These are comprised of the NACCHO Affiliate, OATSIH, and the State Health Department. The AHF have access to aggregated data reports that include data from all services and not just from NACCHO members. With the advent of OSCAR there will be an increase in data available to the AHFs, not a decrease.

Only OATSIH has a complete dataset of reports from services for the SAR, the DASR, the BTH, *Healthy for Life* and the other reporting arrangements. SAMSIS does not hold a complete dataset of SAR data. This is because a number of services are either not NACCHO members or if they are NACCHO members they do not authorise their SAR data to be forwarded to SAMSIS.

- d) No, as OATSIH's health data collections will abide by the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Principles*, agreed by AHMAC on 26 October 2006.

Since 1997, under the SAR Information Agreement between NACCHO and OATSIH, national SAR reports have been published jointly, based on aggregated SAR data from both NACCHO member services and non-NACCHO services. The SAR Information Agreement has been governed by the SAR Steering Committee, comprising OATSIH, NACCHO and NACCHO affiliates. Health services are not represented directly and non-NACCHO services are not represented on the SAR Steering Committee.

All other OATSIH accountability reporting requirements for OATSIH funded Indigenous services are not subject to the SAR Steering Committee decisions. These include: Drug and Alcohol Services report; Bringing Them Home and COAG Mental Health Counsellor Positions report; Urban Brokerage Services report; Health@Home Plus nurse home visits report and the Healthy for Life report.

- e) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services sector has been changing since the introduction of the SAR in 1997-98 and the signing of the SAR Information Agreement in 1998.

NACCHO has proposed that a new Information Agreement be negotiated with OATSIH and that a new NACCHO Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Advisory Group be set up to govern this agreement and to replace the Healthy for Life Evaluation and Outcomes Framework Reference Group.

However, the non-NACCHO members of the Reference Group do not agree to this. Also, OATSIH considers that this would be inappropriate, as these non-NACCHO services need to have a voice in the management of the Healthy for Life data development and reporting arrangements. OATSIH's view is that Indigenous health data collection should abide by the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Principles*, agreed by AHMAC on 26 October 2006. This supersedes the Information Agreement and negates the need for any new bipartite Information Agreement.

In the broader context, there are other national groups with a legitimate interest in the data collection as well as NACCHO. This includes the existing National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data (NAGATSIHID) and the recently established National Health Equality Council. The capacity to report on the outcomes of government-funded programs is a core element of the Government's "closing the gaps" strategy in Indigenous affairs.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-031

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: SERVICE ACTIVITY REPORTING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

In the February 22 estimates OATSIH discussed the turn around time for checking Service Activity Reporting data in terms of it taking months yet on the Department's website under OATSIH Publications the latest Service Activity Reporting Key Results are for 2005. Why is there such a lag in posting these results and what is being done to get them published sooner?

Answer:

Services are often late in submitting the Service Activity Reporting (SAR) form, and many services have to be followed up well after the deadline for submission. For example, the date for submitting data from 2006-07 was 17 August 2007. As of 30 November 2007, several services had still not submitted their data.

Data quality from the SAR questionnaires received from services is not high, so the data cleaning and editing process can be quite lengthy. Data cleaning of each SAR form submitted involves telephoning each service to clarify the information provided. Clarification from services is most often related to the episodes of care, client contacts, client numbers, and staffing data items. It is important that there is adequate time provided for verifying the data provided from services and that data quality processes are undertaken and completed.

The finalisation of previous years' SAR data has also been delayed due to technology issues outside the control of OATSIH. For example, the Department has had difficulties developing a robust online SAR form; the 2006-07 SAR online form was more fragile and inefficient than expected, causing Internet server delays and outages. New technology issues for OATSIH have also emerged with SAR data, such as duplicate databases, data transfer and merging multiple databases together.

The analysis and preparation of the SAR Key Results reports cannot be completed until the data editing process is completed. The 2005-06 SAR Key Results report has been completed and is currently undergoing clearance processes. It is expected that it will be ready to post by August 2008. When compared to other processes, this lag is not unusual. For example, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) recently released *BreastScreen Australia*

monitoring report 2004-2005, an annual report of key breast screening program activity, on 6 June 2008.

For the 2007-08 SAR data collection, OATSIH is planning to streamline the data editing process, including starting the process earlier.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-061

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: ALCOHOL

Hansard Page: CA 85

Senator Siewertasked:

Could you tell me how many copies you have reprinted of Dr Maggie Brady's The Grog Book: Strengthening Indigenous Community Action on Alcohol.

Answer:

There has not been a recent reprint of Dr Maggie Brady's 'The Grog Book: Strengthening Indigenous Community Action on Alcohol'. The original edition was published in 1998 with a reprint in 1999 and a revised edition printed in 2005.

As a part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response - Drug and Alcohol Measure, copies of The Grog Book have been distributed to Aboriginal Medical Services who were funded under the Measure and to clinics and services across the Northern Territory.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-062

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: RESOURCES FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL RESIDENTIAL AND TREATMENT SERVICES

Hansard Page: CA85

Senator Siewart asked:

Would you provide a consolidated list of the centres and locations where those resources are on the ground?

Answer:

The following organisations were funded to provide Alcohol and Other Drugs services on an outreach basis within their regional area.

- Danila Dilba Health Service, Darwin Region
- Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Arnhem Region
- Wurlu Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service, Katherine Region
- Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group, Barkly Region
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs Region
- Drug and Alcohol Services Association, Alice Springs Region

The following Residential Rehabilitation services have been supported to expand their services.

- The Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services Incorporated (CAAPS), Darwin
- Mission Australia Nhulunbuy Special Care Centre, Nhulunbuy
- Kalano Community Association Incorporated, Katherine
- The Barkley Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG), Tenant Creek
- The Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programs Unit (CAAAPU), Alice Springs
- Yuendumu Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation, Mt Theo

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-063

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: SWIMMING POOLS

Hansard Page: CA 86

Senator Siewert asked:

Provide the terms of reference for the evaluation of the health benefits of swimming pools.

Answer:

The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services engaged Healthcare Planning and Evaluation Pty Ltd to undertake a study in accordance with the following Statement of Requirements:

- i. Assess the feasibility of carrying out an evaluation of the sustainability and benefits of four swimming pools being built in Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands;
- ii. Design a methodology to conduct the evaluation that will build on and be comparable with the *Swimming Pool Project: Impact of Swimming Pools on Children's Health in Remote Aboriginal Communities* undertaken by the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research (TICHR) in Western Australia. A copy of the methodology may be seen in the following paper: 'Benefits of Swimming Pools in Two Remote Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia: Intervention Study', *British Medical Journal*, 2003, Vol. 327, pp. 415-417. The methodology must indicate how the health benefits will be measured and what infectious diseases will be evaluated; and
- iii. A final report must be produced detailing the findings of the evaluation. Interim reports must also be produced. At a minimum the following interim reports will be required:
 - a) An overview of the current situation in each community prior to the swimming pools becoming operational;
 - b) Evaluation findings 12 months after the swimming pools have been operational in each community; and
 - c) Evaluation findings 24 months after the swimming pools have been operational in each community.

The project is designed to:

- test the health and social benefits of swimming pools in remote communities, including whether the benefits found in the TICHR study are achievable in other locations;
- identify what community members value about having a swimming pool and the extent to which these are realised;
- identify the factors that enable the provision and maintenance of safe, usable and financially viable swimming pools in remote communities;
- identify the factors or conditions (other than the availability of a functional swimming pool and its physical plant) that need to be in place so that the health and social benefits of the swimming pool can be realised and any problems avoided (e.g. ‘no school, no pool’ policies; provision of lifeguard services); and
- identify any unintended consequences (positive or negative) that might arise from the introduction of the swimming pool and related initiatives.

The evaluation commenced in January 2007 and the Final Report is expected in June 2009.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-064

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: TRACHOMA

Hansard Page: CA 90

Senator Siewert asked:

Provide small section in NTER report on trachoma.

Answer:

The section on trachoma from the *Progress of the Northern Territory emergency response child health check initiative: health conditions and referrals* is at Attachment A.

Data on the prevalence of ear disease among a sample of Indigenous NT children were also collected as part of a research study by Morris and colleagues in 2001. This study found that 91% of children aged 6 to 30 months had some form of middle ear disease (Morris et al. 2005). This large difference may be due in part to the difference between the approach, training and equipment used in the research study and that used by the Child Health Check team working in a primary care service delivery setting. The differences are discussed in more detail in Appendix 3.

Trachoma

Ascertaining the prevalence of trachoma from earlier versions of the Child Health Check form has proved difficult due to the way the question was structured. On the form, instructions indicate that health teams are to conduct a trachoma screening only under certain circumstances, namely, if a trachoma screener is available and if no trachoma screening had been done in 2007 as part of the HSAK screening. In earlier versions of the form, no question asked the health team to indicate whether they had undertaken a trachoma screening during the health check. In addition, the response option of 'no abnormality' was not provided to indicate that trachoma screening had been completed but no abnormality found. As a consequence, when no response was given for this question in earlier form versions, it was unclear whether this was because: no screening was done; no abnormality was found; or if the question was truly skipped. The available data indicate that 47% of children in the relevant age group (i.e., 6 to 15 years) were screened for trachoma, 6% were not screened, and this information is missing for 47% of children. For the latest versions of the health check form, the question on trachoma was restructured and, in turn, the level of missing data has fallen substantially (23% missing in the latest version compared with the average of 47% across all versions).

The percentage of children with trachoma was calculated *only* for those children for whom screening was known to have been undertaken as part of the Child Health Check. Due to the high level of missing information in relation to whether screening was done and due to the possibility that some cases of trachoma may have been picked up in the HSAK screening, the data in Tables 3.4 and 3.5 on the prevalence of trachoma must be used with caution.

As shown in Table 3.4, of the 1,989 children aged 6 to 15 years who were screened for trachoma, 7% were identified as having trachoma in at least one eye. The prevalence of this disease was similar for the 6 to 11 year olds (7%) and the 12 to 15 year olds (6%). However, differences were observed between the regions, with 9% of children in the Barkly/Katherine and Central Australia regions who had been screened identified as having trachoma, compared with 4% of children in the Arnhem region.

Table 3.4: Trachoma in at least one eye^(a) by age group and region, Indigenous children aged 6 to 15 years who had a NTER Child Health Check

Region	Trachoma in at least one eye	6–11 years		12–15 years		Total	
		(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)
Central Australia	Yes	10.2	40	4.6	8	8.5	48
	No	89.1	350	95.4	165	91.0	515
	Missing	0.8	3	0.0	0	0.5	3
	Total	100.0	393	100.0	173	100.0	566
Arnhem	Yes	4.5	18	2.0	3	3.8	21
	No	95.3	385	98.0	148	96.0	533
	Missing	0.2	1	0.0	0	0.2	1
	Total	100.0	404	100.0	151	100.0	555
Barkly/ Katherine	Yes	9.0	23	10.5	10	9.4	33
	No	90.2	230	86.3	82	89.1	312
	Missing	0.8	2	3.2	3	1.4	5
	Total	100.0	255	100.0	95	100.0	350
Darwin Rural	Yes	4.9	18	8.5	13	6.0	31
	No	94.5	345	91.5	140	93.6	485
	Missing	0.5	2	0.0	0	0.4	2
	Total	100.0	365	100.0	153	100.0	518
All regions	Yes	7.0	99	5.9	34	6.7	133
	No	92.4	1,310	93.5	535	92.8	1,845
	Missing	0.6	8	0.5	3	0.6	11
	Total	100.0	1,417	100.0	572	100.0	1,989

(a) The analyses include only those children who are known to have been screened for trachoma as part of the Child Health Check (i.e., 47% of children aged 6 years and over).

Sources: AIHW analysis of the NTER Child Health Check data entered as at 15 May 2008.

Overall, as shown in Table 3.5, a higher percentage of boys than girls were identified as having trachoma (8% and 6%, respectively). This difference according to the sex of the child was greatest in the Darwin Rural region, with 8% of boys and 3% of girls who were screened being diagnosed with trachoma.

Table 3.5: Trachoma in at least one eye^(a) by sex and region, Indigenous children aged 6 to 15 years who had a NTER Child Health Check

Region	Trachoma in at least one eye	Male		Female		Total ^(b)	
		(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)
Central Australia	Yes	9.6	29	7.3	19	8.5	48
	No	89.4	269	92.7	242	91.0	515
	Missing	1.0	3	0.0	0	0.5	3
	Total	100.0	301	100.0	261	100.0	566
Arnhem	Yes	3.5	10	4.1	11	3.8	21
	No	96.5	273	95.5	256	96.0	533
	Missing	0.0	0	0.4	1	0.2	1
	Total	100.0	283	100.0	268	100.0	555
Barkly/ Katherine	Yes	10.1	16	8.9	17	9.4	33
	No	88.7	141	89.5	170	89.1	312
	Missing	1.3	2	1.6	3	1.4	5
	Total	100.0	159	100.0	190	100.0	350
Darwin Rural	Yes	8.2	23	3.4	8	6.0	31
	No	91.4	255	96.2	229	93.6	485
	Missing	0.4	1	0.4	1	0.4	2
	Total	100.0	279	100.0	238	100.0	518
All regions	Yes	7.6	78	5.7	55	6.7	133
	No	91.8	938	93.7	897	92.8	1,845
	Missing	0.6	6	0.5	5	0.6	11
	Total	100.0	1,022	100.0	957	100.0	1,989

(a) The analyses include only those children who are known to have been screened for trachoma as part of the Child Health Check (i.e., 47% of children aged 6 years and over).

(b) Includes those cases for which information on the sex of the child was missing.

Source: AIHW analysis of the NTER Child Health Check data entered as at 15 May 2008.

Comparison with other data sources

Data from the HSAK program indicate that in 2007, 10% of Indigenous children aged 4 to 15 years in remote areas of the NT had trachoma (NT DHCS 2008c) while the CHCI data suggest that 7% of children aged 6 to 15 years had trachoma. Note these data are not comparable because the instructions on the CHCI form specifically indicate that children who had been screened for trachoma in 2007 as part of the HSAK program were not to be screened again.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-065

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: OPAL FUEL

Hansard Page: CA 91

Senator Adams asked:

Is it possible to get a list of the 20 communities that will be evaluated.

Answer:

No. For privacy reasons this detail is not made public.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-158

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Mental health – high rate of depression, substance abuse, suicide. Low rate uptake of services, high link with homelessness. What is being done to address this?
- b) Scope of the problem?

Answer:

- a) The Department is implementing a range of programs to improve the mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

COAG Mental Health measure

The Department is implementing six projects to support the roll-out of an Indigenous-specific COAG mental health measure, *Improving the Capacity of Workers in Indigenous Communities*:

- a training program to recognise and address mental illness;
- provision of Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training to increase mental health literacy;
- new mental health worker positions and associated infrastructure;
- a mental health multi-media resource;
- a mental health textbook; and
- culturally appropriate mental health assessment tools.

\$20.8 million over five years is being provided for this measure. Indigenous Australians will benefit from increased access to trained professionals and better referral and treatment options under this measure.

Bringing Them Home and Link Up

The Department funds:

- over 108 Bringing Them Home (BTH) counsellors in 73 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) to provide counselling to individuals, families and communities affected by past practices regarding removal; and

- 11 Link Up sites across Australia to support, guide and assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to trace and reunite with their families. Further funding for 22 new counsellors was introduced in 2007-08 to provide counselling to Stolen Generation members, and to support Link Up clients through the family tracing and reunion process.

In 2007-08, \$11.7 million (GST exclusive) was allocated for the Bringing Them Home Program. \$6.9 million (GST exclusive) was allocated in 2007-08 for Link Up Services, including \$0.5 million as part of the Government's Link Up and Bringing Them Home Counsellors election commitment. The election commitment provides \$15.7 million over four years to strengthen these services.

Social and Emotional Well-Being Regional Centres

The Australian Government provides funding for 12 Social and Emotional Well-Being Regional Centres nationally. The Regional Centres provide training and professional support for Aboriginal mental health workers, Bringing Them Home Counsellors and Link Up workers. Each Regional Centre has developed its own model of working within these broad guidelines.

Mental Health Service Delivery Projects

Primary Health Care Services provide a range of health services, many of which are linked to or include mental health conditions and issues. The main aim of the 19 individual service delivery projects funded nationally within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services is to develop and evaluate culturally appropriate approaches to mental health service delivery. As at 31 March 2008, a total of \$7.4 million (GST exclusive) was committed to 19 mental health service delivery projects in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Substance Use Programs

In 2007-08, the Department's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Program provided \$27 million to 93 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander substance use services across Australia. Two ongoing COAG measures provide drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services in regional and remote Indigenous communities - \$49.3 million (including Departmental resources) over four years was announced in July 2006, with a further \$49.3 million over four years appropriated in the 2008-09 Federal Budget.

Funding of \$11.4 million for 2007-08 and \$2.6 million for 2008-09 was allocated for the drug and alcohol services component of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

The Australian Government also committed funds of \$8 million (including Departmental resources) over four years from 2005-06 for the Addressing Indigenous Needs – National Illicit Drug Strategy – Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities Initiative to help Indigenous communities deal with drug and alcohol related problems. The Government has redirected \$3 million from this Initiative to the Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative.

The 2007-08 Budget provided funding of \$14.6 million (including Departmental resources) over four years to continue the 'A Better Future for Indigenous Australians – Continuing the National Illicit Drug Strategy - Indigenous Communities Initiative' to

develop local solutions to issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, that contribute to violence. In addition, a number of mainstream programs addressing substance use issues have significant Indigenous components, including the Community Partnerships Initiative, the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program and the Training for Frontline Workers Initiative.

Depression

The Australian Government has a number of initiatives in place to support Australians experiencing depression, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including:

- funding of \$57.1 million since 2000-2009 to *beyondblue*;
- funding of \$7.7 million over five years to BoysTown (Kids Help Line) to increase its capacity to respond to the community needs of young people, specifically Indigenous Australian youth; and
- funding of \$26.2 million to Lifeline Australia to increase the availability of counselling and support services to people with common mental health disorders.

Suicide prevention

On 12 June 2008, Minister Roxon announced a refocusing of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) for 2008-09 to ensure that it better targets groups and areas at highest risk of suicide, including a greater emphasis on building the capacity of Indigenous communities to provide culturally appropriate suicide prevention activities.

Currently, \$9.9 million has been allocated to 27 community-based, suicide prevention projects which respond specifically to Indigenous needs, including the development of culturally and clinically appropriate Indigenous suicide-prevention resources and communication activities. A large number of large mainstream suicide prevention initiatives include Indigenous elements such as the Mindframe National Media and Mental Health Initiative; and MindMatters program for promoting mental health in secondary schools.

- b) Depression was the most frequently reported mental health related problem managed by general practitioners for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (25 per cent) and other Australians (34 per cent) during 2000-01 to 2004-05.

In 2001-2005, intentional self-harm was the leading cause of death from external causes for Indigenous males. The suicide rate was almost three times that for non-Indigenous males, with the major differences occurring in the younger age groups. The suicide rate for Indigenous females aged 0-24 years was five times the corresponding age-specific rates for non-Indigenous females.

Mortality and hospitalisation rates for mental health conditions are higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples than other Australians. After adjusting for age differences in the two populations, in 2000-04, the mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from mental health conditions was 1.8 times higher than for other Australians, with mortality highest in the 35-54 years age group.

In 2005-06, hospitalisations for mental disorders due to psychoactive substance use were almost five times higher for Indigenous males and around three times higher for Indigenous females than for other males and females. In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, Indigenous Australians were more likely to be hospitalised for intentional self-harm than

other Australians (rates were three times as high for Indigenous males and twice as high for Indigenous females).

Community mental health services are utilised more frequently by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples than other Australians. In 2004-05, the rate at which community mental health services were accessed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 507 service contacts per 1,000 population compared with 220 service contacts per 1,000 population for other Australians.

In 2005-06, mental health issues accounted for 0.8 per cent of Indigenous clients seeking Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) assistance, compared to 1.9 per cent for non-Indigenous clients.

Sources:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008. *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2008*, Canberra.

Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, 2006. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework Report 2006*, AHMAC, Canberra.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-159

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Indigenous children will receive medical care while still in the womb under a Rudd government assault to be announced on fetal alcohol syndrome and other lifestyle-related childhood illnesses.

- a) Please highlight Government plans?
- b) How much money will be spent?
- c) Who will receive it?

Answer:

On 3 April 2008, *The Australian* published an article: *Care for kids to start in the womb*. The article referred to a new Australian Government initiative - the Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program, funded under the 2007-08 Budget measure *Health@Home Plus*. The newspaper article incorrectly suggested this home visiting program will be implemented to ten communities in North Queensland and the Northern Territory; that the program will commence service delivery in two weeks and that nurses would counsel mothers on welfare and life choices and detect cases of women abusing alcohol while pregnant.

The article was inaccurate in several areas and also incorrectly linked the Government's announcement of Cairns as a site for this program with broader welfare reform trials in Indigenous communities in Cape York and other regions. This initiative is not a welfare reporting program, nor an "assault ... on fetal alcohol syndrome"; it is also not a child health check, as suggested in the newspaper article.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Written Question: E08-160

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKFORCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Does the \$19 Million for Indigenous Health workforce training include a move to increase the skill level of Aboriginal Health Workers across the Country, and therefore make them eligible for national registration scheme for health professionals comes in at July 2010?
- b) If not, how does Government justify the lack of consistency across borders that makes workforce mobility and issue in all health professions now, in the one area where there should be no barriers to the highest quality health professionals?

Answer:

- a) The National Indigenous Workforce Training Plan includes three years funding to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Registered Training Organisation Network to coordinate the Aboriginal community controlled sector response to assessment and training as Aboriginal Health Workers transition to the new higher qualifications introduced nationally in 2007. Registration of all health professionals is the responsibility of the states and territories. On 30 March 2007, Health Ministers agreed that Aboriginal Health Workers will be given priority consideration for inclusion in the national registration scheme which is to be implemented on 1 July 2010.
- b) The new national qualifications for Aboriginal Health Workers are recognised by all state and territory Governments as well as the Aboriginal community controlled health sector and are therefore portable across jurisdictional borders.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-189

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INTERVENTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Is it true that the Intervention for Dental Health has been largely ineffective because the Northern Territory Government has found it difficult to find the workforce and facilities for treatment?

Answer:

Limited mobile dental facilities in the Northern Territory have delayed the rollout of services. Oral health follow-up services are increasing as mobile facilities are acquired and follow-up commences in regions with existing facilities. Workforce availability has not delayed follow-up.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-190

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) How will the proposed remote area health corps operate?
- b) And to whom will it report?

Answer:

- a) The main focus of the Remote Area Health Corps will be on the recruitment of urban based health professionals for short term placements in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. The Agency builds on the willingness of these health professionals to work in remote areas, as demonstrated through their commitment to the child health check teams as part of the initial NT Emergency Response.

The range of services for which personnel will be sought will be informed by a needs assessment and consultation with NT service providers to develop deployment plans. Staff recruited will be provided with training and support.

- b) The agency contracted to provide the Remote Area Health Corps will be required to report to the Department of Health and Ageing.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-191

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: INTERVENTION - NURSING WORKFORCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Is the Intervention resulting in greater support for the nursing workforce in remote areas?

Answer:

The Department has no formal process for tracking ongoing employment of nurses who participated in child health check teams during the first phase of the Intervention. However, through personal contact initiated by the Department's Northern Territory Emergency Coordination Centre, there is anecdotal evidence that a percentage of urban and regionally based nurses who participated in child health checks have continued in some capacity in the Northern Territory.

Discussions with Registered Nurses (RN) engaged in the first phase was overwhelmingly positive and in some cases the view was expressed that the experience of working in remote communities created a strong desire to 'do more'. From this feedback it appears that approximately 20 RNs have sought out casual work with Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) or the Northern Territory Department of Health Community Services (NT DHCS) directly.

The Government is providing \$99.7 million to expand health service delivery in remote Northern Territory Indigenous communities over two years from July 2008. The initiative provides for the delivery of more regionally based health care services in remote Northern Territory Indigenous communities. The initiative also provides for the recruitment of health professionals, to supplement the recruitment efforts of the NTDHCS and AMS, with a Remote Area Health Corps being established for this purpose. This agency will have a strong focus on the recruitment of urban-based health professionals, including nurses, for short term service for remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. This builds on the willingness of these health professionals to work in remote areas as demonstrated through their commitment to the child health check teams as part of the Northern Territory Intervention. Staff recruited will be provided with training and support.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-197

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: PROGRAM EVALUATION

Hansard Page: CA 84

Senator Siewert asked:

Provide the terms of reference on the evaluation of the alcohol and other drugs measure.

Answer:

The evaluation of the *Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) AOD Response Measure* will be conducted in 2008-09. The Terms of Reference for the evaluation are attached.

Northern Territory Emergency Response Alcohol and Other Drugs (NTER AOD) Response Measure Evaluation – Terms of Reference

Program Goals

The specific goals of the NTER AOD Response Measure are to:

- Provide treatment and support to Aboriginal people suffering from the effects of alcohol withdrawal; and
- Establish teams of drug and alcohol workers to provide outreach support to families and communities affected by the withdrawal of alcohol.

Program activities

The goals and objectives will be pursued through eight activities that cover the spectrum of AOD service delivery including:

- additional hospital beds at Tennant Creek, Katherine District, Darwin, and Gove Hospital;
- increased funding for capacity building of residential rehabilitation services;
- increased funding for selected sobering up shelters;
- increased funding for AOD outreach workers at hospitals, Primary Health Care Services and substance use services;
- AOD Clinical Director;
- training and education;
- professional resources; and
- community education.

In the implementation of this Measure, the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) in conjunction with key stakeholders in the NT developed a program of activities that aimed to ensure that appropriate AOD related health and substance use services were in place in the NT to support individuals and communities affected by the new Commonwealth alcohol legislation. The Measure was implemented in the context of existing national and NT Government AOD policies and approaches which emphasise prevention and harm reduction. In addition, the Measure aimed to create innovative opportunities to reduce harmful drinking levels among individuals and communities affected by the new Commonwealth alcohol legislation in the NT.

Evaluation Terms of Reference

The overall evaluation objective is to assess how well the Measure has been implemented and the extent to which it has achieved its goals. More specifically the evaluation will:

- assess the extent to which appropriate AOD related health and substance use services were put in place in the NT to support individuals and communities affected by the new Commonwealth alcohol legislation; and
- assess the extent to which innovative opportunities were created to reduce harmful drinking levels among individuals and communities affected by the new Commonwealth alcohol legislation in the NT, through the introduction of Measures under the NTER AOD Response Measure.

Evaluation Tasks

The evaluation consultant will be required to:

1. Collate and analyse all available data on the implementation of each component of the Measure including:
 - hospital bed data from Tennant Creek, Katherine District, Darwin, and Gove hospital;
 - service delivery data from the residential rehabilitation services;
 - data from a selected sobering up shelter;
 - qualitative and quantitative data from the AOD Outreach Workers and Community Support Workers at hospitals, primary health care services and substance use services (**Attachment A**);
 - data from the AOD Clinical Director;
 - data on training and education activities;
 - professional resources; and
 - community education.*

*Please note that this is only an indicative list of the data sources.

2. Consult with Aboriginal communities and individuals on their needs and preferences for AOD services.
3. Consult with key stakeholders including the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), individual Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs), the NT Department of Health and Community Services including Acute Care policy and clinical staff and Alcohol and other Drugs Services who were funded under the NTER AOD Response Measure to assess the overall Terms of Reference;
4. Identify lessons learnt that might be transferable to new or existing AOD programs and make recommendations to inform policy and planning for future AOD work in the NT and new AOD service delivery models;
 - a) provide recommendations on how data collection, including the national Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services – National Minimum Data Set (AODTS-NMDS), might be improved to better describe and support the work of AOD work in Indigenous and remote service settings; and
 - b) recommend how data collection may be adapted to support a future data collection for AOD programs such as the Council of Australian Government (COAG) drug and alcohol initiatives.
5. Review the literature on AOD and mental health co-morbidities and provide advice on its relevance to future directions in AOD, mental health, and social and emotional wellbeing strategies in the Northern Territory;

Evaluation questions

The evaluation questions for the NTER AOD Response Measure are as follows:

1. Has this Measure put sufficient services of the right type in the right place at the right time to meet the demand arising from the introduction of the new Commonwealth alcohol control Measures in the NT?
 - a. What can we learn from variations in needs and responses across different regions and contexts?
 - b. Has this been done in a culturally appropriate manner?
 - c. Has there been adequate and productive consultation?
2. What new opportunities have been created to reduce harmful drinking levels among individuals and communities affected by the new Commonwealth alcohol control Measures in the NT?
3. What impact has the NTER AOD Response Measure had on:
 - a. service delivery;
 - b. organisational and system-level capacity;
 - c. workforce availability and skills; and
 - d. service linkages and referral pathways.
4. Have the NTER AOD Response Measures had any unintended (positive or negative) consequences?

Evaluation deliverables

The evaluation for the NTER AOD Response Measure will be completed by 30 June 2009 with five deliverables due on set dates.

Evaluation Task 1 (quantitative analysis), Task 2 (consultation on community needs) and Task 3 (consultation with key stakeholders) should take place in a continuous fashion over the course of the year. Updates on each of these should be provided as part of each deliverable.

Evaluation Task 5 (literature review on co-morbidities) should be incorporated in Deliverable 4 and is due on 31 March 2009.

The final evaluation report should address the completed evaluation tasks and questions, provides advice on lessons learnt and make findings in relation to the evaluation Terms of Reference. The final report is due on 1 June 2009.

The consultant should be prepared to present and discuss each of their findings with the NTER AOD Working Group and other stakeholders.

Deliverable 1 – Progress report 1

Deliverable 1 –will report on Evaluation Tasks 1, 3, and 5 to the extent possible in the limited time available and with the limited quantitative data available. The report will be due on 8 August 2008.

Deliverable 2 – Progress report 2

Deliverable 2 will be due on 30 September 2008 and consists of a progress report on the consultants' findings on Evaluation Tasks 1, 2, and 3.

Deliverable 3 – Progress report 3

Deliverable 3 will be due on 12 December 2008 and consists of a progress report on the consultants' findings on Evaluation Tasks 1, 2, and 3. The consultant will also be required to provide a comprehensive project plan which includes timeframes for consultation and a comprehensive budget.

Deliverable 4 – Progress report 4

Deliverable 4 will be due on 31 March 2009 and consist of a progress report on the consultants' findings on Evaluation Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, and 6. The report will include an update on the progress of Evaluation Tasks 1, 2, and 3 and preliminary findings on the lessons which could be learnt from the NTER AOD Response Measure and how these lessons could be transferred to new or existing AOD programs.

Deliverable 5 – Final report

Deliverable 5 will be due on 1 June 2009 and consists of a final report which addresses all the evaluation tasks and question, provides advice on lessons learnt and makes findings in relation to the evaluation Terms of Reference.

6. TIMEFRAMES

The table below summarises the due dates for each deliverables and the tasks which are required to be addressed.

Deliverable	Due Date	Tasks
Deliverable 1	8 August 2008	Progress report 1 which addresses Evaluation Tasks 1, 3, and 5 to the extent possible in the limited time available and with the limited quantitative data available
Deliverable 2	30 September 2008	Progress report 2 which addresses Evaluation Tasks 1, 2, 3
Deliverable 3	12 December 2008	Progress report 3 which addresses Evaluation Tasks 1, 2, 3 and a comprehensive project plan
Deliverable 4	31 March 2009	Progress report 4 which addresses Evaluation Tasks 1,2 , 3, 4a, 4b, and 6
Deliverable 5	1 June 2009	Final Report

Attachment A

Qualitative and quantitative data collected from the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Outreach Workers

The role of the AOD outreach workers encompasses a broad range of non-clinical and clinical services. Approximately 15 to 20 AOD outreach workers will be employed throughout this Measure. The AOD outreach workers provide a range of services including:

- drug and alcohol treatment and support services, including assessments and referrals;
- follow-up of patients discharged from residential rehab and hospital detoxification services;
- education, training and mentoring (capacity building) for local health, substance use and community workers;
- health promotion and community education;
- capacity building to help increase knowledge and provision of AOD treatment and support programs; and
- developing linkages with other services.

Data collection for non-clinical service delivery

To capture this information, the AOD outreach workers complete a fortnightly qualitative report which includes information on the type of activities which the AOD outreach workers are involved in. The categories the AOD outreach workers are required to report on include health promotion activities, training and education for the local workforce, community education and activities to develop linkages with other services. The AOD outreach worker fortnightly qualitative report template is below.

Data collection for clinical service delivery

AOD outreach workers who provide clinical service delivery are required to complete the Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services – National Minimum Data Set (AODTS-NMDS). These forms have been designed to comply with the AODTS-NMDS.

The AODTS-NMDS is a nationally agreed set of common data items collected by government funded service providers, and is collated by relevant health authorities before submitting the data to the AIHW. The collection provides information on the demographics of clients who use these services, the drugs of concern nominated by clients, the treatment they receive and administrative information about the agencies that provide alcohol and other drug treatment. A copy of the 05-06 AODTS–NMDS findings for the NT from the National Minimum Data set can be found at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10435>

Non-Clinical Fortnightly Questionnaire for use by AOD Outreach Worker

General Instructions:

The purpose of this data collection is to:

- capture data on non-clinical services which AOD outreach workers are involved in including information on the type of the AOD outreach worker carried out (i.e. health promotion, training and education for local workforce, community education and activities to develop linkages with other services (Part A); and
- to capture information on the total number of occasions of service provided to clients during the fortnight (Part B).

Processes for submitting the non – clinical fortnightly questionnaire are as follows:

Reports are to be sent to OATSIH on alternate **Fridays**. A copy of the report is to be sent to the Clinical Director. It is preferable the non-clinical fortnightly questionnaire for use by AOD outreach worker reports is submitted electronically. If electronic submission is not possible, the reports can be submitted by fax.

In the email or fax, please include in the fax or email:

- the date;
- recorder's name; and
- the name of the service provider.

If you have any questions or queries in completing this form, please contact Angie Liu on 02 6289 1027 or via email Angie.Liu@health.gov.au

PART A - Non-Clinical Fortnightly Questionnaire for use by AOD Outreach Worker

Date: ___/___/___
Friday ___/___/___

Report for fortnight ending

Name of D&A out reach worker: _____ Name of Service:

Section 1

Please describe the type of **liaison** and **coordination** activities you have been involved in this fortnight.

e.g. you may like to give the names of individuals and organisations you have engaged with and the purpose or outcomes of this liaison and coordination activity.

Section 2

Please describe the type of **education** and **training** activities you participated in the last fortnight.

e.g. you may like to describe planning and priority setting, consultations, type of training provided, number of people trained, and the purpose of the training.

Section 3

Please describe the type of **community education** or **health promotion** activities you participated in or were involved in the last fortnight.

e.g. you may wish to describe the use of local media for awareness raising, the groups you have given priority to, the methods of community education you have used, estimates of the number of people reached, and the purpose of your activity.

Section 4

What **educational resources** have you used to assist in **clinical service delivery** or **health promotion activities** in the last fortnight?

e.g. you may wish to describe if you have used any educational resources such as flipcharts, storyboards, or educational DVDs to assist in clinical service delivery of health promotion activities.

Section 5

Please describe any **outstanding issues** that have occurred in the last fortnight and need to be addressed?

Section 6

In the last fortnight, what has worked well and what hasn't? How can we do it better?

Other comments:

Part B - Client Episodes

The purpose of collecting client episode numbers is to inform us of the total number of clients you have seen for each fortnight.

To get the total number of clients seen for the fortnight you will need to add the number of new clients seen for the fortnight plus existing clients plus one-off clients.

Definitions for new, existing and one off clients are below.

A **new client** is defined as a client who has entered into the service and there is an expectation that the client will return to the service for treatment.

An **existing client** is defined as a client who is being given ongoing treatment at the service (they will have been a 'new client' in a previous fortnight).

A **one off client** is defined as a client for whom there is no expectation to see the AOD outreach worker again. For example, an opportunistic consultation or brief intervention with an individual and/or their family may be considered as a one off client.

Client episodes fortnight ending ___/___/___

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \square & + & \square & + & \square & = & \square \\ \text{New} & + & \text{Existing} & + & \text{One-off} & & = \text{Total} \end{array}$$

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-198

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: YOUTH DIVERSIONARY PROJECTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

An Aboriginal group in Fitzroy Crossing has been denied funding for an acclaimed youth program aimed at tackling alcohol and drug problems. The Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) had requested \$1.5 million to continue Yiriman's West Kimberley operation and a further \$2 million over three years to expand into the East Kimberley. A newspaper report quotes Ms Roxon's office saying it could not assist because the COAG funds did "not apply to youth diversionary projects at this time".

- a) When will be the right time? - Government has allocated \$50 million to reduce alcohol and substance abuse and its impact on families in remote Indigenous communities.
- b) Who can apply for funds?
- c) Have there already been applications submitted? If yes, can Government provide a detailed list?
- d) What are the guidelines to decide about funding?
- e) Who will get money, who not?
- f) How does Government monitor if the funding will have an impact?

Answer:

- a) The \$50 million Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) 2007 measure – *Closing the Gap – Indigenous drug and alcohol services*, is allocated for treatment and rehabilitation programs, not youth diversionary projects. However, under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, the Department of Health and Ageing has offered one-off funding of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) to KALACC to collaborate with the Fitzroy Crossing community and agencies to develop and provide culturally appropriate strategies to address issues of self-harm and suicide in young Aboriginal people in Fitzroy Crossing. The funding agreement is currently being prepared.
- b) The 2007 COAG measure is not a grant based program and as such is not receiving applications.
- c) See b) above.

- d) These measures are implemented through bi-lateral agreements that are negotiated between each state and territory government and the Australian Government and informed by stakeholder consultations and scoping studies undertaken in jurisdictions, as was the case for the initial funding provided to this initiative under the previous Government.
- e) Priorities for funding are currently being negotiated and will be announced when approved by the Minister.
- f) The Department will monitor funded projects and their impact through its state and territory offices.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-027

OUTCOME 8: Indigenous Health

Topic: NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

What progress has the Department made towards a national joint planning framework agreement with Aboriginal health representative bodies, such as the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), similar to the joint planning framework agreements which exist within the states and territories?

Answer:

On a national level, the Department collaborates with and receives policy advice from Indigenous health representative bodies through advisory committees such as the newly created National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC). On 10 July 2008, the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon, announced membership of the Council which included its Chair, Professor Ian Anderson and Deputy Chair, Dr Mick Adams, (Chair of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)). The NIHEC will bring together the Australian Government, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community including the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector, and the broader health sector, working in partnership to work towards the attainment of equal health status between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

To this end the role of the Council will be to assist in the development and monitoring of progress towards a set of health-related goals and targets to support the Government's commitments on life expectancy and child mortality. The NIHEC will also provide national leadership in responding to Government's commitment to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage by providing advice to Government on working towards the provision of equitable and sustainable health outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Departmental activity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is also guided by the principles and objectives of the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH) 2003-2013*. The NSFATSIH was developed by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council (NATSIHC) as a framework for action by all Australian governments. It was developed through a process involving wide consultation with Indigenous medical services and organisations (including NACCHO), non-government organisations, Australian Government agencies, state and territory government agencies and the general public.

One of the main objectives of the Framework Agreements on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (Framework Agreements) that exist in jurisdictions is to encourage collaboration between the Commonwealth, the NACCHO Affiliate in that jurisdiction, and the state/territory government to address key priorities in that jurisdiction. The Commonwealth is a signatory to all of the current Framework Agreements.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-018

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY

Written Question on Notice.

Senator Boyce asked:

Your output group says that you provide information to Government and Other Stakeholders Relevant to Private Health Insurance - Since the government made changes to the Medicare Levy in the budget, does your agency monitor the trend away from private health cover and will you be reporting that information to the government?

Answer:

PHIAC will continue to collect information from insurers on a quarterly basis regarding membership and the number of persons covered. These statistics are reported to government and released to the public approximately six weeks after the end of each quarter.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-019

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: TAKEOVER OF MBF

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

MBF have an offer of takeover from BUPA - a UK company;

- a) Does your agency monitor the takeover of Australian private health insurers by foreign companies?
- b) In America we see a horrid situation of only certain members of the population that have access to private health insurance - what mechanisms are in place to see that this does not happen here?
- c) I also understand that BUPA already operate the HBA and the Mutual Community brands in Australia - is your agency concerned about the takeover by BUPA of MBF and the shrinking of competition in the private insurance area?

Answer:

PHIAC notes that MBF Australia Pty Ltd was acquired by BUPA Australia Pty Ltd, an Australian company. MBF Australia Pty Ltd continues as a company and health insurer in its own right.

- a) PHIAC maintains an active interest in the corporate activity of the private health insurance industry. The *Private Health Insurance Act 2007* includes a specific role for the Council in changes to registration (not/for profit status) and in the transfer of the health benefits fund(s) conducted by insurers. In pursuit of its broader interests PHIAC also seeks to provide submissions to the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) where those bodies have an oversight role of acquisitions or mergers.
- b) PHIAC notes that there are large differences in the balance of public and private health service provision between the health systems of the United States and Australia.

The following principles, supported by legislation, apply to the conduct of private health insurance in Australia, which enhances access to private health insurance.

- i. The principle of community rating where a broad range of personal risk factors cannot

influence decisions to accept the person for insurance, nor the price of the product the person chooses to purchase. This principle has legislative force through Part 3-2 of the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*.

- ii. The existence of a premiums reduction scheme that provides a rebate for insured persons of up to 40 per cent of premiums payable under a complying health insurance policy.
- c) PHIAC maintains an interest in enhancing competition among private health insurers and as a matter of policy supports initiatives that will result in advantage to policyholders through enhanced cover and/or services available to them at competitive prices. In pursuit of its broader interests PHIAC responds to requests for information from the FIRB and the ACCC where those bodies have an oversight role in connection with proposed acquisitions or mergers.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-043

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PRESS RELEASES

Hansard Page: CA 101-102

Senator Cormann asked:

In previous years, under the previous government, PHIAC and the Minister for Health would always release separate press releases making the announcement on rate increases. Why was that done differently this time?

Answer:

As the Minister for Health and Ageing had made public information relating to premium changes, there was no need for PHIAC to make a separate announcement. PHIAC provided a link to the Minister's press release for those members of the public who searched for the information on PHIAC's website.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 5 June 2008

Question: E08-044

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: SINGLE EQUIVALENT UNITS (SEU)

Hansard Page: CA 105

Senator Cormann asked:

- a) How many SEUs as at 31 December 2007?
- b) Could you provide me with those statistics (grandparents caring for grandchildren therefore dependent on policy) on notice and also provide me with any advice on what the relationship is between SEUs and persons covered - by way of ratio?

Answer:

- a) There were 6,752,745 hospital SEU's at 31 December 2007. The number of persons covered aged 65 and over at 31 December was 1,251,668.
- b) PHIAC does not collect statistics that enable it to calculate the number of SEUs within an age cohort. The ratio of SEU's to persons covered in the age cohort 65 and over cannot be identified.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-006

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Cormann asked:

- a) Since the Budget, has the Department of Health and Ageing at a departmental level or has the Minister for Health had any formal or informal approaches from any state or territory premier, treasurer, minister for health or state government official with a request for additional funding as a consequence of the decision to increase the Medicare levy surcharge?
- b) If yes, which states have submitted such requests for additional funding for public hospitals in compensation for the expected impact of the Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds?
- c) On what date did each state submit or informally put forward any such request for additional funding?
- d) What was the level of additional funding that has been requested by each state and territory since the budget announcement to increase the Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds?

Answer:

- a) No, the department is not aware of any approaches for additional funding.
- b) See answer to a) above.
- c) See answer to a) above.
- d) See answer to a) above.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-008

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE REBATE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Cormann asked:

On what day did the Department for Health and Ageing first provide advice on means testing the private health insurance rebate?

Answer:

The budget measures announced in May 2008 did not include means testing of the private health insurance rebates. The Department is not able to identify considerations leading to the government consideration on budget matters.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-009

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Cormann asked:

What is the breakdown of the number of couples and the number of families that according to the Department for Health and Ageing estimate would be impacted by the increase in Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds?

Answer:

Government modelling indicates that approximately 186,000 singles and 149,000 couples would drop their health insurance as a result of the Medicare levy surcharge threshold increases. As private health insurance premiums do not differentiate between a couple and a family, it is not necessary to distinguish between the number of couples and families.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-072

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Hansard Page: CA 33

Senator Cormann asked:

Did you consult with PHIAC as part of the process of providing advice to Treasury?

Answer:

No.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-074

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: LIFETIME HEALTH COVER CHANGES

Hansard Page: CA 33

Senator Cormann asked:

Did you provide advice on changes to the Lifetime Health Cover arrangements?

Answer:

The budget measures announced in May 2008 did not include changes to the Lifetime Health Cover arrangements. The Department is not able to identify considerations leading to the government consideration on budget matters.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-075

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Hansard Page: CA 33

Senator Cormann asked:

You have presented us with a figure of \$959.7 million. Where does it come from?

Answer:

This is the total estimated savings on the private health insurance rebate, before accounting for projected premium growth in the forward estimates, over four years as a result of the Medicare levy surcharge changes.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-077

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Hansard Page: CA 44

Senator Cormann asked:

If the \$50,000 threshold for singles had been indexed by CPI, what would be the figure today? I put it to you that it would be \$73,900. Do you agree with that?

Answer:

If the Medicare levy surcharge threshold for single people was indexed using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), it would currently equate to approximately the amount stated.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-078

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Hansard Page: CA 44

Senator Carol Brown asked:

You mentioned that private health insurance companies can come at any time to ask for a premium rise. Can you give me some historical information about how we have come to really expect it to happen in March or April of each year?

Answer:

Since 2000, it has been the practice for private health insurers to submit an application for a premium increase once a year.

The usual timeline for the private health insurance premium round is as follows:

Mid December	Deadline for applications for premium changes to the Department
December/January	The Department, PHIAC and where appropriate, the Australian Government Actuary, assess proposed premium changes
January/February	Further information sought from insurers, if necessary
January/February	The Department advises the Minister on the premium applications
February/March	Minister's decision on premium applications
February/March	Insurers are notified of the Minister's decision
From 1 April	Premium changes take effect

The timing of the process has the advantage of September quarter data being available to assist insurers project and analyse their case for a premium change. Insurers are not required by law to comply with this timing.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-081

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE TARGET PARTICIPATION

Hansard Page: CA 54

Senator Humphries asked:

What is the Government's target for the rate of private health insurance it would like to see in Australia?...When you say the question is impossible to answer, my impression is that the department, on previous occasions, has answered the question by saying that the sustainable level is about 30 per cent. That is my recollection of answers in previous estimates. You might take on notice the question of whether you have previously given advice to this committee about what is a sustainable level for private health insurance.

Answer:

The department is unable to locate a record of a statement that a specific level of private health insurance participation or coverage is necessary for a viable and sustainable private health insurance sector.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-193

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PREMIUM PROCESS

Hansard Page: CA 50

Senator Carol Brown asked:

You mentioned that private health insurance companies can come at any time to ask for a premium rise. Can you give me some historical information about how we have come to really expect it to happen in March or April of each year?

Mr Kalisch: I was asked a question about the premium process from Senator Brown before and after the legislative change. The information I gave may have been a bit misleading. I was going to suggest that I actually respond back to the committee in writing and take that on notice and give you a fulsome response.

Answer:

Please refer to the response to written question E08-078.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-007

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Cormann asked:

On what day did the Department for Health and Ageing first provide advice on the proposal to increase the Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds?

Answer:

The Department provided advice in relation to the Medicare levy surcharge thresholds as part of the budget process commencing in January 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-071

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Hansard Page: CA 32

Senator Cormann asked:

When did you first provide advice about the Government's proposed change to the Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds?

Answer:

Please refer to the response to written question E08-007.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-073

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE REBATE

Hansard Page: CA 33

Senator Cormann asked:

- a) Did you provide advice on means testing of the 30 per cent rebate?
- b) Did you provide advice on abolishing the 30 per cent rebate?

Answer:

Please refer to the response to written question E08-008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-079

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE REBATE

Hansard Page: CA 45

Senator Lundy asked:

How much funding will the government continue to be providing through the private health insurance rebate?

Answer:

According to the 2008-09 Portfolio Budget Statements, expenditure on the private health insurance rebate through Medicare Australia will be \$3,541,073 in 2007-08 and \$3,432,886 in 2008-09 (see table 9.1, page 148 of the 2008-09 PBS). Public expenditure estimates for later years is estimated at a flat rate from the 2008-09 estimate (ie. \$3,432,886). Further provision is made in the Contingency Reserve, but the amounts are not published.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-194

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: LIFETIME HEALTH COVER LOADINGS

Hansard Page: CA 45

Senator Polley asked:

Of the increase in those people taking out private insurance, can you give us a breakdown of those people who are joining private insurance that have been penalised based on their age and the penalty rate that is applied to them?

Answer:

There are 9,476,921 people covered for private hospital treatment (as at 31 March 2008). This includes an increase of 85,432 people during the March 2008 quarter.

Of these, there are 636,147 insured people paying Lifetime Health Cover loadings (as at 31 March 2008). This includes an increase of 33,906 people during the March 2008 quarter.

The Lifetime Health Cover loading that is applied is an additional two per cent premium per year on the cost of their private hospital cover, if they do not purchase private hospital cover by the 1st of July following their 31st birthday, up to a maximum of 70 per cent.

The penalty rate applied to people will vary depending on their age and when they purchase private health insurance. For example, if a person first purchased private hospital cover at the age of 35, they will pay a loading of ten per cent (ie. two per cent multiplied by five years above the age of 30).

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-199

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: INSULIN PUMPS

Hansard Page: CA 57

Senator Colbeck asked:

(Regarding) the eligibility of insulin pumps to have access to the prostheses and devices list and the review process, what is the timeframe for sorting this out?

Ms Halton: (We will) outline what the process is, how it works and what the considerations are.

Answer:

The Prostheses and Devices Committee makes recommendations to the Minister for Health and Ageing about which products should be included on the Prostheses List and appropriate benefits for these products. The Committee reviews groups of products on the Prostheses List from time-to-time. This is part of the regular business process of the Committee.

The Committee has recently noted that while insulin pumps meet the mandatory requirements of the criteria for listing, they do not meet a non-mandatory requirement that they be surgically implanted.

The Committee has therefore decided that insulin pumps will be amongst several groups of items that will be reviewed during the February 2009 Prostheses List cycle.

This cycle commences on 11 August 2008, with the List scheduled to be published on 22 February 2009.

Sponsors of insulin pumps on the List will be asked to provide information about their products, which will be clinically assessed.

The clinical advice will be considered by the Committee and its recommendation will be forwarded to the Minister for Health and Ageing (or delegate).

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-122

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: EFFICIENCY DIVIDEND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

Will the increase in the efficiency dividend affect the operations of the Private Health Insurance Administration Council (Council) and, if so, how?

Answer:

The Private Health Insurance Administration Council is funded by levies imposed on private health insurers under the *Private Health Insurance (Council Administration Levy) Act 2003*.

The Council determines its operational financial needs annually and proposes the amount of levy to be applied to private health insurers to the Minister for Health and Ageing. The levy is imposed by Regulation.

The amount of the levy has not increased since 1 July 2005. The amount of the levy is currently determined by the *Private Health Insurance (Council Administration Levy) Regulations 2004* which were last amended for the purposes of the levy on 7 June 2005 by the *Private Health Insurance (Council Administration Levy) Amendment Regulations 2005 (No.1)*.

The Council expects that it has available to it the financial resources necessary to continue its close regulatory oversight of the private health insurance industry over the 2008/2009 financial year.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-123

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SELECTION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

Can you advise what selection process by the Council in the selection of the new Chief Executive Officer - was the position advertised?

Answer:

A broad search for suitable candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer was conducted, including advertisement of the vacancy in mid-January 2008 in each of the Canberra Times, Australian and Financial Review newspapers and the engagement of an executive search and appointment consultant.

The process of candidate selection and appointment was conducted by the Council in accordance with the Department of Health and Ageing appointment protocols, which include key stakeholder liaison.

Mr Shaun Gath was appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer on 30 May 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-125

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF HEALTH INSURERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

One of the statutory functions of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister about the financial operations of health insurers.

- a) Without going to the nature of any advice, can the Committee be advised whether the Council has tendered advice to the Minister in the wake of the surcharge change?
- b) If not, does the Council expect to provide relevant advice to the Minister soon?

Answer:

- a) The Council has, and has maintained, a longstanding practice of providing quarterly reports of financial, statistical and other information detailing the performance of the private health insurance industry to the Minister. A quarterly report was provided on 20 June 2008.
- b) N/A.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-005

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Cormann asked:

Ms Flanagan provided the following evidence: “The average growth in private health insurance coverage has been around 200,000 people a year over the last three years. Again, we expect that underlying growth will continue into the future.”

- a) Is that ‘expectation’ of the Department of Health and Ageing of a continuation of annual growth of 200,000 people in private health insurance into the future reflected in the budget papers, and if yes where?
- b) How did the Treasury modelling feeding into the budget process conclude that an estimated 484,000 adults will leave private health insurance, if the Department of Health and Ageing expects growth into the future for private health insurance to continue at 200,000 people a year?
- c) Has the Department for Health and Ageing conducted any modelling that has substantiated its expectation given in evidence by Ms Flanagan at the Senate Estimates Community Affairs Committee meeting on 4 June 2008?
- d) How will the Department's expectation impact on the estimated saving of \$232 million in 2008/09, of \$236.5 million in 2009/10, of \$245.6 million in 2010/11 and of \$245.6 million in 2011/12?

Answer:

- a) Historical, underlying growth in private health insurance coverage is reflected within the assumptions concerning the rate of premium growth and its impact upon expenditure for the private health insurance rebate. The financial impact of premium growth on the forward estimates for the private health insurance rebate is currently allocated to the Contingency Reserve. The private health insurance rebate component of the Contingency Reserve is not published.
- b) The modelling used the best available data and assumptions, which comprised a combination of data from the Treasury personal taxation model, Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey 2004-05, and Ipsos Health Care and Insurance Australia 2007. This modelling was conducted in isolation from other changes to estimates of Government expenditure on private health insurance, as is common practice in estimating the impact of changes such as this.

- c) The information provided in relation to average growth in private health insurance coverage of around 200,000 people a year over the last three years is a historical trend based on Private Health Insurance Administration Council statistics. As stated at Senate Estimates, it is not unreasonable to expect that the underlying rate of growth will continue as other policy parameters remain unchanged.
- d) See a and b above.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-124

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

Can you advise whether the Council has met since the Government announced, before the budget, that the Medicare levy surcharge threshold would be changed?

Answer:

One meeting of the Council has been held after the Treasurer's media release dated 13 May 2008 announcing changes to the Medicare Levy Surcharge threshold – that meeting was held on 27 June 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-076

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Hansard Page: CA 39

Senator Cormann asked:

How many people, as part of your modelling, of 65 years and over do you expect to leave as a result of the increase in the Medicare levy surcharge thresholds?

Answer:

See response, prepared by the Department of the Treasury, to question bet13 to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics at Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-080

OUTCOME 9: Private Health

Topic: MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE

Hansard Page: CA 51

Senator Cormann asked:

(Are) you able to provide or shed any more light, on the question of how many children that are currently on private health insurance policies will be affected by the change in the Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds?

Answer:

Government modelling indicates that approximately 186,000 singles and 149,000 couples would drop their health insurance as a result of the Medicare levy surcharge threshold increases. The number of dependent children affected is approximately 160,000.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-170

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Hansard Page: CA 78

Senator Adams asked:

The waiting list for people who have been diagnosed and regarding further investigation. Have you got it state by state?

Answer:

According to the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Register data as at 31 January 2008, the average length of time between identification of a positive faecal occult blood test (FOBT) result and colonoscopy is 61 days. This does not account for time lags (i.e. the time taken from when a Program participant receives a positive FOBT result to when they visit their primary health care practitioner) and should not be mistaken for the average length of time from when a primary health care practitioner refers a participant with a positive FOBT result for colonoscopy (otherwise referred to as the waiting time).

Average time (days) between the date a positive FOBT result is sent and the date a colonoscopy is performed by jurisdiction – 31 January 2008

Jurisdiction	Average time (days) between the date a positive FOBT result is sent and the date a colonoscopy is performed
ACT	77
NSW	77
NT	79
QLD	55
SA	60
TAS	58
VIC	49
WA	54
Australia	61

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-001

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Moore asked:

Please provide an update for the Official Development Assistance eligible expenditure table provided by the Department during Additional Estimates 2007.

Answer:

The spreadsheets attached provide the Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible expenditure figures attributed to the Department of Health and Ageing for the three financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08. The data include departmental and administered funds.

Attachment A provides the Department's total ODA expenditure for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Attachment B provides a breakdown of the Department's ODA expenditure by country and financial year, while Attachments C, D and E provide a breakdown of the Department's ODA expenditure by country and activity for each of the three financial years respectively. This detail was used to calculate the country spend at Attachment B.

Please note that the figures provided for 2005-06 and 2006-07 represent actual expenditure, while those provided for 2007-08 are expected outcomes.

These figures have been calculated by AusAID based on regular returns provided by this Department every six months.

ODA Expenditure by the Department of Health and Ageing 2005-06

Country / Region	Activity Code	Activity Name	Actuals AUD\$
Indonesia	G02339	Consultancy on Reviewing Medical Device Regulatory System	0
Indonesia	G02340	Meeting with Expert Advisory Panel on Therapeutic Goods Regulation	0
World Unallocated	G03076	WHO Fellowship Program	66,548
Indonesia	G03210	Indonesia- TGA collaboration on the regulation of medicines and medical devices- Medicinal product GMP training	0
Indonesia	G03211	Indonesia- TGA collaboration on the regulation of medicines and medical devices- Medicinal product GMP training	0
Papua New Guinea	G04156	Research and training to reduce morbidity and mortality from malaria in Papua (Indonesia) and Papua New Guinea	329,966
Sri Lanka	G04157	Reducing deaths from pesticides poisoning: Establishing a regional toxicology research centre	73,873
China	G04158	Study of HPV 6 I1 virus like particles as a therapeutic vaccine for genital warts and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis	123,122
East Asia Unallocated	G04159	Building evidence based research and practice in South East Asia: Impact on pregnancy and childbirth care and outcomes	317,040
Papua New Guinea	G04160	Neonatal immunisation with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in Papua New Guinea	236,394
Thailand	G04161	Burden of disease and cost effectiveness of intervention options: Informing policy choices and health system reform in Thailand	157,596
China	G04162	Pathways to improved, sustainable morbidity control and prevention of schistosomiasis in the People's Republic of China	265,942
World Unallocated	G04163	Enterovirus 71 in the Asia Pacific region: reverse genetic approaches to virus surveillance and vaccine development	132,972
Thailand	G04164	Thai health risk transition: A national cohort stud	246,244
Fiji	G04165	The Pacific OPIC study: A four country s	80,028
Tonga	G04165	The Pacific OPIC study: A four country s	80,028
Fiji	G04225	"UMC @ TGA Pharmacovigilance Training Course, 8-19 November 2004"	0
Vietnam	G04226	"UMC @ TGA Pharmacovigilance Training Course, 8-19 November 2004"	0
Mongolia	G04227	"UMC @ TGA Pharmacovigilance Training Course, 8-19 November 2004"	0
Bhutan	G04228	"UMC @ TGA Pharmacovigilance Training Course, 8-19 November 2004"	0
Sri Lanka	G04229	"UMC @ TGA Pharmacovigilance Training Course, 8-19 November 2004"	0
Papua New Guinea	G04230	"UMC @ TGA Pharmacovigilance Training Course, 8-19 November 2004"	0
Indonesia	G04231	Comparative study tour to TGA by a senior Indonesian delegation on the regulation of medicines, 25-29 October 2004	0
Thailand	G04437	A comprehensive visiting program for the senior delegation from the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	0
Thailand	G04438	A practical training program on vaccine quality assurance for a senior official from the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	0
Vietnam	G04439	A visiting program on medicine regulation for a senior Vietnamese delegatino on 8 June 2005	0
East Asia Unallocated	G05448	NHMRC Medical Postgraduate Scholarship	21,875
Fiji	G05449	NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship	20,844

Asia Unallocated	G05450	NHMRC Project Grant - a study of the molecular epidemiology and virulence determinants of enterovirus 71 strains from the Asia Pacific region	31,750
Papua New Guinea	G05450	NHMRC Project Grant - comprehensive assessment of novel artemisinin-based combination regimens for treatment of malaria in Papua New Guinea	176,500
World Unallocated	G05451	NHMRC Project Grant/Clinical Trial - a study to investigate alternative regimens for pneumococcal vaccination of infants in a developing country	172,169
Fiji	G05452	NHMRC Scholarship	0
Pacific Islands Unallocated	G05453	Postgraduate Scholarships	17,515
India	G05454	NHMRC Project Grant - a genome-wide linkage study of schizophrenia in a large sample group from Tamil Nadu, India	200,000
World Unallocated	G99498	International Agency for Research on Cancer	856,331
World Unallocated	G99505	World Health Organisation (WHO) Core Payment	6,434,528
Total			10,041,265

ODA Expenditure by the Department of Health and Ageing 2006-07

Country / Region	Activity Code	Activity Name	Actuals AUD\$
China	O13014	MOU Between Australia DoHA and China Ministry of Health: health cooperation activities	121,238
China	O12408	Study of HPV 6 I1 virus like particles as a therapeutic vaccine for genital warts and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis	123,122
China	O12040	Pathways to improved, sustainable morbidity control and prevention of schistosomiasis in the People's Republic of China	265,942
East Asia Unallocated	O11887	NHMRC Project Grant ID 334254 - HIV, women and reproduction in Australian and the Asia-Pacific region. Building evidence based research and practice in South East Asia: Impact on pregnancy and childbirth care and outcomes	21,438
East Asia Unallocated	O10584		352,233
Fiji	O11886	NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship	0
Global Unspecified	O12733	WHO Fellowship Program	96,871
Global Unspecified	O11656	International Agency for Research on Cancer	0
Global Unspecified	O12750	World Health Organisation (WHO)	6,238,400
Global Unspecified	O12490	The Pacific OPIC study - a four country study of obesity prevention in communities	320,116
Global Unspecified	O11307	Enterovirus 71 in the Asia Pacific region: reverse genetic approaches to virus surveillance and vaccine development	132,972
India	O12131	NHMRC Project Grant - a genome-wide linkage study of schizophrenia in a large sample group from Tamil Nadu, India	125,000
Indonesia	O10677	Consultancy on Reviewing Medical Device Regulatory System	0
Indonesia	O11824	Meeting with Expert Advisory Panel on Therapeutic Goods Regulation	0
Indonesia	O13015	MOU Between Australia DoHA and Indonesia Ministry of Health: health cooperation activities	157,707
Pacific Islands Unallocated	O13016	Pacific Senior Health Officials Network - Regional funding including : Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	132,744

Pacific Islands Unallocated	O12113	Postgraduate Scholarships	16,870
		NHMRC Project Grant - comprehensive assessment of novel artemisinin-based combination regimens for treatment of malaria in Papua New Guinea	
Papua New Guinea	O11887		176,500
Papua New Guinea	O12245	Research and training to reduce morbidity and mortality from malaria in Papua (Indonesia) and Papua New Guinea	494,949
Papua New Guinea	O11884	Neonatal immunisation with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in Papua New Guinea	236,394
Papua New Guinea	O13183	Australian Red Cross Society - PNG HIV and VNRBD National Society Development Project Phase	0
Sri Lanka	O12205	Reducing deaths from pesticides poisoning: Establishing a regional toxicology research centre	147,746
		Burden of disease and cost effectiveness of intervention options: Informing policy choices and health system reform in Thailand	
Thailand	O10585		157,596
Thailand	O12469	Thai health risk transition: A national cohort study	123,122
East Timor	O13182	Australian Red Cross Society - Branch Capacity Building and Water and Sanitation Project Phase 1	0
Vietnam	O13181	Senior official visit to support Australia's international health development in Vietnam	7,115
		NHMRC Project Grant - Preparing for group A streptococcal vaccines: epidemiology and immunology of group A streps in Fiji	
Fiji	O11925		31,136
		Total	9,479,209

ODA Expenditure by the Department of Health and Ageing 2007-08

Country / Region	Activity Code	Activity Name	Expected Outcomes AUD\$
Global Unspecified	O12733	WHO Fellowship Program	52,030
Papua New Guinea	O12245	Research and training to reduce morbidity and mortality from malaria in Papua (Indonesia) and Papua New Guinea	329,966
Sri Lanka	O12205	Reducing deaths from pesticides poisoning: Establishing a regional toxicology research centre	147,746
		Study of HPV 6 I1 virus like particles as a therapeutic vaccine for genital warts and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis	
China	O12408		123,122
		Building evidence based research and practice in South East Asia: Impact on pregnancy and childbirth care and outcomes	
East Asia Unallocated	O10584		262,714
Papua New Guinea	O11884	Neonatal immunisation with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in Papua New Guinea	236,393
		Burden of disease and cost effectiveness of intervention options: Informing policy choices and health system reform in Thailand	
Thailand	O10585		157,595
		Pathways to improved, sustainable morbidity control and prevention of schistosomiasis in the People's Republic of China	
China	O12040		265,942
		Enterovirus 71 in the Asia Pacific region: reverse genetic approaches to virus surveillance and vaccine development	
Global Unspecified	O11307		132,971
Thailand	O12469	Thai health risk transition: A national cohort study	307,804
Global Unspecified	O12490	The Pacific OPIC study - a four country study of obesity prevention in communities	320,116
East Asia Unallocated	O11887	NHMRC Project Grant - HIV, women and reproduction in Australian and the Asia-Pacific region	23,078
		NHMRC Project Grant - Comprehensive assessment of novel artemisinin-based combination regimens for treatment of malaria in Papua New Guinea	
Papua New Guinea	O11887		88,250

Fiji	O12915	NHMRC Project Grant - Preparing for group A streptococcal vaccines: epidemiology and immunology of group A streps in Fiji	14,586
Pacific Islands Unallocated	O12113	NHMRC Project Grant - Postgraduate Scholarships	20,741
India	O12131	NHMRC Project Grant - A genome-wide linkage study of schizophrenia in a large sample from Tamil Nadu, India	50,000
Global Unspecified	O11656	International Agency for Research on Cancer	806,717
Global Unspecified	O12750	World Health Organisation (WHO) Core Payment	7,192,794
Pacific Islands Unallocated	O13016	Pacific Senior Health Officials Network - Regional funding including : Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	172,120
Indonesia	O13015	MOU Between Australia DoHA and Indonesia Ministry of Health	167,310
China	O13014	MOU Between Australia DoHA and China Ministry of Health	109,651
Vietnam	O13181	Senior official visit to support Australia's international health development in Vietnam	40,000
Timor-Leste	O13182	Australian Red Cross Society - Branch Capacity Building and Water and Sanitation Project Phase 1	171,790
Papua New Guinea	O13183	Australian Red Cross Society - PNG HIV and VNRBD National Society Development Project Phase	87,990
Global Unspecified	O13399	Australian Sports Outreach Program	206,000
Philippines	O13400	Managing Microbiological Food Safety Risks	30,876
		Total	11,518,302

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-033

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Hansard Page: CA 9

Senator Humphries asked:

Could I ask in respect of those trips [Senator McLucas and Minister Ellis] for the total cost of the travel and accommodation and other expenses, a description of the ministerial staff accompanying the ministers concerned and any associated costs for that staff or family members if they travelled as well. In respect of those trips, how many officers of the department accompanied the minister?

Answer:

Senator the Hon Jan McLucas
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing

Trip:

Madang and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 22 – 25 April 2008

Purpose:

Madang

- To attend:
 - The Australia-Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum.

Port Moresby

- To visit:
 - The University of Papua New Guinea School of Medicine and Health Science;
 - The Heduru Clinic;
 - The Save the Children Office
 - Attend ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Travelling party:

- Senator the Honourable Jan McLucas

Departmental officer:

- Ms Raelene Thompson, Assistant Secretary, Surveillance Branch, Department of Health and Ageing, provided support for Senator McLucas at the Australia-Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum, Madang and the Port Moresby program from 22-25 April 2008.

Travel Costs:

Senator McLucas' trip remains unreconciled. Costing advice provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation as at 18 June 2008 is as follows:

Representative	Item	Cost
Senator McLucas	Airfare (RAAF Special Purpose Aircraft)	Administered by the Dept of Defence
	Accommodation, ground transport, meals	Costs covered by the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade not yet reconciled
	Travelling Allowance	\$252.00
	Passport	\$222.73
	Vaccinations	\$372.90
	Total (at 18 June 2008)	\$847.63

**The Hon Kate Ellis MP
Minister for Youth and Sport****Trip:**

New York, USA and Montreal, Canada 7-13 May 2008

Purpose:

New York, USA

- To attend meetings with:
 - The Australian Ambassador to the UN, the Hon Robert Hill, UN Focal Point for Youth;
 - NGO Big Brother, Big Sister; and
 - Global Youth Action Network.

Note: Details regarding Minister Ellis' New York program and associated costings should be referred to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Montreal, Canada

- To attend:
 - The World Anti-Doping Agency Executive Committee and Foundation Board Meetings

Travelling party:

- The Honourable Kate Ellis MP
- Accompanying MOP (S) Act Employee – Mr Michael McGuire, Chief of Staff

Departmental officer:

- Mr Bill Rowe, Assistant Secretary, Sports Branch, Department of Health and Ageing, provided support for Minister Ellis's program at the World Anti-Doping Agency Executive Committee and Foundation Board Meetings, Montreal, Canada from 9-11 May 2008.

Travel costs:

Minister Ellis' trip remains unreconciled. Costing advice provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation at 18 June 2008 is as follows:

Representative	Item	Cost
Minister Ellis	Airfare (Business class)	\$16,063.34
MOP (S) Act Employee	Airfare (Business class)	\$16,063.34
Minister Ellis	Travelling Allowance	\$315.00
MOP (S) Act Employee	Travelling Allowance	\$385.00
MOP (S) Act Employee	Passport	\$275.00
Minister Ellis	Accommodation, meals (Montreal)	Costs not yet reconciled
MOP (S) Act Employee	Accommodation, meals (Montreal)	Costs not yet reconciled
Minister Ellis	Ground Transport (Montreal)	\$315.56
	Total (at 18 June 2008)	\$33,417.24

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-034

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Hansard Page: CA 9

Senator Humphries asked:

In relation to those departmental officers who travel, could I have the total cost of travel and accommodation and other expenses?

Answer:

Senator the Hon Jan McLucas
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing

Trip:
Madang and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 22-25 April 2008

Departmental Officer:

- Ms Raelene Thompson, Assistant Secretary, Surveillance Branch, Department of Health and Ageing, provided support for Senator McLucas at the Australia-Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum, Madang and the Port Moresby program from 22-25 April 2008.

Travel Costs:

Ms Thompson travelled from 21-25 April 2008. Ms Thompson's trip has been acquitted and the costing is as follows:

Officer	Item	Cost
Ms Raelene Thompson	Airfare (Business class)	\$3,948.70
	Accommodation	\$1046.56
	Travelling Allowance – Meals and Incidentals	\$340.38
	Other Charges - Taxi	\$120.33
	Total	\$5,455.97

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth and Sport

Trip:

New York, USA and Montreal, Canada 7-13 May 2008

Departmental Officer:

- Mr Bill Rowe, Assistant Secretary, Sports Branch, Department of Health and Ageing, provided support for Minister Ellis's program at the World Anti-Doping Agency Executive Committee and Foundation Board Meetings, Montreal, Canada from 9-11 May 2008.

Travel Costs:

Mr Rowe travelled from 8-13 May 2008. Mr Rowe's trip has been acquitted and the costing is as follows:

Officer	Item	Cost
Mr Bill Rowe	Airfare (Business class)	\$13,059.24
	Accommodation	\$646.21
	Travelling Allowance - Meals and Incidentals	\$621.55
	Other Charges - Taxi	\$59.33
	Total	\$14,386.33

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-188

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Hansard Page: CA 106

Senator Humphries asked:

How much funding are we looking at? Given that we are already there, is there money in this program to make 80% of all schools members of the program this year? If so, how much?

Answer:

Funding of \$4,810,000 (GST exclusive) has been allocated to the Asthma Friendly Schools Program (the Program) over the period 2005-06 to 2008-09. The Asthma Foundations of Australia manage the program under funding agreements with the Department of Health and Ageing. The Program is implemented by individual state and territory Asthma Foundations.

Under current contractual arrangements, the aim is to ensure that 80 per cent of Australian schools are registered under the Program. This figure has been exceeded, with 81.92 per cent of schools being registered as at 1 June 2008. When schools register their interest, they are provided with support and training which aims to meet the criteria necessary for them to be recognised as an Asthma Friendly School. The target for recognition as an Asthma Friendly School is 50 per cent to 60 per cent of schools in each jurisdiction. Recognition as an Asthma Friendly School lasts for three years, after which schools must undergo further training to maintain their status as an Asthma Friendly School.

Planning indicates that the aims of the Program can be met under the present allocations.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-022

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: CHRONIC DISEASE - TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR ARTHRITIS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

- a) Can you provide some up to date figures as to how many people in Australia suffer from arthritis?
- b) Can you please provide details of the amount of funding allocated specifically under the chronic disease treatment program for arthritis?
- c) Can you provide details of the measures and/or initiatives currently in place under this program for arthritis?
- d) How successful are these initiatives?
- e) Do you have any qualitative figures on the success or otherwise of these current initiatives?
- f) Are there any new initiatives in this area?
- g) What is your plan for the coming year in this area?

Answer:

- a) Data from the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS) revealed that arthritis affects about 3 million people, with osteoarthritis accounting for about one-half of cases (1.6 million).
- b) In 2006, the Federal Budget allocated \$14.8 million (2006-2010) for the Better Arthritis and Osteoporosis Care (BAOC) initiative to improve prevention, care and management of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions. *[See also additional information next page]*
- c) The activities of the BAOB initiative are grouped under strategic program areas:
 - Awareness-raising of arthritis and osteoporosis;
 - Consumer education and self-management;
 - Health service improvement;
 - Professional health education;
 - Data monitoring; and
 - Evaluation.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Additional information part b)
Question: E08-022

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: CHRONIC DISEASE - TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR ARTHRITIS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

- b) Can you please provide details of the amount of funding allocated specifically under the chronic disease treatment program for arthritis?

Answer:

In addition to the answer already provided in respect of part b) of Senator Brown's question:

- b) The allocation for the Better Arthritis and Osteoporosis Care initiative in the 2008-09 financial year is \$3.377 million.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-120

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: PALLIATIVE CARE - CARE PLANNING PROJECTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) There are a number of Funded Palliative Care Projects - Case Management that are only guaranteed until March 2009. Transition-out processes are then meant to commence by providers. Are funding extensions being offered to these critical and successful pilot programmes?
- b) When will the results of the pilot programmes be known?
- c) Can the Department provide the Committee with the results of the pilot programmes?

Answer:

- a) The Local Palliative Care Grants Program (LPCGP) offers competitive grants.

The third funding round of the LPCGP provided almost \$7.5 million for care planning projects ranging between \$100,000 and \$270,000 (GST exclusive). The 33 projects funded in this round of the LPCGP contribute to coordinating and improving care for palliative patients in the acute setting and at home. The sustainability guidelines of the sub-program stipulate that the project outcomes are required to be sustainable after the grant funding is expended. These projects have been implemented and are scheduled for completion by April 2009.

- b and c) An evaluation of the third round of the LPCGP is due for completion on 30 June 2009.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-121

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: PALLIATIVE CARE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

There is huge gap for community based palliative care case management services in the Far North Coast of New South Wales and in many other areas of regional Australia where this programme has been very successful and very well supported by hospitals and GPs and should be expanded not disbanded.

- a) What is the Department's position on that?
- b) What programmes will the Department introduce to fill the gap for community based palliative care case management?

Answer:

- a) While the Commonwealth, states and territories are committed to working together to improve palliative care services, specific palliative care services are provided by the states and territories as part of their hospital and community health service provision.

There are concerns among state governments and palliative care experts about the sustainability of stand-alone hospices. The quality of palliative care services and their integration with other hospital and community health services is an important consideration.

- b) The Department of Health and Ageing is providing funding of \$6.7 million (GST exclusive) to the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) to implement a second phase of the Rural Palliative Care Project to develop coordinated approaches to caring for people at the end of their lives. Included in the Divisions of General Practice which received funding was the Tweed Valley Division on the Far North Coast of New South Wales.

The Minister announced the second phase of the Rural Palliative Care Project on 15 April 2008. A copy of the media release is attached.

MEDIA RELEASE

15 April 2008

\$6.5m palliative care boost for rural areas

The Australian Government has today announced funding of more than \$6.5 million – in the field of palliative care - to provide more coordinated care for rural Australians with a life-limiting illness.

Palliative care involves end of life care for people with terminal illnesses including pain management and support for their families.

Patients and families in rural and regional areas should have access to support services such as palliative care that people in urban areas get.

Minister for Ageing Mrs Justine Elliot made the official announcement at Tweed Heads Hospital.

At least 22,000 Australians a year at some point require specialist palliative care and support.

Funding would be shared among 36 Divisions of General Practice in all states and territories to support their efforts to develop a coordinated approach to caring for rural people at the end of their lives.

“As our nation ages so will the number of people needing palliative care. This is about delivering the most efficient way to provide care and quality of life for all Australians,” Mrs Elliot said today.

“To successfully achieve this, end-of-life services individually provided by doctors, nurses, hospitals, local government and within the community need to be coordinated and linked to ensure the very best outcomes for dying people and their families.

“This is about dying with dignity and in comfort.

“This new funding acknowledges the pivotal role that GPs, among others, play in the delivery of palliative care in rural and regional areas. Rural GPs along with families are the closest to those needing palliative care.

“Participating divisions will be expected to forge strong relationships with local communities, stakeholders and other programs to improve palliative care service delivery in their area.” Fifteen divisions from four states – New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia – have been selected for the first intake of the project.

“Each will submit a work plan to the project manager, the Australian General Practice Network, for approval before introducing the model to its region.

“These work plans will enhance the capability of palliative care services in a given area, building on the provision of direct care to patients and working to integrate palliative care into the broader spectrum of rural health care,” Mrs Elliot said.

The following Divisions have been selected for the first intake period following a call for applications and subsequent assessment by the Australian General Practice Network:

- Bendigo and District Division of General Practice (Vic);
- Central Highlands General Practice Network (Vic);
- Eastern Ranges General Practice Association (Vic);
- General Practice Alliance - South Gippsland (Vic);
- General Practice Association of Geelong (Vic);
- Central Queensland Rural Division of General Practice (Qld);
- Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice (Qld);
- Capricornia Division of General Practice (Qld);
- Mackay Division of General Practice (Qld);
- Southern Division of General Practice (SA);
- Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice (SA);
- Limestone Coast Division of General Practice (SA);
- Riverina Division of General Practice (NSW);
- Barwon Division of General Practice (NSW); and
- Tweed Valley Division of General Practice (NSW)

For more information, contact Mrs Elliot's office on (02) 6277 7280

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Great Southern GP Network Ltd.
106 Stirling Terrace, Albany 6330
P O Box 5294 Albany WA 6332

Telephone: (08) 9642 9322
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www.gsgpn.com.au
ABN 75 062 628 924

Mr John Fielding
A / Regional Director
WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt
PO Box 690
NORTHAM WA 6401

Dear John

RE: Medical Workforce issues in Narrogin, WA

As you may be aware GP numbers have gradually eroded in Narrogin over recent years to a point where the town is currently facing a medical workforce crisis. After discussion with several Narrogin GPs, we are of the opinion that the current shortfall of GPs in Narrogin is not sustainable and that this will have potentially dire repercussions on medical services in Narrogin and surrounds. You will be aware that the Narrogin GPs provide anaesthetic, obstetrics and emergency department Visiting Medical Practitioner (VMP) services at the Narrogin hospital. Narrogin hospital provides cover not only to Narrogin residents but to patients across the surrounding shires particularly when their resident GP is on leave.

We are concerned, that with the GPs already struggling to meet demands by patients in their Narrogin surgeries, that VMP services to Narrogin hospital and in particular after hours on call services, will not be able to be sustained. Thus Great Southern GP Network (GSGPN), on behalf of its Narrogin based GP members, requests that you intervene in order to support Narrogin doctors.


State health departments on the eastern seaboard have shown leadership in supporting the doctors in their rural and remote communities, by providing regular locum support to ease the onerous burden of after hours on call. We suggest that your health service similarly invests in providing regular locums to Narrogin GPs, with particular focus on covering after hours on call. It is our opinion that urgent action is required now, in order to salvage the medium to long term medical workforce prospects in Narrogin. Whilst we are cognisant of the fact that locum recruitment for rural centres within Australia comes at a significant cost, we believe that timely locum provision will be much more cost effective than having to deal with the looming collapse of medical services at Narrogin hospital and the varied adverse consequences attached to such a collapse.

-2-

I am looking forward to your response to our concerns outlined above.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Dr David Tadj
MBBS, FRAGP, DRANZCOG, FARGP
GSGPN Chairman

27 May 2008

cc: Hon Judy Moylan MP
Mr Terry Waldron MLA
Dr Graham Jacobs MLA
Senator Alan Eggleston
Senator Judith Adams
Mr Brendon Grylls MLA
Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC
Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC
Hon Alan Carpenter MLA
Mr Jim McGinty Minister for Health
Dr Peter Flett A / Director General of Health WA
Mr Kim Snowball CEO - WACHS
Mr Rob Kirk RMO - WACHS Wheatbelt

Wheatbelt town hit by Nyoongar suicides

TERRY LAURIE and YVONNE PHILLIPS

To a ribbon, Nyoongar ladies like any other people. Weekend, men enjoying the bonfire of a string of good seasons.

But behind the rural scenes of decorated boxes and cottage fires is a calamity in human form.

In the past three months, four young Nyoongar men have committed suicide in a social circle they had left the community-making and raised the banner of a "cultural renaissance".

The deaths have provoked calls for an immediate inquiry, with Aboriginal elders and community leaders charging Nyoongar people are increasingly being ignored by health services which are not employed to meet their cultural needs. Yesterday, more than 100 residents,

including Aboriginal elders and health workers, met to demand local and regional health services strengthen outreach programs in which community could not granting families in their homes in a desperate bid to stop the deaths.

The meeting also called for a man's refuge and for youth workers to help counsel those who were unwilling or unable to approach local health services directly.

Nyoongar Reference Group spokesman Basil Kitchin, who chaired the emergency meeting, criticised the State Government's lack of action in responding to the crisis and said the local community had been frustrated by the inaction.

He said young Nyoongar people had been a stigmatised of helplessness for years, brought on by a lack of appropriate health services, attitudes



Photo: Jack and Maria Abraham with a picture of their son Jack, who committed suicide in March. (See our coverage)

most and opportunities, and calling on the Government to take immediate action.

Maria and Jack Abraham, whose 32-year-old son Jack was the first to die after years of battling mental health problems and drug abuse, said grief was tearing the community apart.

Mrs Abraham said she had tried desperately to get her son help but he refused to seek treatment, saying he was afraid of being labelled "mentally

"It is causing a lot of arguments between families and people are blaming each other," she said.

Nyoongar Sen-Seg Maria Wong said that while many trouble-shooting committees in the State's North-West, Nyoongar had only minor drug and alcohol problems and very little trouble with suicidal behavior, abuse or unemployment.

"There is now an air of depression in the scene that the extended family has been health officials said in a

small community. The Nyoongar everyone is very close," Sen-Seg Wong said. "It has taken everyone by surprise."

Shower mental health minister Helen Merton said the deaths highlighted the transparency of rural and remote mental health services.

In response to a question in Parliament, Health Minister Jim McGinty said Great Southern health providers would send collaborative to address

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-049

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

Hansard Page: CA 142

Senator Adams asked:

- a) How Many doctor, nurses or specialist training places are currently available and will be available?
- b) Have you got that?
- c) Is that not you?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing does not have information on clinical training places for nurses. Data on nurse training places in public hospitals is held by state and territory Health Departments. Universities also seek to accommodate their nursing and midwifery undergraduate clinical training places through negotiations with both public and private hospitals in their vicinity.

Information on pre-registration nurse and midwifery higher education student commencements and completions can be found in The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery Pre-Registration Nurse Education Data Collection & Publication Project 2007 at <http://www.cdnm.edu.au/pdfs/DOHARepor080303.pdf>

Specialist training places (including general practice) are reported by the Medical Training Review Panel (MTRP). The 11th report of the MTRP is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-pubs-mtrp>

Members are referred to Table 4.1 and 4.2 (pages 41& 43) in the report, in which specialist training positions are reported by area of specialty and by state, respectively.

- b) Please see answer a).
- c) Please see answer a).

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-050

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: BRINGING NURSES BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE

Hansard Page: CA 147

Senator Colbeck asked:

What about other levels of consultation with organisations such as the Australian College of Nursing

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing was involved in a consultation process for the Bringing Nurses Back into the Workforce Program using many mechanisms including teleconferences, email and face to face consultations with the following:

Peak Nursing Bodies:

- Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA)
- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council (ANMC)
- The College of Nursing
- Australian Nurses Federation (ANF)
- Australian Midwifery Council (AMC)
- Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN)

Private Hospital Sector:

- Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA)
- Healthscope
- Catholic Health Australia (CHA)

Public Hospital Sector:

- State/Territory Chief Nurse/Midwifery Officers
- State/Territory Health Department Officers

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-100

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hansard Page: CA 143

Senator Adams asked:

Provide a copy the Audit of the Rural and Remote Health Workforce.

Answer:

A copy of the workforce audit report can be downloaded from:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-res-ruraud

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-104

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICER (CNMO)

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) The Budget makes provision for a new bureaucratic position of Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
- b) The provision is for \$300,000 a year for four years, a total of 1.3 Million.
- c) Can the Department advise what this amount will cover – Is it purely the salary and superannuation and related costs of the new Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer?
- d) Will the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer have any support staff paid out of this amount, or will such staff be funded by the Department's general appropriation?
- e) At what level will this person be engaged?
- f) How will the salary and allowances be set?
- g) Will the position be advertised?
- h) Will stakeholders such the Australian College of Nursing and the Australian College of Midwifery be consulted when framing the position specifications of this job?
- i) When is the job expected to be filled?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) No the provision is for \$300,000 a year for four years, a total of 1.2 Million.
- c) Salary, Superannuation, Travel, Related costs and a Project Officer.
- d) Yes. The amount left after payments of CNMO will be used to fund administrative assistance. Funds in excess of \$300,000 per year will be met from within existing Departmental resources.
- e) SES Band 2.
- f) In accordance with standard remuneration process for an SES Band 2.
- g) The position was advertised on 7 March 2008.
- h) No.
- i) The CNMO was announced on 22 June 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-149

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: ALLIED HEALTH SERVICE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How does the Government plan to improve access to Allied Health Service in rural/remote areas?

Answer:

As part of the 2008 Budget the Government is investing \$2.5 Million over three years to provide rural clinical placement scholarships to help boost the number of allied health care workers in rural areas. The scholarships help allied health students meet reasonable travel and accommodation costs incurred while undertaking a rural clinical placement.

In addition, there are two Allied Health scholarship schemes which also improve access to Health services in rural and remote areas, the Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship (RAHUS) Scheme and the Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship (ARRHPS) Scheme.

RAHUS has 65 full scholarships per year to assist students of rural and remote backgrounds to undertake an entry-level degree in an allied discipline. The ARRHPS Scheme awards scholarships to practising rural and remote allied health professionals to enable them to undertake continuing professional development opportunities such as clinical placements, postgraduate study conferences and short courses.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-150

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOLS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

There is a limited academic support in rural areas – although with the introduction of the Rural Clinical Schools this has improved. What further steps do the Government intend to take?

Answer:

The Government will:

- Establish an Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health and Ageing, to drive reform in the rural health sector.
- Over the next 12 months reform the remoteness classification structure (RRMA) to ensure that incentives and rural health policies respond to current population figures and real need, while also examining all existing programs that support rural health professionals, to determine how to better support communities in most need of assistance.
- Continue to invest in rural and regional health services to ensure families get the health services they need – including the announcement of \$6.3 million extra funding for a number of existing rural clinical schools and university departments of rural health to expand their capacity to provide rural education and training support.

The Government is also doubling the number of John Flynn scholarships for undergraduate medical students to undertake placements in rural and remote medical practices as part of the 2008 budget commitment.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-028

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: DOCTORS IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) What is the Department's estimation of the disparity in salaries of doctors working in Aboriginal community controlled medical services compared to those employed by the state and territory governments?
- b) What options is the department examining to address the growing disparity in salaries of doctors working in Aboriginal community controlled medical services and those employed by the state and territory governments?

Answer:

- a) There are no accurate figures available of doctors' salaries in state and territory or Aboriginal Medical Services, and therefore, an accurate estimation is not possible. Aboriginal Medical Services are provided with global funding. These Services also have a number of income sources available to them and, as independent organisations, the allocation of these funds is at their discretion.

Aboriginal Medical Services are responsible for determining the salaries of their employees, including doctors, with consideration given to a level that will attract and retain staff as well as comply with relevant award wages, where they exist.

- b) There are a number of income sources currently available to Aboriginal Medical Services.

Funding of \$526 million was provided nationally in 2007-08 through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health program. The majority of this funding went to Aboriginal community controlled health organisations and the Australian Government has made substantial new funding commitments to Indigenous health services.

Aboriginal Medical Services have generated a significant amount of income through the Medicare Benefits Schedule which has been used to pay for health related initiatives such as primary care programs. Aboriginal community controlled health organisations that employ a doctor can be granted an exemption under section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* for the delivery of primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The exemption enables salaried doctors to access Medicare. Using this income in addition to grant funding to provide competitive GP salaries would be consistent with the intent of Medicare.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-115

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY BUDGET

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) As one of the smaller agencies of the Commonwealth, how has the National Blood Authority's budget been affected by the Government's decision to increase the efficiency dividend?
- b) Will the Authority have to shed staff, and if so will that be by natural attrition or other means?

Answer:

- a) The National Blood Authority's budget is reduced by \$0.193 million in 2008-09 as a result of the Government's decision to increase the efficiency dividend. Under current funding arrangements, the National Blood Authority has absorbed the dividend in their long term financial planning position by adjusting its future activity program.
- b) The National Blood Authority will not have to shed staff in 2008-09 as a result of the increase in the efficiency dividend.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-116

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

In terms of the operation of the Authority, how is co-operation going between the states and territories?

Answer:

The National Blood Agreement provides an innovative governance and funding model that builds on a shared commitment by all governments to improve the safety, security and affordability of the blood sector. Co-operation between the states and territories in achieving the agreed reforms remains strong and productive.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-117

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: REQUEST FOR TENDER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) Can you advise the committee of how the request for tender (RFT) for the third party review of governance arrangements for the Red Cross Blood Service is going?
- b) The RFT closed on 30 May – when do you expect to be able to announce the successful tenderer?"

Answer:

- a) The Request for Tender closed at 2pm on 30 May 2008 and tenders are being assessed by a joint National Blood Authority-Australian Red Cross Blood Service Tender Evaluation panel.
- b) The outcome of the Request for Tender is planned to be announced by late July 2008. The final decision will be advised on AusTender – the online tendering system for Australian Government Agencies at <https://www.tenders.gov.au>

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-025

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: ORGAN DONATION RATES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

- a) Can you please provide an update on donation rates in Australia over the past year?
- b) Is there any improvement from previous years?
- c) Have high profile media campaigns to encourage people to sign up like that on *Sunrise* appeared to have made any difference to donation rates over the past year?
- d) Can you provide a state by state break down of donation rates over the past five years?

Answer:

The information in this response has been drawn from the Australian and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry and is publicly available at www.anzdata.org.au

- a) In 2007 there were 198 deceased donors in Australia resulting in 657 transplanted organs. There were 102 deceased donors in the five months to the end of May 2008.
- b) The 2007 figure of 198 deceased donors is slightly lower than the figures for 2006 (202) and 2004 (218).
- c) The department has not attempted to quantify the impact of media campaigns such as the *Sunrise* program in terms of immediate changes in donation rates. Minor variations in annual donor numbers cannot be attributed to particular contributing factors when statistical methodologies are applied because of the relatively small number of deceased donors in Australia (approximately 200 in any 12 month period).

International experience shows that sustained and consistent national approaches to hospital systems and practices, professional education as well as community awareness result in improved donor rates over time.

d) The following table shows donation rates by state and territory for the period 2002-2007:

Number of Donors** by Retrieval State^x 2002 - 2007					
() Donors Per Million					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Queensland	40 (11)	39 (10)	35 (9)	36 (9)	39 (9)
New South Wales + *	46 (7+) (7*)	63 (10+) (9*)	54 (8+) (8*)	49 (7+) (7*)	53 (8+) (8*)
ACT + *	8 (15+) (25*)	6 (12+) (19*)	9 (17+) (28*)	4 (7+) (12*)	1 (2+) (3*)
Victoria	42 (9)	45 (9)	50 (10)	46 ^x (9)	55 (11)
Tasmania	2 (4)	2 (4)	2 (4)	8 (16)	1 (2)
South Australia	22 (14)	39 (25)	20 (13)	36 (23)	27 (17)
Northern Territory	1 (5)	1 (5)	4 (20)	2 (10)	3 (14)
Western Australia	18 (9)	23 (12)	30 (15)	21 (10)	19 (9)
Australia	179 (9)	218 (11)	204 (10)	202 (10)	198 (9)
New Zealand	40 (10)	40 (10)	29 (7)	25 (6)	38 (9)
<p>x Refers to donors retrieved by retrieval State (ie Albury-NSW donors retrieved by Victoria)</p> <p>+ NSW population excludes residents of the NSW Southern Area Health Service (included in ACT population)</p> <p>* NSW population includes residents of the NSW Southern Area Health Service (excluded from ACT population)</p> <p>Medical services from the ACT service the NSW Southern Area Health Region. Population data—June 2007 ABS 3101.0</p>					
<p>** This figure relates to the number of donors for whom the retrieval operation commenced for the purpose of transplantation. It includes donors who may have been deemed medically unsuitable at the time of surgery or after removal of organs.</p>					

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-097

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: TEEN DENTAL PLAN

Hansard Page: CA 10

Senator Colbeck asked:

Was there any consultation on the Teen Dental Plan prior to the election?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing did not undertake any consultation on the Medicare Teen Dental Plan prior to the election. Advice provided to the department is that the then Opposition consulted with a range of stakeholders on dental issues before the election.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-098

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: TEEN DENTAL PLAN

Hansard Page: CA 14

Senator Allison asked:

Of the 1.1 million teenagers who will be sent the vouchers under the Teen Dental Plan, what percentage will be entitled to access the state dental system for follow-up treatment?

Answer:

Data is not available on the proportion of the 1.1 million teenagers who will be sent vouchers under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan who will be entitled to access the state dental system for follow-up treatment. However, as long as the teenager meets the relevant state's eligibility criteria for access to public dental services, they will be entitled to access follow-up treatment in the state dental system. The criteria used to determine eligibility for public dental services varies from state to state.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-083

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: MERSEY HOSPITAL

Hansard Page: CA 137

Senator Colbeck asked:

Can you tell me how much money has been paid to the Tasmanian government to date?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing has paid the Tasmanian Government a total of \$28,995,673 for the period November 2007 to 31 May 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-084

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: MERSEY HOSPITAL

Hansard Page: CA 138

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) Going back to the consultations by Spencer Smith, my understanding is that the tender required the department to tell them who to consult with. So who were Spencer Smith instructed to consult with?
- b) I would need to take on notice the actual people that they consulted. [Ms Flanagan]

Answer:

- a) The tender documents released for RFT 218/0708 for the provision of consultancy services to examine options for inpatient critical care services at the Mersey Community Hospital required the successful tenderer to consult with “staff at the hospital and other local groups identified by the Commonwealth in developing advice under this RFT.”

To assist with this requirement the department provided a list of key contacts who could provide assistance. SpencerSmith & Associates were required to contact as many of these people/organisations as possible, where relevant and time-permitting.

The list of key contacts, or specialty areas, for the Mersey Community Hospital review of critical care services consultancy was as follows:

Mersey Hospital	General Manager Director of Medical Services Director of Nursing Services Representatives of craft groups Intensive care/anaesthetics Emergency medicine Surgery General medicine Obstetrics and gynaecology Paediatrics Psychiatry Rehabilitation
Community Representatives	Mayors/Councillors Local MPs Ladies Auxiliary

Other Stakeholders Australian Medical Association representative
Tasmanian Department of Health representative
Ambulance Service
Director of Tasmanian (and Victorian if relevant)
retrieval service

Burnie Hospital Chief Executive Officer
Director of Medical Services
Director of Nursing Services
Representatives of craft groups
Intensive care/anaesthetics
Emergency medicine
Surgery
General medicine
Obstetrics and gynaecology

Launceston Hospital Chief Executive Officer
Director of Medical Services
Director of Nursing Services
Representatives of craft groups
Intensive care/anaesthetics
Emergency medicine
Surgery
General medicine
ICU nursing staff
Emergency department nursing staff

- b) The 'Options for Critical Care Services at the Mersey Community Hospital – Final Report', provided by SpencerSmith & Associates, listed the following people as those they were able to consult with during the contract period:

Dr Mohammed Ahmedulla	Physician, MCH
Dr Mike Anderson	Intensivist, Launceston General Hospital
Dr Stephen Ayre	CEO, Launceston General Hospital
Mr Ian Braid	Deputy Chair, MCH Interim Advisory Committee
Ms Anne Cabalzer	Director of Nursing, MCH
Mr John Deverell	Deputy Mayor, Kentish Council
Mr Maxwell Dudgeon	A/g Nurse Unit Manager, North West Regional Hospital
Dr Scott Fletcher	Orthopaedic Surgeon, North West Regional Hospital
Dr Evelyn Funk	Paediatrician, MCH
Mr Michael Gaffney	Mayor, Latrobe Council
Mr Maurice Hill	Deputy Mayor, Devonport City Council
Dr Ian Hoyle	General Practitioner
Ms Karen Linegar	Director of Nursing, North West Regional Hospital
Dr John Menzies	CEO, MCH
Dr Scott Parkes	Intensivist, Launceston General Hospital
Dr James Roberts-Thompson	Surgeon, MCH
Dr Alan Rouse	Intensivist, North West Regional Hospital
Mrs Trudy Seegar	Nurse Unit Manager, North West Regional Hospital
Mr Sid Sidebottom	Member for Braddon
Assoc. Prof. Marcus Skinner	Regional Director Critical Care Services, NWRH
Mr Paul Templar	Tasmanian Ambulance Service
Dr Andrew Hughes	Director, Tasmanian Medical Retrieval Service

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-101

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: MERSEY HOSPITAL

Hansard Page: CA 138

Senator Colbeck asked:

There was \$1 million that was announced prior to the election on 10 October for some funding for equipment to be replaced at the Mersey. There was a fairly extensive list of equipment that was to be provided. What is the status of the purchase of that equipment?

Answer:

All of the equipment, excluding the PABX, has been delivered, or is in the process of being delivered to the Hospital. Prior to the purchase of the PABX equipment, a comprehensive examination of needs for the internal and external electronic voice communications systems at the Mersey Community Hospital, will be required.

Equipment/Item	Status
Laposcopic Imaging Equipment x 2	Received
Operating Microscope – Eye and ENT surgery	Received
Ophthalmic Operating Microscope	Received
Electrosurgical Generators x 4 (Diathermy Machines)	Received
Sterilizer	Received
Automatic Flexible Endoscope Reprocessors x 2	Received
Gastroscope	Received
Ultrasonic cleaner	Received
Ophthalmology equipment	Received
Transport Ventilator	Received
Knee and Shoulder Arthroscopy Sets	Received
Heatsealer	Received
Plaster Trolley	Received
Flourescent Readout of Biological Indicators (Auto Reader)	Received
Main foyer lifts - Repair & Refit	Phase 1 completed. Phase 2 underway.
Pan Flushers	Delivery date to be finalised.
PABX	Requires a needs analysis

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-119

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: MERSEY HOSPITAL INTERIM BOARD

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) On what date did the Minister decide to sack the Mersey Community Hospital Interim Board of Management?
- b) When did the Minister inform the members of the Board of this decision?
- c) Can a copy of the Minister's letter be provided to the committee?
- d) Did the members of the Board receive advice of their being sacked before the Minister informed the media, or afterwards?
- e) Did the Minister write to the Board members thanking them for their service?
- f) Can copies of the Minister's letter be provided to the committee?

Answer:

- a) The Government took a decision on future management and governance arrangements for the Mersey Community Hospital which included wind-up of the Interim Advisory Committee on 3 March 2008.
- b) The Minister travelled to Tasmania to advise the Committee members in person on Friday, 7 March 2008.
- c) See answer to b) above.
- d) The Minister personally advised the Committee before informing the media of the disbandment.
- e) The Minister thanked the members when she met with them on 7 March 2008.
- f) See answer to e) above.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-082

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: ELECTIVE SURGERY

Hansard Page: CA 132

Senator Colbeck asked:

Can I have that (the range and types of procedures that states are expecting to do with the funding) on a state-by-state basis and the numbers of surgeries that they were projecting?

Answer:

Projections of the number of elective surgeries to be completed by each jurisdiction can be provided but the numbers of types of procedures cannot.

Formal negotiations regarding targets were held at the Health Ministers' and Treasurers' meeting on 14 January 2008.

At that meeting, elective surgery targets for each state and territory to achieve by 31 December 2008 were agreed to. Targets for specific types of procedures were not set. The following table shows agreed targets for each state and territory.

State/Territory	Additional Procedures to be undertaken in 2008
New South Wales	8,743
Victoria	5,908
Queensland	4,000
Western Australia	2,720
South Australia	2,262
Tasmania	895
Australian Capital Territory	250
Northern Territory	500
National	25,278

Under the Reduction Plan, states and territories have agreed to conduct an additional 25,278 procedures. This was determined based on the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended on 30 September 2007. It is not a requirement under the plan for states and territories to perform specific types of procedures. States and territories retain the flexibility to perform elective surgery procedures according to clinical need.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-023

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: ORGAN DONATION - COGNATE COMMITTEE ON ORGAN DONATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

- a) How often is the new committee going to meet and where?
- b) What is the objective of the meetings?
- c) What will result from the outcomes of each meeting?
- d) How is it going to interact with Australian Government and state and territory governments?
- e) What will be the exact nature of its relationship to each?
- f) The committee was due to meet on the 22 April this year - what was the outcome of the meeting?
- g) What was agreed to?
- h) What was discussed?

Answer:

- a) When it was set up, the Cognate Committee on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation was to hold face-to-face quarterly meetings, mostly in Sydney.
- b) The objectives of the meetings are to progress the terms of reference of the Cognate Committee as agreed to by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC), which are to:
 - 1. Provide high level policy and program advice to AHMAC on the organ and tissue donation and transplantation sectors.
 - 2. Oversee policy and program reforms to Australia's organ and tissue donation and transplantation sectors through a national approach.
 - 3. Implement government agreed recommendations of the National Clinical Taskforce on Organ and Tissue Donation's final report.
 - 4. Promote a national approach to state-based organ and tissue donation systems.
 - 5. Implement and promote a national communications strategy and stakeholder communications charter.
 - 6. Investigate existing and emerging opportunities for organ and tissue donation and, where appropriate, propose policy and training and clinical responses to develop these opportunities, including living donation and donation after cardiac death.
 - 7. Consider ways to enhance the quality, safety and vigilance of organ and tissues for

transplantation.

8. Oversee the development and implementation of the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation report.
 9. Oversee the operation of the National Organ Donation Collaborative, including the undertaking of an independent evaluation during 2008.
 10. Explore the costs, merits and feasibility of Australia establishing a national organ and tissue donation and transplantation authority to coordinate activity and implement program reforms in the future.
- c) Advice to governments through AHMAC on national policy and program reforms to Australia's organ and tissue donation and transplantation sectors.
- d) The Cognate Committee membership includes senior representatives from the Australian Government and all state and territory governments. The Cognate Committee reports directly to AHMAC which consists of state and territory health CEOs. AHMAC's charter is to provide support to the Australian Health Ministers' Conference.

The Cognate Committee chair is the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer. Other members include key clinical experts and the community sector. A government business sub-committee has been established with representation from all jurisdictions to deal with government-only business including funding decisions.

- e) Refer to d) above.
- f) The outcome of the 22 April 2008 meeting was agreement to a workplan and the development of a framework to enable the Cognate Committee to progress this work program. The Committee also started to prepare advice to governments on ways to remove specific barriers to organ donation for transplantation including considering the National Clinical Taskforce's 51 recommendations for reform.

This work of the Cognate Committee was included in the Australian Government's \$151.1 million national reform package that was announced on 2 July 2008 and endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments on 3 July 2008.

The reform package will introduce, for the first time in Australia, a nationally consistent and coordinated approach to organ donation under the direction of an independent national authority. Learning from international and national experience, and based on the Australian context and local expertise, the reform package comprises the following components:

- A new national organ donation and transplantation authority to be operational from 1 January 2009, subject to the passage of legislation, and a network of nationally coordinated organ procurement organisations to facilitate the donation process;
- New funding for medical specialist positions and other clinical positions in public and private hospitals around Australia dedicated to organ and tissue donation;
- A new funding stream for Australia's public and private hospitals to cover the additional staffing and infrastructure costs associated with organ and tissue donation;
- An enhanced national education and training program for health professionals involved with organ donation;
- An ongoing nationally coordinated community awareness and education program to increase knowledge about organ and tissue donation and transplantation and

- build public confidence in Australia's donation for transplantation system;
- Appropriate support for the families of deceased donors;
- Equitable, safe and transparent national transplantation processes to manage waiting lists and the allocation of donated organs;
- A national eye and tissue donation and transplantation network; and
- Other national initiatives, including living donation programs such as 'paired kidney exchange'.

g) Refer to f) above.

h) Refer to f) above.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-024

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL CLINICAL TASKFORCE ON ORGAN DONATION REPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

The report makes a number of recommendations, including in recommendation one, identifying six critical areas of action.

- a) Could you run through each of these six critical areas briefly?
- b) How have the recommendations of the report been received by the department?
- c) Is there currently any work being undertaken to examine the impact of the reports recommendations i.e. in terms of policy formation, financial impacts etc?
- d) One of the key recommendations of the report was the formulation of a national communications campaign to create awareness about Organ Donation. Can you tell me briefly, what communication campaigns are currently in place?
- e) In the past, how much has been spent on promoting awareness in this area?
- f) Do you have a rough measure of the effectiveness of past campaigns?
- g) In light on the reports recommendations, is the department looking at new strategies, to create awareness about organ donation?
- h) The report also recommends the establishment of a world-class national data system and national organ donation and transplantation authority, to improve coordination in this area. What action is the department taking in light of this recommendation i.e. in terms of policy formulation and examining the financial impact etc?

Answer:

- a) The National Clinical Taskforce recommended action in six areas, which are:
 1. Funding of a national communications campaign to simplify messages to the public, dispel myths, educate and better promote the way that Australians can commit to donation based on robust social marketing methodologies;
 2. Adoption of national clinical triggers and notification protocols to identify potential donors in all emergency departments and intensive care units across Australia;
 3. Development and publication of nationally consistent organ transplant waiting list criteria and organ allocation protocols between jurisdictions and hospitals to ensure utility, equity and transparency;
 4. Resourcing training opportunities and projects that aim to improve clinical practice, such as the National Organ Donation Collaborative;

5. Establishment of a world-class national data system and publication of a National Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation and Transplant Report to report on Australia's performance, to enable benchmarking and to measure the impact of new initiatives; and
 6. Establishment of a national donation and transplantation authority, comprising clinicians and governments, to coordinate activity on a national basis and oversee reform of organ, eye and tissue donation for transplantation.
- b) The Taskforce's report, which presents a 'road map' for improving the rates of organ and tissue donation for transplantation in Australia, was received by the Australian Government on 14 February 2008. As the majority of the report's 51 recommendations have implications for state and territory governments, the report has been referred to the Cognate Committee on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation for further consideration and advice to all Australian governments. The national reform package announced by the Australian Government on 2 July 2008 and endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments on 3 July 2008 takes up the Taskforce's recommendations and the work of the Cognate Committee.
- c) Refer to b) above.
- d) At the Commonwealth level, Medicare Australia, which administers the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR), manages ongoing communications activities that promote organ donation and registration on the AODR. Medicare Australia promotes the AODR through the Medicare Australia office network, works with state-based organ donation agencies and other state/territory authorities on opportunities to distribute the AODR brochure and registration form, and undertakes specific promotional activities during Australian Organ Donation Awareness Week (AODAW) which takes place in February each year.

The Department of Health and Ageing contributes funding to various NGOs and state/territory government agencies to undertake promotional and communications activities. In 2007-08 this included funding to:

- Australians Donate – support of media campaign to coincide with screening of the Nine Network program *The Gift*;
- Transplant Australia – funding for the planning and administration of the Australian Transplant Games (2008 and 2010) and World Transplant Games (2009); funding to develop a community engagement project;
- Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation;
- support AODAW promotional material and events;
- funding for a GP education project; senior high school syllabus organ project;
- funding contribution to 'Don't Waste Your Wish' media campaign in WA; and
- support of a national organ and tissue donation poetry and poster competition.

State and territory governments can also undertake communication campaigns, but the Commonwealth does not hold details of these.

- e) It is not possible to quantify this figure as funding is provided to a range of third parties and only some of that funding would have been spent on promoting awareness.

- f) A proportion of the current total registrations on the AODR can be attributed to specific promotional events or campaigns that encouraged the public to sign on to the register, although individual motivations vary and there are difficulties in quantifying this. One example, the 'Don't Waste Your Wish' media campaign in Western Australia, is likely to have contributed to the monthly percentage increase in new AODR registrations by WA residents from 1.44 per cent in January 2008 to 3.50 per cent in May 2008.
- g) The Government announced a world's best practice reform package to improve organ donation rates on 2 July 2008. The reform package includes Commonwealth funding of \$151.1 million over four years and was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments on 3 July 2008. It includes funding for an ongoing nationally coordinated community awareness and education program to increase knowledge about organ and tissue donation and transplantation and build public confidence in Australia's donation for transplantation system.
- h) The reform package also includes a new national organ donation and transplantation authority to be operational from 1 January 2009, subject to the passage of legislation, and a network of nationally coordinated organ procurement organisations to facilitate the donation process and better data collection.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-026

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: IN HOSPITAL PROGRAMS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

- a) What resources are currently available nationally to hospitals for “in-house” support programs to help lift the rate of donation?
- b) Has there been any extra money allocated for such programs under the National Health and Hospitals Reform Plan?

Answer:

- a) It is not possible to quantify the amount of existing state and territory Government funding in this area. However, on 2 July 2008, the Commonwealth Government announced a world’s best practice reform package to improve organ donation rates and establish Australia as a world leader in the field. The national reform package includes Commonwealth funding of \$151.1 million over four years and was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments on 3 July 2008. The national reform package has several key components that will directly support hospitals to lift the rate of donation for transplantation, including an estimated:
 - \$67 million over four years to fund dedicated medical specialist positions and other clinical positions in public and private hospitals around Australia;
 - \$17 million over four years for Australia’s public and private hospitals to meet the additional staffing, bed and infrastructure costs associated with organ donation;
 - \$1.9 million for a national approach to support the families of deceased donors; and
 - new funding of \$0.72 million over four years to deliver an enhanced national education and training program for health professionals involved with organ donation.
- b) See a) above.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-200

OUTCOME: 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL HEALTH AND HOSPITALS REFORM COMMISSION – STAFFING

Hansard Page: CA 118

Senator Colbeck asked:

Could you give me the classifications of the staff that are working within the secretariat?

Answer:

On 5 June 2008 the classifications of staff working in the secretariat to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission ranged from SES Band 3 to APS5. There were three staff at EL2 and two staff at APS6. In all other classifications there was one staff member per classification.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-201

OUTCOME: 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL HEALTH AND HOSPITALS REFORM COMMISSION – PROGRAM OF VISITS

Hansard Page: CA 121

Senator Colbeck asked:

I have tried to have a look on the website to see a program of your visits. Can you assist us with that?

Answer:

The Commission undertook a series of forums of 2-3 hours duration each in all capital cities and five rural and regional centres. Attendance at these forums was generally by invitation, and the Commission worked with consumer groups, professional bodies, unions and other organisations to seek broad engagements from a wide variety of people.

The forums were conducted with assistance from Elton Consulting. Information on the forums can be found on the Commissions website (www.nhhrc.org.au) by following the link labelled “engagement and consultation”.

The program for the forums was as follows:

Date	Location	Event
Wednesday 28 May	Hobart	Frontline health workers forum
Thursday 29 May	Hobart	Community forum
Monday 2 June	Dubbo	Community forum
Tuesday 3 June	Dubbo	Government agency forum
Tuesday 3 June	Dubbo	Frontline health workers forum
Wednesday 4 June	Sydney	Frontline health workers forum
Thursday 5 June	Sydney	Government agency forum
Thursday 5 June	Sydney	Community forum
Wednesday 11 June	Alice Springs	Community forum
Thursday 12 June	Alice Springs	Government agency forum
Thursday 12 June	Alice Springs	Frontline health workers forum

Monday 16 June	Cairns	Community forum
Tuesday 17 June	Cairns	Government agency forum
Tuesday 17 June	Cairns	Frontline health workers forum
Wednesday 18 June	Brisbane	Frontline health workers forum
Thursday 19 June	Brisbane	Government agency forum
Thursday 19 June	Brisbane	Community forum
Tuesday 24 June	Melbourne	Community forum
Tuesday 24 June	Melbourne	Government agency forum
Wednesday 25 June	Melbourne	Frontline health workers forum
Thursday 26 June	Shepparton	Community forum
Friday 27 June	Shepparton	Government agency forum
Friday 27 June	Shepparton	Frontline health workers forum
Wednesday 2 July	Darwin	Frontline health workers forum
Thursday 3 July	Darwin	Government agency forum
Thursday 3 July	Darwin	Community forum
Monday 7 July	Perth	Frontline health workers forum
Tuesday 8 July	Perth	Government agency forum
Tuesday 8 July	Perth	Community forum
Tuesday 8 July	Geraldton	Frontline health workers forum
Tuesday 8 July	Geraldton	Community forum
Wednesday 9 July	Adelaide	Frontline health workers forum
Thursday 10 July	Adelaide	Government agency forum
Thursday 10 July	Adelaide	Community forum
Wednesday 23 – Thursday 24 July	Canberra	Meetings with national peak bodies
Wednesday 23 July	Canberra	Community forum
Thursday 24 July	Canberra	Government agency forum
Thursday 24 July	Canberra	Frontline health workers forum

In addition to the above, the Commission held special interest round table discussions on selected topics, with attendees invited across the country. These included:

- Hobart, 29 May – Wellness and prevention
- Sydney, 5 June – Caring for people with chronic and complex care needs
- Brisbane, 19 June – Hospitals of the future
- Melbourne, 24 June – Research
- Melbourne 26 June – Health and health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Darwin, 3 July – Health and health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Perth, 8 July – Early start to life
- Adelaide 10 July – Aged Care

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2007-2008, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-003

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) What is being done to address Antibiotic Resistance?
- b) Have the Joint Expert Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (JETACAR) recommendations all been acted on?
- c) If not, why not?
- d) What is the role of the implementation group (EAGAR)?
- e) Is this group still supported and active?

Answer:

- (a) The term antimicrobial covers agents used against the range of microbiological organisms which can cause disease.

During the 2007-08 financial year the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) supported the following antimicrobial resistance (AMR) related activities:

- Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR). The only group that undertakes surveys of resistant organisms isolated from humans;
- Antibiotic Utilisation program. The collection of data on antibiotic utilisation at a national level so that trends in use may be used as indicators for development of strategies to minimise development of antimicrobial resistance;
- *Clostridium difficile* surveillance study. This was a small survey of isolates of *Clostridium difficile* from geographically distinct hospitals in Australia looking for particular toxins causing problems overseas;
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. This involved the development of an education and awareness raising program about Antibiotic Resistance for pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and consumers through community pharmacy. This was completed through the update and release of the Antibiotic Resistant Fact Card and a special edition of the InPharmation on antimicrobial resistance; and

- Food Science Australia. This involved conducting a survey, with monthly sampling of foods from retail outlets in four major population centres. Samples were tested for the presence of *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* and these isolates then challenged with various antimicrobials.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is developing a program to achieve a measurable reduction in health care associated infection (HCAI). Building on facility and jurisdictional initiatives, the program proposes a national and systematic approach to infection control, hand hygiene, healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance including antibiotic stewardship.

- b) JETACAR made 22 recommendations for an antibiotic resistance management program covering regulatory controls, monitoring and surveillance, infection prevention strategies, education and research.

This answer covers those recommendations that required action by DoHA or its portfolio agencies (Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) including the Office of Chemical Safety, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ)). It should be noted that some of the JETACAR recommendations were implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and these are not covered by this brief.

DoHA has taken action to implement all health-related JETACAR recommendations:

	Recommendation
Regulation – Control of Supply	3, 6, 9
Monitoring and Surveillance	10, 11, 12, 14
Prescribing Antimicrobials - Education	15, 16, 17
Research	18
Community Education	19, 20
Implementation management	21, 22

The recent work of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (the Commission), Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) program continues to address the JETACAR recommendations in relation to five major initiatives:

- National Surveillance System: to monitor HAI using national indicators and provide timely feedback to jurisdictions and clinicians. The 2008 document is expected to be completed mid 2008.
- Updated National Infection Control Guidelines: to improve usability and provide permanent currency of information. The NHMRC has been engaged to carry out this work.
- National Hand Hygiene Initiative adapted from the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Healthcare: to leverage existing initiatives beginning with national hand hygiene program to embed local initiatives to enable wider national implementation and provide for sustained monitoring of compliance. The hand hygiene contract has been awarded to Austin Health Victoria.
- Building Clinician Capacity: to increase the ability of infection control practitioners by providing them with skills and resources to engage and educate clinicians, administrators and healthcare consumers to adopt a collective HAI prevention

mindset. An implementation Advisory Committee has been convened to provide technical, systems and/ or expert advice and assistance on issues which impact on infection control practitioners.

- Antibiotic Utilisation: scoping work will begin after the release of the National Surveillance Document.
- c) Some recommendations have only been partially addressed including development of a national surveillance system for AMR organisms (recommendations 10 and 14). However, the Department has been the sole funder of the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR) since 2003/04. AGAR is currently the only fully operational and nationally representative surveillance program that conducts surveillance and provides reliable and representative data on the incidence of antimicrobial resistance in various human bacterial isolates.
- d) The Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (EAGAR) was established by the NHMRC in 2001 to enable it to provide expert advice to Australian Government and Commonwealth Statutory authorities on measures to reduce the risks of antimicrobial resistance in agriculture and human health.
- e) EAGAR's term of appointment ceased on 31 December 2007 and it has not been re-appointed. The NHMRC continues to provide expert advice on antimicrobial resistance as needed, via consultation with the NHMRC's Expert Panel on Health Advice.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 June 2008

Question: E08-192

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: TB IN AUSTRALIA

Hansard Page: CA 68

Senator Bernardi asked:

Are rates of identification of people who have TB rising in this country? The composition of people who are immigrants versus those who are Australian born.

Answer:

The rates of TB cases in Australia are not increasing.

There were 1,139 cases of TB in Australia in 2007 and there have been 540 cases so far this year (up to 30 June 2008).

Australia maintains one of the lowest rates of TB in the world, in the presence of large-scale migration from countries with higher TB rates than Australia, largely because of effective pre-migration screening and the activities of effective, specialised, multi-disciplinary TB services in the states and territories. The rate has remained at less than six cases per 100,000 since 1985.

Since 1991 the proportion of TB cases diagnosed in Australia in persons born overseas compared to Australian born has been slowly increasing. Approximately 85 per cent of cases diagnosed in Australia are in persons born overseas, this proportion was around 75 per cent in 2000.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-058

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: BOARD OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

Hansard Page: CA 58

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) When is the replacement chairman of the Australian Sports Commission expected to be announced?
- b) Did the Minister speak personally to the five retiring members of the Board of the Australian Sports Commission?

Answer:

- a) The term of the current Chairman is due to expire on 18 November 2008. An announcement will be made concerning his replacement closer to this date.
- b) The Minister does not detail the nature of private conversations and contact.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-085

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: BOARD MEMBERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) On the 6 of May 2008, Sport Minister Kate Ellis announced the replacement of five board members. How were these new board members selected?
- b) Do these Board members receive remuneration?
- c) What influence do they have over the allocation of funding for sports?

Answer:

- a) The new board members were selected on the basis of their skills and experience in sport and the appointments were agreed to by Cabinet.
- b) Board members are remunerated for their services to the Australian Sports Commission in accordance with the allowance and entitlement rates set by the Remuneration Tribunal.
- c) The Australian Sports Commission is governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Australian Government. The Board determines the Commission's overall directions, including decisions on the actual allocation of resources.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-185

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: RETIRING MEMBERS

Hansard Page: CA 59

Senator Bernardi asked:

I would like to know whether the Minister has spoken to all of those people personally, advising them that their positions were no longer required? What I want to know is whether any of the members were advised on the morning of the announcement or via voicemail messages left on their mobile phones or anything else.

Answer:

Retiring members were appropriately advised prior to new appointments being announced. As noted in Estimates by Australian Sports Commission CEO Mark Peters, the process was in line with what occurred in previous years.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-086

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: ANTI-DOPING TESTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernadi asked:

- a) How many positive tests were recorded last year?
- b) How much is it going to cost the Government to conduct anti-doping tests through ASADA over the course of the coming year?
- c) How much does each individual anti-doping test cost?
- d) How much does it cost to store each sample of an athlete's blood or urine?
- e) How many tests have been conducted by ASADA?
- f) Will this increase this year?

Answer:

- a) As at 7 July 2008, 22 athletes were found to have committed Anti-Doping Rule Violations relating to Adverse Analytical Findings for presence and/or use of a prohibited substance and were placed on the Register of Findings for 2007 - 2008.
- b) The 2008 – 2009 ASADA budget for sample collection is approximately \$2 million. All anti-doping tests are costed as a package within this budget.
- c) The average cost of conducting an anti-doping test is \$625. The cost of tests can vary depending on various factors, including:
 - additional screenings (for example, EPO screening);
 - use of a registered nurse to collect blood samples;
 - courier fees;
 - use of different laboratories; and
 - usage of casual staff when permanent ASADA staff are unavailable.
- d) The fee for long term storage of a sample, or 'tanking' a sample, is approximately \$30 per sample. Only urine samples can be stored in the Tank.

- e) In 2007 – 08, ASADA conducted 4,228 government-funded tests, which is 28 tests more than the original target of 4,200 government-funded tests. Of these tests, 2,080 were collected in-competition and 2,148 were collected out-of-competition.

The extra 28 tests were required to assist in fulfilling ASADA's commitment to test every Olympic athlete before the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

- f) In 2008 – 09, ASADA has planned to conduct 4,200 government-funded tests.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-087

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: STAFFING AT THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS ANTI-DOPING AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernadi asked:

How many staff are employed by the ASADA?

Answer:

As at 19 June 2008, staff employed at ASADA comprise 63 on-going employees, five non-ongoing employees and approximately 400 casual employees.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-088

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUGS IN SPORTS CAMPAIGN

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernadi asked:

- a) In the Budget, the National Illicit Drugs in Sports campaign was axed, providing saving of \$32.5m over four years. How will this affect ASADA and its outcomes?
- b) Have there been any studies or research conducted regarding the success of this campaign?

Answer:

- a) The outcome of the Budget decision on the National Illicit Drugs in Sport initiative is that \$20.1 million will be provided for testing, results management and education programs over four years commencing in 2008-09. ASADA's outcomes relate to anti-doping in sport. The 2008-09 Budget measures are outlined on page 306 in the PBS.
- b) Not by ASADA.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-089

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: DRUG EDUCATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernadi asked:

How much was spent on drug education last financial year?

Answer:

The cost of education delivery by ASADA in 2007-08 was \$527,852.00

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-090

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: STAFFING RESOURCES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernadi asked:

Will the ASADA need to allocate additional staffing resources to potentially cope with an increase in positive testing of illicit drugs now that the education campaign is no longer going ahead?

Answer:

No. ASADA will not be responsible for any aspect of the testing, result management or education aspects of the National Illicit Drugs in Sport Initiative.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-091

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: ASADA HOTLINES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernadi asked:

In the February estimates, Richard Ings advised that ASADA had two hotlines – a general hotline that athletes/support staff could call to ensure they were not breaching anti-doping rules, and another hotline for anti-doping investigations.

- a) Will these hotlines be affected by the cuts to the education campaign?
- b) If yes: Will there be job losses?
- c) How many people use the hotlines each year?
- d) How do you think the closure of the hotlines will affect doping in sport?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) N/A.
- c) For the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, the Anti-Doping Hotline received 5,290 calls. From January 2008, the Stamp Out Doping Hotline has received 42 calls which directly relate to anti-doping investigations.
- d) N/A as there are no plans to close either hotline.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-051

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: TAEKWONDO

Hansard Page: CA 48-49

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) How much money is being spent on athlete preparations for the Olympic Games in the sport of taekwondo in 2007-08?
- b) Has the Minister met with Taekwondo Australia or Sport Taekwondo Australia?

Answer:

- a) The current taekwondo high performance program is now being managed by the Australian Institute of Sport in accordance with the 2008 Australian Olympic Team Taekwondo Nomination Criteria. The Australian Sports Commission has redirected the previously notionally allocated Taekwondo Australia sport grant funding (\$725,000) and Beijing international travel grant (\$76,000) to the Australian Institute of Sport to continue to support those taekwondo athletes and athlete support personnel preparing for the Beijing Olympics.
- b) The Minister's Office met with Taekwondo Australia Officials on 27 February 2008.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-172

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: SPORTS GRANTS

Hansard Page: CA 27, 4 June & CA 29, 5 June

Senator Bernardi asked:

Provide a list of your so-called election commitments?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing is currently seeking confirmation from each proponent that they still intend to proceed with their project proposal and whether there have been any variations to the original proposal including budget and scope.

Details of project plans and budgets, including timeframes and details of any matching funding, will be sought from proponents and assessed by the Department.

Following confirmation that the proponent is ready to proceed with their project a funding agreement will be negotiated.

Once the Government is satisfied that the projects can and will go ahead, an appropriate announcement will be made.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-175

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: ELECTION COMMITMENTS

Hansard Page: CA 44

Senator Bernardi asked:

The three projects announced on 21 May to receive grants - the Glen Park Community Centre, the Croydon Little Athletics Centre and the Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club. Can someone tell me if that is part of a sports program? Is that part of grants that were decided after the election, or are they election promises?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing does not administer a sports facilities grants program. The Government committed funding for the Glen Park Community Centre, the Croydon Little Athletics Centre and the Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club in the context of the 2007 Election.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-176

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: ELECTION COMMITMENTS

Hansard Page: CA 46

Senator Kemp asked:

Secretary, can you give me an answer to this committee as to whether you will provide a list of the election commitments that your department is required to administer?

Answer:

Please see response to question E08-172.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-002

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: SPORT GRANTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Humphries asked:

Please table a copy of any clippings in the Department's media library compiled since 1 July 2007 relating to sports grants.

Answer:

Please see the Australian Sports Commission's response to question E08-059.

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-052

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: TAEKWONDO AUSTRALIA

Hansard Page: CA 51

Senator Lundy asked:

- a) What is the reason for Taekwondo Australia ceasing to be recognised by the Australian Sports Commission?
- b) Can you provide the specifications for the appropriate governance model that would be applicable for a sport like taekwondo to gain recognition by the Australian Sports Commission?
- c) What does Taekwondo Australia need to do specifically to regain recognition?

Answer:

- a) On 29 October 2007, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) advised Taekwondo Australia that it ceased to be a member of the AOC, which in turn led to its disaffiliation from the World Taekwondo Federation. On 8 November 2007, the World Taekwondo Federation wrote to Taekwondo Australia appointing the Australian Olympic Committee as the interim governing body for Taekwondo in Australia as Taekwondo no longer continued to meet the criteria for membership of the World Taekwondo Federation. As a result of this decision Taekwondo Australia is no longer able to be recognised by the Australian Sports Commission as it no longer meets a key recognition criterion requiring sporting organisations to be affiliated to the international body for the sport, in this case, the World Taekwondo Federation.
- b) For any sporting organisation seeking recognition from the Australian Sports Commission, sports must first demonstrate that they meet all of the criteria for recognition. A full list of the eligibility criteria for the recognition of National Sporting Organisations by the Australian Sports Commission and can be found on the Australian Sports Commission website www.ausport.gov.au One of the criteria relates to a governance structure that is consistent with the Commission's governance principles of best practice, a copy these principles can also be found on the Australian Sports website www.ausport.gov.au

- c) In order for Taekwondo Australia to re-gain its Commission recognition status, a necessary first step would be for Taekwondo Australia to satisfy the criterion requiring membership of the sport's international body which in turn depends upon membership of the Australian Olympic Committee. Once Taekwondo Australia have been recognised by the sports international body then Taekwondo Australia could then make an application for recognition against the Commission's recognition criteria. Taekwondo Australia is aware of these criteria, which are also publicly available on the Commission's website.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-053

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: 2004 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Hansard Page: CA 52

Senator Kemp asked:

How many medals did Australian athletes win at the 2004 Athens Olympic and Paralympic Games?

Answer:

At the 2004 Athens Olympics, Australian athletes won 49 medals, while at the Paralympics, 100 medals were awarded to Australian athletes.

A breakdown of these results is provided below.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2004 Olympic Games, Athens	17	16	16	49
2004 Paralympics	26	38	36	100

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-054

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF SPORT FUNDING

Hansard Page: CA 55

Senator Kemp asked:

How much funding are our major competitor countries putting into high performance sport, particularly Olympic sport?

Answer:

The following information is drawn from available data and reflects spending on high performance sport, with Olympic success as the key focus.

United Kingdom

High performance sport funding for Olympic sports was £108 million (AUD\$230 million) in 2007. This funding is sourced from the national government and lotteries, and is due to increase by 20 per cent over the next four years.

Germany

The total sport budget from government in 2007 was €187 million (AUD\$315 million), with eight government departments contributing. The federal government only funds high performance sport, with the main source being the Federal Ministry of Interior (€22 million, or AUD\$206 million).

France

High performance sport budget for 2008 is €178 million (AUD\$300 million), funded through the national government (with lottery backing). This figure has increased 41 per cent in the last four years. In addition, there is extensive support for high performance sport through regional governments.

Italy

The budget for high performance Olympic sport over four years (2004-08) is €460 million (which equates to approximately AUD\$194 million per year). Funding is administered through the National Olympic Committee, with a contribution from the national lottery, and funding is adjusted each year for cost of living increases.

Canada

The annual base budget for high performance sport provided by the Federal Government has been CAD\$140 million (AUS\$150 million) since 2005. The 2008 Budget provided additional funding of CAD\$24 million over the next two years and CAD\$24 million per year ongoing to support the *Road to Excellence* (Summer Olympic program). The 2008 funding figure is, therefore, AUD\$201 million.

Japan

Current figures are not available, but in 2005 USD\$83 million (AUD\$109 million) was reportedly allocated for high performance sport through the Physical Education and Sports portfolio. Japan is currently running a detailed *Gold Plan* aimed at the top three on the Olympic medal table by 2020. It is reasonably assumed funding is now significantly higher than in 2005.

Korea

In 2005 an amount of USD\$80.6 million (AUS\$106 million) was provided by government for high performance sport. Funding is targeted to key sports, and there are indications that additional funding is sourced through the Korean Olympic Committee.

USA

There is no government funding for high performance Olympic sport in the USA, and funding is provided by the US Olympic Committee. As a private entity, limited information on the US Olympic Committee is publicised. Research in 2006 identified a 2005/06 US Olympic Committee budget figure of USD\$108 million (AUS\$144 million at that time) for high performance and a total operational budget of USD\$149 million (AUD\$199 million). The college system provides a massive structural and financial backing to the high performance system in the USA.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, June 2008

Question: E08-055

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: MAJOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SPORT FUNDING INITIATIVES

Hansard Page: CA 55

Senator Kemp asked:

What major Australian Government funding initiatives in high performance sport, participation and other areas have been introduced since 1990?

Answer:

The following Australian Government funding initiatives managed by the Australian Sports Commission have been announced in Budgets as shown:

Budget	Initiative	Funding	Period	Purpose
1992-93	Maintain and Momentum	\$236m	four years	all ASC programs
1994-95	Olympic Athlete Program	\$135m	six years	high performance
1996-97	Continuation of M-t-Momentum	\$108m	three years	all ASC programs
2000-01	Olympic Athlete Program	\$5m	One year	High performance
2001-02	Backing Australia's Sporting Ability	\$161.6m	Four years	All ASC programs
2003-04	AIS Facilities Investment	\$65.4m	Four years	High performance
2003-04	Direct Athlete Support – Athens	\$1m	One year	high performance
2004-05	Direct Athlete Support – Melbourne	\$6.8m	Two years	high performance
2004-05	Active After-school Communities	\$90m	four years	participation
2004-05	Aust Paralympic Committee funding	\$8m	four years	Paralympic sport
2005-06	Building Aust Communities thr Sport	\$538m	four years	all ASC programs
2005-06	Nat'l Sporting Org Supplementation	\$28.3m	four years	high performance
2005-06	Direct Athlete support – Beijing	\$14m	four years	high performance
2005-06	European Training Centre	\$11m	four years	high performance
2006-07	Integrated Sports System	\$55.7m	four years	high performance
2006-07	Australian University Sport funding	\$10m	four years	participation
2007-08	Active After-school Communities	\$125m	four years	Participation
2007-08	Aust Paralympic Committee funding	\$22.8m	five years	Paralympic sport
2007-08	Specific sport funding measures	\$37m	four years	high performance / participation
2008-09	Local Sporting Champions	\$6.4m	four years	participation
2008-09	Special Olympics Australia funding	\$1.2m	four years	Participation
2008-09	Northern Territory AFL	\$2.5m	five years	high performance / participation

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-056

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: FUNDING FOR SPORT

Hansard Page: CA 56

Senator Kemp asked:

- a) Can you provide figures on funding provided by the Australian Olympic Committee in the current Olympic cycle?
- b) Can you provide some trend information on funding for the various state institutes of sport?

Answer:

- a) According to the Australian Olympic Committee's 2007 Annual Report released on 19 April 2008, \$15,654,136 has been provided to Olympic sports in the current Olympic cycle. A complete breakdown of this expenditure is provided at Attachment A.
- b) Information provided by the National Elite Sports Council indicates the following levels of funding from the various state institutes of sport in the current Olympic cycle.

Institute	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
AIS	\$30,130,000	\$32,200,000	\$37,534,000	\$40,813,634
ACTAS	\$1,866,274	\$2,001,381	\$1,786,516	\$1,812,297
NSWIS	\$6,715,000	\$6,846,000	\$10,087,000	\$10,287,000
NTIS	\$1,791,000	\$2,216,000	\$2,218,000	\$2,237,000
QAS	\$7,840,780	\$8,932,650	\$8,932,650	\$8,833,000
SASI	\$3,939,768	\$4,055,502	\$4,027,371	\$3,823,181
TIS	\$1,111,768	\$1,477,775	\$1,463,280	\$1,688,726
VIS	\$4,520,000	\$4,520,000	\$5,700,000	\$5,175,000
WAIS	\$3,500,000	\$3,560,000	\$3,957,000	\$4,020,000
TOTAL	\$61,414,590	\$65,809,308	\$75,705,817	\$78,689,838

ATTACHMENT A

AOC FUNDING PROGRAMS - 2007

SUMMER	FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION			FUNDING FOR MEDALLISTS AND THEIR COACHES			AYOF 2005 & 2007	TORINO 2006	
	Athletes & Officials	Total 2007	Quad to Date	Athletes & Coaches	Total 2007	Quad to Date	Quad to Date	Athletes	Total 2006
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Archery	9	27,000	81,000			6,250	48,823		136,073
Athletics	57	171,000	513,000	19	107,633	159,572	732,621		1,405,192
Badminton	9	27,000	81,000				135,915		216,915
Baseball	31	93,000	279,000			177,000			456,000
Basketball - Men	18	54,000	162,000				149,342		311,342
Basketball - Women	18	54,000	162,000	13	183,750	367,506			529,506
Boxing	12	36,000	108,000						108,000
Canoe	23	69,000	207,980	1	7,500	31,250	528,222		767,452
Cycling	38	114,000	333,000	11	97,500	311,125	354,865		998,989
Diving	10	30,000	90,000			55,626	161,304		306,930
Equestrian	18	54,000	150,000	7	41,280	61,280	103,391		314,670
Fencing	4	12,000	36,000						36,000
Football Men	23	69,000	207,000				165,750		372,750
Football Women	23	69,000	207,000				165,750		372,750
Gymnastics	17	51,000	147,000	4	31,250	37,500	424,143		608,643
Handball Men*	20	30,000	90,000						90,000
Handball Women*	20	30,000	90,000						90,000
Hockey Men	23	69,000	207,000	26	162,508	507,514	157,463		871,976
Hockey Women	23	69,000	207,000	25	162,508	299,383	122,655		629,038
Judo	16	48,000	144,000				119,186		263,186
Modern Pentathlon	3	9,000	27,000						27,000
Rowing	57	171,000	513,000	38	268,125	422,500	663,679		1,599,178
Sailing	25	75,000	225,000	8	75,000	97,500	132,600		455,100
Shooting	27	81,000	243,000			30,000	156,652		429,652
Softball	22	66,000	198,000	24	129,364	348,728			546,728
Swimming	58	174,000	510,000	27	211,875	537,850	573,837		1,621,687
Synchronized Swimming	12	36,000	78,000						78,000
Table Tennis	9	27,000	81,000				76,245		157,245
Taekwondo	7	21,000	63,000	6	43,750	56,250	185,640		304,890
Tennis	10	30,000	90,000			20,000			110,000
Triathlon	9	27,000	81,000	4	28,125	75,000			156,000
Volleyball Men	17	51,000	153,000				146,470		299,470
Volleyball Women *	17	25,500	76,500						76,500
Volleyball Beach	11	33,000	99,000						99,000
Water Polo Men	18	54,000	162,000	16	65,664	65,664			227,663
Water Polo Women	18	54,000	162,000	13	182,006	182,006			344,006
Weightlifting	3	9,000	27,000						27,000
Wrestling	10	30,000	66,000				143,598		209,598
SUB TOTAL	745	2,149,500	6,356,480	242	1,797,838	3,849,504	5,448,153		15,654,136

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-059

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: PRESS CLIPPINGS

Hansard Page: CA 60

Senator Humphries asked:

Can you provide clippings from the ASC library concerning any issues to do with the granting of money in relation to sports, including sports grants, from the last twelve months?

Answer:

The Australian Sports Commission's National Sport Information Centre, has conducted a search on the *Australian and New Zealand Reference Library Database* (covering major Australian city newspapers) in relation to government sports funding.

This search has identified over 80 pages of media relating to government sports funding from June 2007 to May 2008.

The Commission's contract with Media Monitors does not enable it to access media clippings past three months.

Attachment A provides all media identified referring to government funding.

Newspaper Stories on Federal Government Sports Funding/Grants – June 2007- May 2008

Compiled by the National Sport Information Centre, Australian Sports Commission from *-Australian and New Zealand Reference Library Database* (covers major Australian city newspapers) . This service does not cover regional/suburban newspapers. Parliamentary Library might have access to databases covering regional/suburban newspapers.

Database search terms – sport* and (grant* or funding)

Newspaper Stories June 2007 – May 2008

Apply for; community grants now Gold Coast Bulletin, The, 06/06/2007 (AN 20070606B022488587)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Apply for; community grants now

Edition: B - Main

Section: Village Voices, pg. 022

CASH-strapped Tweed community groups, please take note.

The Federal Government is planning to loosen its purse strings later this year and is calling for applications for funding via its Volunteer Small Equipment Grants Program.

Richmond MP Justine Elliot is encouraging local community groups to apply for federal funding under the program.

Grants of up to \$3000 are available for community groups to buy office equipment such as computers, photocopiers and furniture.

In this round of funding, grants will also be available to local volunteer sporting groups.

Past successful applicants include Caldera Environment Centre, which received \$1717 for a tent and other outdoor equipment, and the Kingscliff RSL Sub Branch Association which picked up \$2728 to fund a much needed public address system.

Application close on June 22. More information can be found at www.facsia.gov.au

Copyright 2007 / Gold Coast Bulletin

Source: Gold Coast Bulletin, The, JUN 06, 2007

Item: 20070606B022488587

Record: 2

Ballymore to become centre of excellence By: Jim Tucker and Peter Jenkins. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 30/06/2007 (AN 200706302112356424)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Ballymore to become centre of excellence

Edition: 2 - First Drop

Section: Sport, pg. 112

PRIME Minister John Howard will today announce Federal Government funding for a visionary \$25 million centre of rugby excellence at Ballymore.

The brainchild of Queensland Rugby Union chairman Peter Lewis, it will be a massive boost for the code in this state.

Under the blue print, a facility for a state -of-the-art sports science centre, a fully-fitted gym and a rugby motel to house visiting teams would be built.

A national rugby academy would also be based at the new high-performance centre.

The ambitious project is seen as a commercial venture with the playing fields and the facilities open to international sides and even teams from rival football codes.

Lewis passionately pushed the Queensland idea even when the Australian Rugby Union did not embrace the concept.

The national body's support was crucial in winning the Government backing to turn the dream into a reality that can serve Asia-Pacific rugby region.

* Springboks coach Jake White has returned fire on the ARU, suggesting its stance on the half-baked touring side he has brought to Sydney smacks of arrogance.

White has told South African journalists that criticism levelled at the Boks threatens to explode in Wallaby faces at Telstra Stadium next Saturday night.

``I have no doubt that the pressure is now all on Australia," he said. ``They are saying that they are going to run all over us. Well, good luck to them. ``We're going to give as good as we get."

ARU boss John O'Neill launched a scathing attack on the South African Rugby Union on Thursday after White decided to rest 20 frontline players from the tour to Australasia that will take in the Springboks' final two Tri-Nations matches.

O'Neill said it could cost the ARU more than \$200,000 if ticket sales slumped.

Copyright 2007 / Courier Mail

Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), JUN 30, 2007

Item: 200706302112356424

Record: 3

Daintree centre to go ahead Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette, 07/06/2007 (AN 200706071007025516)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Daintree centre to go ahead

Edition: 1

Section: News, pg. 007

THE long-awaited Daintree Coast Community Centre in Cow Bay will be built within the next two years if a Federal Government grant of \$450,000 is approved.

The Douglas Shire Council voted at their meeting on Tuesday to apply for the grant money through the Department of Transport and Regional Services Regional Partnership Program and match the funds dollar for dollar from the 07/08 budget.

The proposed centre will be located on Tea Tree Rd in Diwan and be designed by Greg Skyring.

It will feature a large hall, stage area, kitchen and bar facilities.

The community centre would serve as a meeting place that caters for the arts, recreational, sporting and cultural aspects of the community and to strength the area s sense of community.

Division three councilor Joe Sciacca said the community had waited long enough. Its been on the cards for five years and I want to see it completed as soon as possible, Cr Sciacca said.

I would like to see it done in one year.

The Daintree community has lobbied council for nearly five years with petitions, deputations and community forums.

Copyright 2007 / Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette

Source: Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette, JUN 07, 2007

Item: 200706071007025516

Record: 4

Multi-purpose centre to be built in Tully Cairns Post, The, 08/06/2007 (AN 200706081008201875)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Multi-purpose centre to be built in Tully

Edition: 1

Section: News, pg. 008

A LONG-AWAITED \$4.6 million multi-purpose centre will be built at Tully High School.

The centre will double as an evacuation centre and venue for conferences, cultural and sporting events.

The development will go ahead thanks to a \$700,000 Federal Government grant together with money from Education Queensland, Sport and Recreation Queensland, Arts Queensland, Cardwell Shire Council and public donations. The centre will be the first in the region to stage functions for up to 800 people, and will include an indoor sports court, a stage, kiosk, outdoor courts and activity rooms.

Cardwell Shire Mayor Joe Galeano said concept plans would now be finalized and a project manager appointed.

Cr Galeano said it was hoped the centre would open in August next year

Copyright 2007 / The Cairns Post

Source: Cairns Post, The, JUN 08, 2007

Item: 200706081008201875

Record: 5

New sport grants help get kids off the couch Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette, 14/06/2007 (AN 200706141044025600)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

New sport grants help get kids off the couch

Edition: 1

Section: Sport, pg. 044

THE Australian Government has launched a new grants program and schools competition focused on preventing obesity and chronic disease.

Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch said community groups in Far North Queensland would be able to apply for grants of between \$10,000 and \$200,000 for local projects that promote healthy living among at-risk groups.

It is important that we encourage everyone in our community to adopt a healthy lifestyle to lower the incidence of obesity and chronic disease such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease he said.

Mr Entsch also encouraged local schools to enter the Governments Healthy Active Schools Competition that recognises the large role primary schools play in promoting healthier lifestyles.

Schools in Far North Queensland could win \$10,000 worth of fitness or playground equipment if they win, or \$2,500 worth of fitness or sporting equipment if they come runner up. Mr Entsch said.

Mr Entsch said all schools would be sent an information kit this month and entries would close on 10 August, with winners notified by the end of September 2007. He said that applications for community grants projects would close on 26 June 2007, with successful applicants being notified by the end of September.

Mr Entsch encouraged all schools and community groups to contact his office if they have any enquiries on how to apply for the grants or enter the schools competition.

This funding is being provided under the Australian Better Health Initiative, a four year \$500 million joint initiative of the Australian Government and state and territory governments, to promote wellbeing and better management of chronic disease.

More information on the Healthy Active Australia community and schools grants program and the national school competition is at www.healthyactive.gov.au.

Copyright 2007 / Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette

Source: Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette, JUN 14, 2007

Item: 200706141044025600

Record: 6

Smashing sport on grab mission By: RON REED. Herald Sun (Melbourne), 21/06/2007 (AN 200706211094024317)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Smashing sport on grab mission

Edition: 1 - FIRST

Section: SPORT, pg. 094

YOU can't win 'em all, it's true.

So it's never been a big deal that Australia has yet to bring home an Olympic or world championships medal of any colour in badminton.

Not quite ``who cares?``, perhaps -- but, well, hands up anyone who does.

However, when that little piece of Olympic history appeared on the curriculum of a prominent Melbourne school yesterday, it came with a \$20 million price tag.

Or its share of it, anyway.

That's how much the Federal Government's Sports Commission is pouring in over four years to a talent identification program aimed at beefing up the so-called minor sports which have never made any significant contribution to the medal tables to which funding and sponsorship are inextricably linked.

There are 17 sports involved, including athletics, rowing, hockey, tae kwon do, skating and kayaking.

Rowing and mountain-biking and the winter sport of skeleton have already delivered some success.

Now badminton has been pushed to the front of the queue with a project called Jump Smash, which was launched at Wesley College's Elsternwick campus yesterday by the talent campaign's official ambassador, Alisa Camplin.

Camplin is no badminton player, of course -- but she is an Olympic gold medalist in a sport that had a similarly modest profile not all that long ago, freestyle aerial skiing.

And because she came to that sport after flirting with athletics, gymnastics and sailing, the message she is trying to sell comes from the heart: that if you don't have a go, you'll never know if you could have been good enough to represent Australia.

"There is no better experience in the world," she told scores of teenage students.

Her audience was exclusively girls, who are considered more likely than boys to adapt and advance quickly if they show potential. And there is a certain urgency, with the London Olympics in 2012 the target.

The search is centred on Victoria, and candidates should be between 10 and 13 and naturally sporty, strong, powerful, fast and mentally tough, the sales pitch says.

Netball, squash, tennis and volleyball players would be suited, and girls who are accepted into the program will benefit from world-class coaching, sports science and elite competition.

If that sounds like a big ask, well, we are looking for Olympians here. And the competition is hotter than the unaware might think.

It is the fifth most-played sport in the world, with more than 200 million competitors, mostly in Asia. In Malaysia, for instance, its popularity and importance rivals football's here.

And as this column discovered during the 1992 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, big crowds generate enormous atmosphere.

That might never be the case here but the first girl to win a medal will make history.

Girls can register their interest on the ASC's website www.ausport.gov.au/talent no later than June 29.

reedr@heraldsun.com.au

Copyright 2007 / Herald Sun

Source: Herald Sun (Melbourne), JUN 21, 2007

Item: 200706211094024317

GOLDEN GROVE; Sport centre grant Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 21/07/2007 (AN 200707211030898729)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

GOLDEN GROVE; Sport centre grant

Edition: 1 - State
Section: News, pg. 030

THE Advertiser yesterday reported that Prime Minister John Howard had announced a \$1.79 million grant for a sporting centre at Golden Grove.

The grant, for the Harpers Field Development project, actually is for \$1.179 million and will be used for changerooms, meeting rooms and a canteen for football and cricket clubs and community groups.

Copyright 2007 / The Advertiser

Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), JUL 21, 2007

Item: 200707211030898729

Record: 2

New sports court given the nod Townsville Bulletin, 18/07/2007 (AN 200707181019302937)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

New sports court given the nod

Section: News, pg. 019

KIRWAN High students now have a first-class facility to play sports.

The well known sporting school's old asphalt basketball courts were approaching 20 years of age and had been deemed unsafe for play.

But Kirwan State High School now has a new court facility, catering for singles and doubles tennis, netball, basketball and volleyball.

The school's business manager Leeanne Thomson said Federal Government funding for the new facility came at just the right time.

``We have a lot of excellence programs and for the last two years we've had to ship the kids over to Murray Stadium for their basketball," she said.

She said the children loved the new facility, which opened yesterday.

The school received funding of \$150,000 from the Federal Government's Investing in our Schools program towards the \$164,185 sports area, which included fencing, lighting and shade covers. ``The lights will be a great benefit," Ms Thomson said.

Herbert MP Peter Lindsay said Kirwan State High School provided an extensive sports program as an integrated component of the main curriculum.

``The school's sports courts had previously been closed as they were considered unsafe," Mr Lindsay said.

Copyright 2007 / Townsville Bulletin

Source: Townsville Bulletin, JUL 18, 2007

Item: 200707181019302937

Record: 1

\$1b vow for pools, libraries By: LINCOLN WRIGHT. Sunday Tasmanian (Hobart), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710281006447178)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$1b vow for pools, libraries

THE Howard Government will spend up to \$1 billion over the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown local swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile is expected to announce one of the campaign's biggest infrastructure packages close to election day, November 24.

Local councils will each receive a certain amount of funding to improve their community services and rejuvenate ageing infrastructure.

The range of community services to be upgraded will include ovals, swimming pools, stadiums, halls, libraries and aged care facilities.

The four-year, \$250m-a-year funding program will be allocated according to a formula, just like the Roads to Recovery program, not a grants system.

The Australian Local Government Association has been lobbying Mr Vaile, who is also the Transport Minister, for increased funding.

“Local councils are called upon to do so many things these days that they are struggling to maintain their core infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, libraries, pools, and aged care facilities,” said Bill Mitchell, ALGA's vice-president, yesterday.

Mr Mitchell said recent research indicated the shortfall in funding infrastructure totalled hundreds of billions of dollars.

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Tasmanian

Source: Sunday Tasmanian (Hobart), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710281006447178

Record: 2

\$1bil splash on pools and ovals By: LINCOLN WRIGHT. Sunday Times, The (Perth), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710282019556331)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$1bil splash on pools and ovals

Edition: 2 - Country

EXCLUSIVE

THE Howard Government will spend up to \$1 billion in the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile is expected to announce one of the campaign's biggest infrastructure packages close to the November 24 election day.

Councils will receive funding to rejuvenate ageing infrastructure, including ovals, swimming pools, stadiums, halls, libraries and aged-care facilities.

The four-year, \$250 million-a-year program will be allocated with a formula, like that of the Roads to Recovery program, not a grants system.

The Australian Local Government Association has been lobbying Mr Vaile For increased funding.

“Local councils are called upon to do so many things these days that they are struggling to maintain their core infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, libraries, pools, and aged-care facilities,” ALGA vice-president Bill Mitchell said yesterday.

“In WA alone, councils own over \$13 billion in infrastructure, but they need \$1.75 billion just to maintain it,” he said.

Mr Vaile has already helped sea-change regional areas, where sudden surges in growth have put pressure on councils to deliver services.

The Growing Regions program, announced in September, will allocate \$200 million over four years.

It will operate on a grant system, allowing councils and businesses to apply for up to \$3 million in funding.

Old leaking pools are a problem across Victoria as councils struggle to keep them up to date.

In Melbourne, Moreland Mayor Mark O'Brien said federal funding could maintain six pools.

“Pools are really popular with the community, but their average age is 50 years old. They're leaking and it costs us a fortune to maintain them,” he said.

Mr O'Brien said any help would ease the pressure on ratepayers.

Moreland needs help to pay for a \$14 million upgrade to the Brunswick Baths, while Coburg Olympic pool has been closed since January.

Monash Council has already applied for a \$1 million grant from the Victorian Government to fix a 50m outdoor pool at Oakleigh.

The future of the state's Olinda, Seville and Warburton pools are also in doubt, with the Yarra Ranges Council facing a \$2.5 million bill for urgent repairs.

The Pakenham outdoor pool is in line for a spruce up following the release of a Cardinia Council master plan in August.

Copyright 2007 / The Sunday Times

Source: Sunday Times, The (Perth), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710282019556331

Record: 3

\$1bil splash on pools and ovals By: LINCOLN WRIGHT. Sunday Times, The (Perth), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710281019005513)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$1bil splash on pools and ovals

Edition: 1 - Street

THE Howard Government will spend up to \$1 billion in the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

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Copyright 2007 / The Sunday Times

Source: Sunday Times, The (Perth), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710281019005513

Record: 4

\$1bil splash out on pools By: LINCOLN WRIGHT. Sunday Times, The (Perth), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710284018577627)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$1bil splash out on pools

Edition: 4 - Metro

EXCLUSIVE

THE Howard Government will spend up to \$1 billion in the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

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Copyright 2007 / The Sunday Times

Source: Sunday Times, The (Perth), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710284018577627

Record: 5

\$1bil splash out on pools By: LINCOLN WRIGHT. Sunday Times, The (Perth), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710285018595901)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$1bil splash out on pools

Edition: 5 - Final

EXCLUSIVE

THE Howard Government will spend up to \$1 billion in the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

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Copyright 2007 / The Sunday Times

Source: Sunday Times, The (Perth), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710285018595901

Record: 6

\$84m WAR ON CHEATS - Radical new testing plan to rid sport of drugs Sunday Mail, The (Brisbane), 07/10/2007 (AN 200710072001939019)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$84m WAR ON CHEATS - Radical new testing plan to rid sport of drugs

Edition: 2 - State - Main Country

Section: News, pg. 001

AUSTRALIAN sport faces its biggest drug crackdown in history after the Federal Government yesterday launched an \$84 million policy to weed out cheats.

The tough new campaign will provide funding for 24,000 sportsmen and women to be tested over the next four years.

Harsher penalties will see athletes booted out for life if caught three times.

The plan, aimed at making drug rules uniform across all sports, follows a series of scandals in Australia and yesterday's revelation US sprinter Marion Jones is expected to be stripped of her five Sydney Olympic medals.

Full report, Pages 4-5

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Mail (QLD)

Source: Sunday Mail, The (Brisbane), OCT 07, 2007

Item: 200710072001939019

Record: 7

\$900,000 from `pork barrel' By: Siobhain Ryan. Australian, The, 15/08/2007 (AN 200708152006292710)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$900,000 from `pork barrel'

Edition: 2 - All-round First

Section: Local, pg. 006

LABOR has accused the federal Government of pork-barrelling by spending \$900,000 on sporting club facilities in a marginal electorate.

Opposition sports spokeswoman Kate Lundy attacked Sports Minister George Brandis in question time over \$700,000 in funding for a new sports centre and \$200,000 for floodlights at the Bathurst Rugby Club.

Since a recent redistribution, both towns now fall within the electorate of Macquarie, held by a slim margin by Liberal Kerry Bartlett.

The money was allocated despite the fact that no formal grants program exists for community sporting club facilities, Ms Lundy said.

"I think, in the absence of the program, they can selectively target those special payments where they like and, prima facie, they've targeted it at the marginal seat of Macquarie," she said. "Nothing's wrong with the actual projects. What's wrong is there's no transparent process by which sports clubs can apply for funds."

A spokesman for Senator Brandis said applications for local sports infrastructure were assessed on a "case-by-case basis" on their merits.

"Many of the most generously funded sports infrastructure projects are in Labor-held electorates," he said, citing a \$25million grant to the Australian National Rugby Academy at Ballymore in Brisbane as an example.

The Howard Government's funding of projects in key electorates has come under increasing scrutiny.

Copyright 2007 / The Australian

Source: Australian, The, AUG 15, 2007

Item: 200708152006292710

Record: 8

AFL: Adelaide clubs get upgrade but none for AAMI Stadium AAP Australian Sports News Wire, 27/09/2007 (AN 74D1321102942)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

AFL: Adelaide clubs get upgrade but none for AAMI Stadium

AFL SA FUNDING

ADELAIDE, Sept 27 AAP - Port Adelaide and local rival the Crows will receive \$5 million of federal government funding to beef up their training facilities - on the condition the upgrades make the AFL clubs more accessible to the wider community. But there will be no monetary commitment to AAMI Stadium, home of South Australian football, any time soon, the government says.

Federal Finance Minister Nick Minchin said today the government was "not in a position" to hand out more financial assistance.

The SA Cricket Association, whose president Ian McLachlan remains a prominent Liberal powerbroker, has already been promised \$25 million for a new grandstand, while the state is also receiving \$15 million towards a new world class swimming centre at Marion.

The SANFL had sought an audience with the government in order to table plans for a similar upgrade to their stadium. "The federal government has provided significant funding for sporting facilities in this state ... a \$45 million injection over the last 12-18 months," Mr Minchin said. "We've decided our commitment to football will go through the two clubs, and we're not currently in a position to make a further investment in AAMI Stadium."

Port's Alberton headquarters building will be extended to include additional lecture rooms, a new gym and, according to chief executive John James, "facilities to allow greater community interaction".

A similar upgrade will take place at Adelaide's West Lakes centre, with a larger six lane swimming pool constructed to replace the current two lane version.

Lecture theatres, a bigger gym and refurbishment of the Crows Shed social area adjacent to AAMI Stadium are also in the works.

Copyright 2007 / Australian Associated Press

Source: AAP Australian Sports News Wire, Sep 27, 2007
Item: 74D1321102942

Record: 9

AFL: Indigenous AFL institute to be built at Tigerland AAP Australian Sports News Wire, 19/10/2007 (AN 74D1492414633)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

AFL: Indigenous AFL institute to be built at Tigerland
AFL INDIGENOUS (MELBOURNE)

An indigenous AFL institute, aimed at teaching football and life skills to Aboriginal youths from around Australia, will be part of a redevelopment of the Richmond Football Club.

Tigers chief executive STEVEN WRIGHT says the Australian Indigenous Football and Training Institute is intended to open in 2009.

It will host training camps for indigenous youths who demonstrate sporting talent.

Federal Sports Minister GEORGE BRANDIS says the government is considering providing a \$5 million grant towards the institute, pending a more detailed proposal from the Tigers.

The government has already committed \$2 million towards the redevelopment of Richmond's facilities at Punt Road Oval.

Copyright 2007 / Australian Associated Press

Source: AAP Australian Sports News Wire, Oct 19, 2007
Item: 74D1492414633

Record: 10

AUSTRALIA DECIDES; \$1 billion for sport, libraries By: Lincoln Wright. Sunday Mail (Adelaide), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710282013724699)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

AUSTRALIA DECIDES; \$1 billion for sport, libraries

Edition: 2 - Final

Section: News, pg. 013

THE Government will spend up to \$1 billion in the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown local swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile is expected to announce one of the campaign's biggest infrastructure packages close to the November 24 poll.

Local councils will each receive funding to improve community services and rejuvenate ageing infrastructure.

Services to be upgraded will include ovals, swimming pools, stadiums, halls, libraries, and aged care facilities.

The \$250m-a-year funding will be allocated according to a formula, like the Roads to Recovery program.

The Australian Local Government Association has been lobbying Mr Vaile for more funding.

"Local councils are called upon to do so many things these days that they are struggling to maintain their core infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, libraries and aged care facilities,"

ALGA vice-president Bill Mitchell said yesterday.

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Mail (SA)

Source: Sunday Mail (Adelaide), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710282013724699

Record: 11

Battle for the future; \$1.8m Aldinga upgrade Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 31/10/2007 (AN 200710311013919379)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Battle for the future; \$1.8m Aldinga upgrade

Edition: 1 - State

Section: News, pg. 013

A RETURNED Coalition Government would provide almost \$2 million in funding towards recreation in the southern suburbs.

Speaking in front of the Aldinga Beach Primary School yesterday, Kingston MP Kym Richardson announced \$1.8 million for the Onkaparinga Council towards the construction of a recreation centre at Aldinga Beach.

The recreation centre would extend the library facilities and provide indoor sporting facilities.

"The Aldinga Beach area is growing rapidly, but the services have simply not been keeping up," Mr Richardson said.

"The people of Aldinga Beach and the surrounding area have been calling for construction of a recreation centre for some time."

Copyright 2007 / The Advertiser

Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), OCT 31, 2007

Item: 200710311013919379

Record: 12

Cash cuts threaten medal hopes By: Fiona Purdon and Alex Murdoch. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 18/10/2007 (AN 200710181095770112)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Cash cuts threaten medal hopes

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: Sport, pg. 095

SWIMMING Australia boss Glenn Tasker believes an increased cash injection is essential to maintaining Olympic medal success but not at the expense of minority sports.

Australian Sports Commission chief executive Mark Peters has warned of a funding revolution because resources were currently spread too thinly over 68 sports.

Peters said the ASC might be forced to focus on top medal hopes such as swimming and cycling, threatening the funding of sports such as badminton, fencing, handball, table tennis, wrestling and weightlifting.

Leading Queensland swimming coach Stephan Widmer, mentor of Libby Lenton, has been given a \$30,000 ASC sports grant as an incentive to keep him in Australia after he was almost poached by British Swimming.

Tasker said Australia trailed giants China, the United States, Russia, France and Great Britain in funding and warned it could be left behind for the 2012 London Olympics.

“We would certainly have no trouble finding programs and more opportunities for our athletes,” Tasker said.

Australian Table Tennis chief executive Bronwyn Marshall said funding cuts would “decimate our high-performance program”.

Marshall talked to the ASC yesterday and was assured Peter's comments were not the official line. “If the ASC went down that path it would be a sad day for Australian sport,” she said.

Queensland Badminton Association chief executive Ashleigh Marshall said it was Catch-22 because the sport needed more money to produce gold medallists but without the medallists the sport did not receive the essential funding.

Australian Weightlifting Association chief executive Matthew Curtain said weightlifting was under no illusions. “We appreciate that the country's overall mission at the Olympic Games is not just to participate, it's to win medals,” Curtain said.

Copyright 2007 / Courier Mail

Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), OCT 18, 2007

Item: 200710181095770112

Record: 13

Coalition \$1b plan for pools, grounds By: Lincoln Wright. Sunday Mail, The (Brisbane), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710282013114213)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Coalition \$1b plan for pools, grounds

Edition: 2 - State - Main Country

Section: News, pg. 013

THE Howard Government will spend up to \$1 billion over the next four years to spruce up the nation's rundown local swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile is expected to announce one of the election campaign's biggest infrastructure packages close to the November 24 polling day.

Local councils across Australia will each receive a certain amount of funding to improve their community services and rejuvenate ageing infrastructure.

The range of community services will include ovals, swimming pools, stadiums, halls, libraries and aged care facilities.

The \$250 million-a-year funding program will run for four years, and will be allocated according to a formula, like the Roads to Recovery program, not a grant system.

The Australian Local Government Association has been lobbying Mr Vaile, who is also the Transport Minister, for increased funding.

“Local councils are called upon to do so many things these days that they are struggling to maintain their core infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, libraries, pools and aged care facilities,” Bill Mitchell, the association's vice-president, said yesterday.

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Mail (QLD)

Source: Sunday Mail, The (Brisbane), OCT 28, 2007
Item: 200710282013114213

Record: 14

Coalition's \$1b sporting pledge By: LINCOLN WRIGHT. Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710281013981625)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Coalition's \$1b sporting pledge

Edition: 1 - FIRST

Section: NEWS, pg. 013

THE Howard Government will spend up to a billion dollars during the next four years to repair the nation's rundown swimming pools, sporting ovals and libraries.

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile is expected to announce one of the campaign's biggest infrastructure packages close to election day, November 24.

Councils will receive funding to improve community services and lift ageing infrastructure.

Meanwhile, on the campaign trail in Perth, Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd announced a Labor Government would provide a rebate of up to \$500 to help install energy-efficient insulation in 300,000 Australian rental homes.

He described this as "a practical measure" to combat global warming.

He said the program would reduce reliance on carbon emitting heating and cost \$150 million over four years.

Landlords will be able to apply for a rebate of 30 per cent of the cost of installing insulation in a rental property, up to a maximum of \$500 per property.

Under the coalition's infrastructure promise, community services including ovals, swimming pools, stadiums, halls, libraries, and aged-care facilities will be upgraded.

The four-year, \$250 million-a-year funding program will be allocated according to a formula similar to the Roads to Recovery program.

The Australian Local Government Association has been lobbying Mr Vaile, who is also the Transport Minister, for increased funding.

"Local councils are called upon to do so many things these days that they are struggling to maintain their core infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, libraries, pools, and aged care facilities," association vice-president Bill Mitchell said.

Mr Mitchell said recent research by Access Economics indicated the shortfall in funding council infrastructure totalled hundreds of billions of dollars.

"In WA alone, councils own more than \$13 billion in infrastructure, but they need \$1.75 billion just to maintain it," he said.

Old leaking swimming pools are a problem across Victoria as council's struggle to maintain them.

Moreland Mayor Mark O'Brien said federal funding could be the answer to maintain six pools in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

Glenn Milne opinion, Page 42

Record: 15

DISAPPOINTMENT SANFL misses out on federal funding; Stadium refit at risk By:
MICHELANGELO RUCCI. Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 28/09/2007 (AN 200709281108446031)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

DISAPPOINTMENT SANFL misses out on federal funding; Stadium refit at risk

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 108

PLANS for the adventurous \$70 million redevelopment of AAMI Stadium are in jeopardy after the federal government yesterday rejected the SANFL's funding application.

And the SANFL has not ruled out becoming an activist in this year's federal election if the Labor Party commits to supporting upgrading the West Lakes arena.

SANFL chief executive Leigh Whicker yesterday learned of Canberra's reluctance to endorse funds for AAMI Stadium as Federal Finance Minister Senator Nick Minchin went to Alberton to sign \$2.5 million grants for each of the Adelaide and Port Adelaide football clubs' plans for new training and community facilities.

``We welcome what is great news for the Power and the Crows," said Whicker, ``however, the SANFL is bitterly disappointed. And I am sure the one million passionate South Australians who annually flock to AAMI Stadium to watch their AFL football are bitterly disappointed.

``They have a high expectation for facilities being improved at AAMI Stadium. Our plans now have to be totally recast if there is to be no money from Canberra.

``And the SANFL will have to consider what options can be presented by an alternative federal government."

The SANFL presented its request for federal government funding to the prime minister's office in April.

Whicker labelled yesterday's rejection as ``ignoring the needs of the South Australian football community".

``Considering Canberra has put up \$25 million for the SCG, \$25m for Adelaide Oval, \$14m at Skilled Stadium at Geelong, \$15m for a new swimming centre at Marion, \$2m for the Kangaroos and now \$5m for the Crows and Power, we were optimistic of a favourable response from the federal government," he said.

``The SANFL has invested \$48 million at AAMI Stadium in the past 10 years. The state government has contributed \$20m in the past two years, and we're grateful for the Rann government's support. We expected a slice of the \$86m the federal government has carved up in grants in the past nine months."

Senator Minchin yesterday argued the grant to Adelaide Oval – the state's cricket headquarters and part-time SANFL venue - was supportive of Australian football.

``The federal government has provided significant funding for sporting facilities in this state (including) a \$45 million injection over the last 12-18 months," Senator Minchin said, referring to the

grants to Adelaide Oval (\$25m), the marion swimming complex (\$15m) and the state's two AFL clubs (\$5m).

``We've decided our commitment to football will go through the two clubs, and we're not currently in a position to make a further investment in AAMI Stadium."

Neither Port nor Adelaide could outline just how they will redevelop their centres at Alberton and West Lakes respectively.

However, Power chief executive John James and Crows counterpart Steven Trigg said their facilities needed to be upgraded and expanded to not only keep pace with AFL rivals but also to allow community groups to engage with their clubs.

``The Allan Scott Power Headquarters was built in 1999 and the club has outgrown the current facility, both for our needs as a professional football club and in the way we wish to involve ourselves and engage with the community," James said.

Trigg said of Adelaide's case: ``Our facilities urgently need significant refurbishment and expansion and we have several key objectives."

Copyright 2007 / The Advertiser

Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), SEP 28, 2007

Item: 200709281108446031

Record: 16

Fed: Howard announces extra funding for paralympians AAP Australian National News Wire, 20/10/2007 (AN 74C1019573372)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

**Fed: Howard announces extra funding for paralympians
PARALYMPIC**

SYDNEY, Oct 20 AAP - The federal government will provide the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) with \$22 million over five years in additional funding for paralympic athletes.

Prime Minister John Howard said the funding will underpin the APC's national campaign to contest the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing and lay the groundwork for the 2010 Winter Games and 2012 Summer Games.

"Paralympic sport plays a significant role within the Australian sporting landscape," Mr Howard said.

"Australians greatly admire paralympic athletes and their success and paralympic games and other international events is an inspiration to all of us."

Mr Howard today also announced the Australian government will provide \$8.5 million to support the staging of the World Masters Games in Sydney in October 2009.

The World Masters Games offer mature aged athletes the opportunity to participate in organised sport at a major international event, Mr Howard said.

"The Australian government's support will ensure that the 2009 World Masters Games can proceed with the certainty that is critical to their overall success," Mr Howard said.

Copyright 2007 / Australian Associated Press

Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Oct 20, 2007

Item: 74C1019573372

Record: 17

Federal funds for Punt Rd Oval redevelopment By: Daryl Timms. Herald Sun (Melbourne), 19/10/2007 (AN 200710192123072954)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Federal funds for Punt Rd Oval redevelopment

Edition: 2 - SECOND

Section: SPORT, pg. 123

THE Federal Government will contribute \$2 million to the redevelopment of Richmond's Punt Rd Oval.

An announcement will be made today by the Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator George Brandis.

Despite being home to Richmond for more than 120 years, Punt Rd Oval has fallen away into a venue with limited community benefit, according to Brandis.

“The Richmond Football Club's proposal will see the oval become a centre for community life for the club's members, supporters and residents of the inner region of Melbourne,” Brandis said yesterday.

With the Tigers having a membership of about 30,000, Brandis said more than 35,000 local residents used Punt Rd Oval each year.

The government funding will help the Tigers upgrade facilities for use by local community groups and residents and create community participation and involvement to complement the club.

Brandis said facilities planned for Punt Rd Oval included an indoor sports centre to house community sports, community swimming change rooms and new football change rooms.

“The new venue will also provide a new home for the Tigers in the Community Foundation Program which focuses on leadership, education and training, anti-obesity and healthy lifestyle programs,” Brandis said.

The Government will provide the funding in 2007-08.

Brandis said the Government's contribution was subject to the AFL, the Victorian Government and Richmond meeting their respective commitments to the project.

“The Australian Government will also consider the provision of a further contribution of up to \$5 million towards the establishment of the proposed Indigenous Sports Institute, subject to the proposal being developed further in coming months,” Brandis said.

This year the Australian Government will provide more than \$350 million in funding for sport, an increase of more than 300 per cent since 1996.

Copyright 2007 / Herald Sun

Source: Herald Sun (Melbourne), OCT 19, 2007

Item: 200710192123072954

Record: 18

FFA land \$16m funding boost By: GRANTLEY BERNARD. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 11/09/2007 (AN 200709111034297767)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

FFA land \$16m funding boost

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 034

THE Socceroos and Football Federation Australia are set to receive a massive cash windfall from the Federal Government.

Buoyed by the increase in soccer's popularity and exposure since the Socceroos qualified for the 2006 World Cup, the Government will tonight announce a \$16million funding program that will help steer the Australians towards the 2010 World Cup.

The four-year program will be for FFA to spread across the Socceroos, Matildas, junior and paralympic teams as they strive to compete against the best teams in the world.

The Government's previous funding program worth \$15million has expired and it was primarily used to help FFA restructure and establish the A-League, which has just started its third season as a vibrant competition.

The combination of the A-League's success and the Socceroos grabbing public attention in Germany last year prompted the Government to continue funding the sport for the next four years.

``Recently we have seen a resurgence in the popularity of the game in Australia, boosted by a stronger domestic competition and a number of standout international performances, most notably the Socceroos performance in the 2006 World Cup," Minister for Arts and Sport, Senator George Brandis said.

``Australia's entrance into the Asian Football Confederation also significantly boosted the profile of football in Australia. This Australian Government funding will continue to cement the further growth and success of football in Australia."

This year, all Australia's international football teams are scheduled to play a combined 117 matches, including tonight's Socceroos friendly against Argentina at the MCG, the Olyroos' qualifier against Lebanon tomorrow in Gosford, while the Matildas are set to kick-off their World Cup campaign in China tomorrow.

``The popularity of football around Australia is steadily growing and the Coalition Government is determined to make sure it is on a sure footing," Senator Brandis said. ``Australia is also bidding to host the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup."

Copyright 2007 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), SEP 11, 2007

Item: 200709111034297767

Record: 19

Fight goes on for athletes despite funding being chopped By: Jacquelin Magnay. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 31/10/2007; Abstract: UP TO 14 national-level taekwondo athletes will gather at the Australian Institute of Sport this week in the first step to qualifying a further three Beijing Olympic positions. (AN SYD-5H76THM5XBSNO1X2DE4)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 33

Fight goes on for athletes despite funding being chopped

TAEKWONDO - OLYMPICS - BOUND FOR BEIJING

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Jacquelin Magnay

UP TO 14 national-level taekwondo athletes will gather at the Australian Institute of Sport this week in the first step to qualifying a further three Beijing Olympic positions.

Following a week of turmoil which culminated in the national body being expelled from the Australian Olympic Committee and having all of its funding withdrawn by the Australian Sports Commission, the athletes have been assured their Olympic aspirations will not be affected.

National coach Daniel Trenton and four selectors will attend the AIS camp, which will determine the best athletes to send to the Oceania tournament in New Caledonia in December. Australia has already qualified one Olympic position, but a strong showing in New Caledonia could boost Olympic numbers to four through regional qualification.



Sources at the commission said the athletes would be financially supported until the Beijing Games. In the meantime, Taekwondo Australia officials are still trying to negotiate with the commission over structural changes to its constitution, which brought about the financial crisis.

A fortnight ago the national body closed down its high performance unit because of the funding cut of more than \$1 million a year, leaving coaches and administrative officials without jobs. It also started selling all its equipment, which threatened the training facilities of the prospective Olympic athletes.

The commission cut the money because Taekwondo Australia had not been operating under an amended governance standard that was tied to the receipt of government funding.

Taekwondo Australia secretary general Russell Macarthur told members that he was seeking discussions with the AOC.

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Record: 20

FUNDING BONUS; \$1m for soccer club Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 02/10/2007 (AN 200710021005871049)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

**FUNDING BONUS; \$1m for soccer club**

Edition: 1 - State

Section: News, pg. 005

LIBERAL MP Christopher Pyne has announced a \$1 million Federal Government funding bonus for the Campbelltown City soccer club.

Mr Pyne said the funds would be used to upgrade the club's outdated junior facilities at Newton Sports Field.

“They (Campbelltown City) put forward a proposal, six months ago,” Mr Pyne said yesterday. “The club has 400 junior players and the funding is to redevelop the facilities.”

Copyright 2007 / The Advertiser

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Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), OCT 02, 2007

Item: 200710021005871049

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Record: 21

Funding boost for new series By: AMANDA LULHAM. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 20/10/2007 (AN 200710201038413313)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

**Funding boost for new series**

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 038

> Netball

AUSTRALIAN teams in the new 2008 ANZ netball competition have received a major windfall as part of a \$2.4m funding injection to netball by the Australian Government.

The five teams will benefit from \$100,000 with Netball Australia to receive seed funding of \$500,000 for the establishment of the competition, which starts in April.

Junior participation will receive \$1.2m over three years.

Copyright 2007 / The Daily Telegraph

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Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), OCT 20, 2007

Item: 200710201038413313

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Record: 22

Funding guaranteed as SANFL warms to NT team Northern Territory News (includes Sunday Territorian), 28/10/2007 (AN 200710281025160778)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

**Funding guaranteed as SANFL warms to NT team**

Section: Sport, pg. 025

TERRITORY football's push to field a side in the SANFL or WAFL in 2009 got a big five-year financial boost yesterday.

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough announced during yesterday's Southern Districts-Tiwi Bombers game that the Coalition Government would put \$4 million towards Territory football if re-elected on November 24.

The franchise bid will get \$2.5 million, or \$500,000 a year. The Labor opposition made a similar pledge, meaning Federal funding is guaranteed regardless the election result.

The remaining \$1.5 million will be spent on indigenous communities where Australian football is being used as a tool to promote healthy lifestyles and personal development.

AFLNT chief executive Tony Frawley said 75 per cent of the money required for a franchise side had already been committed.

``We've just about finished our business case and will present it to both leagues in the next three weeks for consideration," Frawley said. ``It's still a 50-50 mix, we hope to get a positive decision either way by Christmas or early in the New Year."

The SANFL has firmed as favourite after a meeting with AFLNT earlier this month. All that is required is a firm and long-term financial commitment from the NT.

Frawley said the SANFL had changed its view on a Territory team entering.

``They want us to play regional games in the NT and South Australia in places like Port Lincoln where the game is being developed," he added. ``But WA is not out of the question, we've got some surprises in the business plan both leagues will be very interested in."

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Territorian

Source: Northern Territory News (includes Sunday Territorian), OCT 28, 2007

Item: 200710281025160778

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Record: 23

Hope funds won't dry up as sports fields do By: Dan Silkstone. Age, The (Melbourne), 15/09/2007; Abstract: THE Federal Opposition has met the authors of a report seeking \$1 billion in federal funding to rescue drought-stricken sports fields and dilapidated sports facilities across Australia, and says it is sympathetic to their concerns. (AN SYD-5GJKQ2K3CDWOF2HKGSK)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: News, pg. 3

**Hope funds won't dry up as sports fields do**

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Dan Silkstone

THE Federal Opposition has met the authors of a report seeking \$1 billion in federal funding to rescue drought-stricken sports fields and dilapidated sports facilities across Australia, and says it is sympathetic to their concerns.

On Tuesday, The Age revealed the report, which has been prepared by a coalition of 11 national sports bodies who will soon present it to the Federal Government.

Labor is believed to be seriously considering the initiative, while the Government is also interested. Shadow sports minister Kate Lundy said yesterday that she believed the Commonwealth had a role to play in the area. "I'm very sympathetic to their views," she said. "This is a chronic problem with infrastructure funding at the community level."

Senator Lundy said the Government had let facilities deteriorate while using funding for sports facilities as a pork barrel in marginal electorates. But Sports Minister George Brandis said the Government had committed more than half of all funding for sports infrastructure to Labor electorates since 2004, on projects such as the redevelopment of Footscray's Whitten Oval and the Kangaroos' Arden Street HQ.

Asked if funding for smaller, grassroots sports facilities was on the agenda, Senator Brandis said: "It is something I am looking at very closely." -- DAN SILKSTONE

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Record: 24

Lights at the end of tunnel Geelong Advertiser, 25/09/2007 (AN 200709251006107169)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Lights at the end of tunnel

Section: News, pg. 006

SOUTH Barwon Football Club has received a \$70,000 Federal Government injection for new lights at McDonald Reserve.

The funding follows a council audit of sports club flood lights which identified immediate repairs were required.

The City of Greater Geelong said yesterday the full extent of the repair work was still being investigated.

But club president Richard Holz estimated the repair cost would fall between \$70,000 and \$130,000.

He said the funding provided the club with the opportunity to improve the ground.

"It's absolutely fabulous they are supporting grass-roots footy," he said.

"We have 32 football and netball sides here, and almost 600 kids."

Labor candidate for Corangamite Darren Cheeseman said without lighting the club could not guarantee pre-season training. "I support grass-roots footy because I think it's a very important community activity," he said.

"And I know they (South Barwon) are pushing for four in a row."

The club won its third consecutive GFL grand final title at the weekend, defeating Bell Park by 37 points.

Copyright 2007 / Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

Source: Geelong Advertiser, SEP 25, 2007

Item: 200709251006107169

Record: 25

Marginal electorate gets funds By: Siobhain Ryan. Australian, The, 15/08/2007 (AN 200708151002896599)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Marginal electorate gets funds

Edition: 1 - All-round Country

Section: Local, pg. 002

LABOR has accused the federal government of pork barrelling by spending \$900,000 on sporting club facilities in a marginal electorate.

Opposition sports spokeswoman Kate Lundy attacked Sports Minister George Brandis in question time over \$700,000 funding for a new sports centre and \$200,000 for floodlights at the Bathurst Rugby Club.

Since a recent redistribution, both towns now fall within the electorate of Macquarie, held by a slim margin by Liberal Kerry Bartlett.

The money was allocated despite the fact that no formal grants program exists for community sporting club facilities, Ms Lundy said.

"I think, in the absence of the program, they can selectively target those special payments where they like and, prima facie, they've targeted it at the marginal seat of Macquarie," she said. "Nothing's wrong with the actual projects. What's wrong is there's no transparent process by which sports clubs can apply for funds."

A spokesman for Senator Brandis said applications for local sports infrastructure were assessed on a "case-by-case basis" on their merits.

"Many of the most generously funded sports infrastructure projects are in Labor-held electorates," he said, citing a \$25million grant to the Australian National Rugby Academy at Ballymore in Brisbane as an example.

The Howard Government's funding of projects in key electorates has come under increasing scrutiny.

Copyright 2007 / The Australian

Source: Australian, The, AUG 15, 2007

Item: 200708151002896599

Record: 26

New stadium in AFL hands Sunday Times, The (Perth), 12/08/2007 (AN 200708121058726321)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

New stadium in AFL hands

Edition: 1 - Street

SOME of Australia's top politicians may use attempts to revise the AFL's illicit drug policy as a pawn in WA's push for a new sports stadium.

Funding in the region of \$100 million for Perth's stadium could hinge on whether the AFL is willing to tighten its controversial drug code.

League chief Andrew Demetriou maintains a stance of three positive strikes for a player before he would be named and face substantial fines and bans.

Federal Sports Minister George Brandis was at Subiaco recently and inspected the dilapidated facilities during the Fremantle-Geelong game.

Senator Brandis is believed to have told authorities a new project may attract government grants.

In recent years, upgrades at the MCG and the Sydney Olympic venue and improvements to the stadiums in Brisbane and Adelaide, have received significant Federal Government funding.

But the current Federal Government remains hopeful the AFL, its 16 clubs and the powerful players' association will review their drugs policy.

Substantial increases in testing of players and reducing the amount of times a positive test is held in confidence among league and club medical staff is also believed to be preferred by the government.

AFL authorities continue to maintain their drugs policy of confidentiality and rehabilitation of any offender is the best of any Australian sports strategy to deal with positive illicit drugs use.

Copyright 2007 / The Sunday Times

Source: Sunday Times, The (Perth), AUG 12, 2007

Item: 200708121058726321

Record: 27

Oly: Standoff in taekwondo funding jeopardises Olympic hopefuls By: John Coomber. AAP Australian Sports News Wire, 19/10/2007 (AN 74D1040279717)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Oly: Standoff in taekwondo funding jeopardises Olympic hopefuls

OLY TAEKWONDO

By John Coomber

SYDNEY, Oct 19 AAP - A standoff over how taekwondo is run in Australia is threatening to derail Australia's medal campaign less than 10 months out from the Beijing Olympics.

Head coach Daniel Trenton - a silver medallist at the Sydney 2000 Games - and his support staff have had their contracts terminated and the sport's high-performance unit in Melbourne has been shut down.

In addition the Canberra-based elite squad of 12 from whom the Beijing team is expected to be drawn is in danger of being stranded without financial support.

The squad includes two or three genuine medal chances, including Burak Hasan and Tina Morgan.

The Australian Sports Commission, which funnels government funding to sports bodies around the country, has been unable to persuade Taekwondo Australia Inc to change its administrative structure to the model required to continue financial support.

At stake is up to \$1.8 million in federal funding.

The ASC has offered to take over direct funding of the high-performance program to ensure the elite squad's preparation for the Olympics continues without disruption.

"These poor kids are being hung out to dry because of this," one insider told AAP.

TAI members met last night to consider the latest offer but have yet to respond.

TAI secretary general Russell MacArthur confirmed that negotiations were continuing.

He said the process was part of an ongoing review being undertaken with the help of the ASC.

"We have been asked by the sports commission to address some governance issues and we welcome that," MacArthur told AAP.

"We expect that we will meet the sports commission's governance guidelines in the near future."

However the ASC is understood to be frustrated by the sport's unwillingness to change an antiquated administration structure and will not release funds until it does.

An ASC spokesman said negotiations were continuing.

"Our priority is looking after the athletes in the run-up to Beijing and we hope it's resolved amicably," the spokesman said.

Copyright 2007 / Australian Associated Press

Source: AAP Australian Sports News Wire, Oct 19, 2007

Item: 74D1040279717

Record: 28

Olympic medal drought looms if government cash flows only to chosen sports By: Jacquelin Magnay. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 17/10/2007; Abstract: A HOST of sports could have their Federal Government funding withdrawn if the Australian Sports Commission follows through with plans to halve the number of sports it supports. (AN SYD-5H00N9H1WACJKS5BASV)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 44

Olympic medal drought looms if government cash flows only to chosen sports

FUNDING CUTS

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Jacquelin Magnay

SPORTS FIGHTING FOR THEIR MONEY

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Rowing                             | \$5.96m   |
| Basketball                         | \$3.99m   |
| Water polo                         | \$2.35 m  |
| Beach volleyball and<br>volleyball | \$2.37 m  |
| Triathlon                          | \$1.37 m  |
| Hockey                             | \$5.05 m  |
| Equestrian                         | \$1.49 m  |
| Shooting                           | \$1.4 m   |
| Table tennis                       | \$110,000 |
| Tennis                             | \$470,000 |
| Badminton                          | \$190,000 |
| Fencing                            | \$35,000  |
| Weightlifting                      | \$360,000 |
| Wrestling                          | \$50,000  |
| Track and field                    | \$5.06 m  |
| Boxing                             | \$780,000 |
| Archery                            | \$990,000 |
| Softball                           | \$1.82 m  |
| Baseball                           | \$1.35 m  |

\*ASC grants 2007-08

A HOST of sports could have their Federal Government funding withdrawn if the Australian Sports Commission follows through with plans to halve the number of sports it supports.

And Australia's traditionally healthy Olympics medal tally will be under threat by the London 2012 Games, with a slight downturn expected in Beijing next year. In a radical re-think of funding for elite sports - and with the federal election looming - ASC chief executive Mark Peters says the commission may be better placed to concentrate its funding on fewer sports, rather than continue to spread itself too thinly under its current blanket strategy.

It is understood the commission is considering reducing support from 68 sports to fewer than 25. At the moment, the ASC receives about \$250 million to help elite sport, but says much more is needed if the widespread support is to continue.

In the firing line are minor sports such as badminton, fencing, modern pentathlon, weightlifting, wrestling and handball. But other Olympic medal-producing disciplines such as triathlon, beach volleyball, hockey, gymnastics and basketball are also under threat.

Already, the respected Australian Institute of Sport football program is in limbo, with the team unable to afford to compete in Victoria. Football Federation Australia is to discuss the crisis at a meeting today.

Other AIS programs are "under review" and many sports bosses fear the worst.

Neither the Howard Government nor the Opposition has announced its election sports strategy, but Peters has made some timely and highly provocative comments.

"Unless there is a major investment of funds for sport, we have no alternative but to go the way of specialising in sports and events," he told Inside Sport.

"That may appear very un-Australian, but it is just the reality of our situation. If we continue at the same investment level, we can either support a whole lot of sports and be mediocre or we can invest in a smaller number of sports and continue to be successful on the international stage."

The office of the Minister for Sport, Senator George Brandis, did not return phone calls last night. Labor's sports spokesperson, Senator Kate Lundy, said a Rudd government was committed to maintaining current budgets to the ASC.

"We won't be cutting anything," she said. "We are committed to current budgets and all of the current programs."

Lundy said the public comments of Peters seemed to contradict previous statements from the commission and the Government that funding levels for sport had never been higher. Despite a recent string of multimillion-dollar funding announcements for football stadiums, a hall of fame, rugby academy and illicit doping policy, neither political party has put forward a future strategy for elite sport. Peters said Australia's rivals were pouring funds into sport, while smaller European nations as well as African and Asian countries were targeting specific events.

Funding for sport has been stagnating since before the Sydney Olympics. The medal tally has started to reflect that: 49 at the 2004 Athens Games, compared to 58 in Sydney. Predictions for Beijing fall around the 42-medal mark.

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Record: 29

Olympics cash down to survival of fittest By: Greg Baum. Age, The (Melbourne), 17/10/2007; Abstract: THE Olympic dream, so beloved of Australians, is receding. After next year's Beijing Olympics, government funding ought to be concentrated on sports in which Australia stands a chance of winning a medal, marginalising others, says an influential administrator. (AN SYD-5H00UQQF0RK1G05A8ASV)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 4

**Olympics cash down to survival of fittest**

SPORTS FUNDING

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Greg Baum

PHOTO: The Kookaburras have been one of Australia's more successful Olympics teams. PICTURE: CRAIG GOLDING

THE Olympic dream, so beloved of Australians, is receding. After next year's Beijing Olympics, government funding ought to be concentrated on sports in which Australia stands a chance of winning a medal, marginalising others, says an influential administrator.

In an interview in today's edition of Inside Sport, Australian Sports Commission chief executive Mark Peters says this only makes sense. "Unless there is a major investment of funds for sport, we have no alternative but to go the way of specialising (in sports and events)," Peters says. "That may appear very un-Australian, but it is just the reality of our situation.

"If we continue at the same investment level, we can either support a whole lot of sports and be mediocre, or we can invest in a smaller number of sports and continue to be successful."

But as a federal election campaign begins, Labor is having none of having less. "It is disturbing that the sports commission is mooting cuts to programs in this way," said sports spokesperson Senator Kate Lundy. "From the ALP's point of view, we would maintain the elite sports budget and maintain the current programs. I would be seeking guarantees from the commission that it would not be cutting funding."

The ASC is the body that distributes government money to sport. Its budget of about \$250 million a year is divided among 68 sports, including 28 Olympic sports. Funding to Olympic sports totalled \$33 million last year, \$60 million this year.

Australia punches above its weight at the Olympic Games. It finished fourth on the medals table in Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004, behind superpowers the US, China and Russia, all with vastly more people and money.

But the rest of the world has woken up to Australia's success and its ways. "We are now seeing a number of the biggest countries, such as China, Russia, France and Great Britain, pouring massive

resources into sport," says Peters. "At the other end of the scale, there are African, Asian and smaller European nations which are taking a professionalised approach to sports whereby they are deciding to put all their resources into specific sports."

Australia must also be smarter, says Peters. That would mean plenty of money still for swimming and cycling, for instance, since they are traditional strengths. It might mean focusing on technical athletics disciplines such as long jump and triple jump, in which Australia still has advantages in resources and facilities. It would mean not taking on the Kenyans, for instance, at distance running, or the Americans in the sprints.

It would mean priority for individual sports over teams. Team sports are costly but can only win one medal at a time (though it would be brave to cut funding to hockey). It would mean leaner times for sports at which Australia rarely succeeds. Inside Sport gives as examples badminton, fencing, handball, table tennis, wrestling and weightlifting.

Australia Weightlifting Federation chief executive Matthew Curtain said yesterday his sport was under no illusions. Typically, a team consisted of 15 lifters, but in the future might be limited to the three or four with chances, he said. "Just because we've always done it a particular way doesn't mean we always have to."

A spokesman for Sports Minister Senator George Brandis said: "There has been record investment in sport by the Howard Government, with a 135 per cent increase in funding for the Australian Sports Commission since 1996. The Coalition is unashamedly proud of its commitment to sport in Australia."

AOC chairman John Coates was not available.

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Record: 30

Pony club gets a hand Centralian Advocate, 28/09/2007 (AN 200709281056255013)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Pony club gets a hand

Section: Sport, pg. 056

Pony Club

Kathryn Roberts

THE Alice Springs Pony Club will have qualified instructors after being granted \$2,500 from the federal government's 2007-08 Sports Leaderships Grants for Women.

The grant was one of 176 given nation-wide and pony club president Jane Grundy said it would be put to good use.

She said: "We are looking at getting some of our instructors qualified. It's really good that we can get some money behind us to do this."

The club has 40 members and will use the grant to help grow the sport at a local level.

Grundy said the club would get instructors from Victoria and South Australia to come to Alice Springs and run programs for local instructors to become qualified.

She said the club hoped to have the programs in place by February.

She said: "We are definitely trying to raise the profile of pony club to similar to that of other states."

Alice Springs' Mignon Williams also received a grant for \$800 to complete a level-three officiating course in baseball scoring for competition across the Northern Territory.

Copyright 2007 / Centralian Advocate

Source: Centralian Advocate, SEP 28, 2007
Item: 200709281056255013

Record: 31

Soccer set for cash windfall By: Grantley Bernard and David Davutovic. Herald Sun (Melbourne), 11/09/2007 (AN 200709111102852420)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Soccer set for cash windfall

Edition: 1 - FIRST

Section: SPORT, pg. 102

THE Socceroos and Football Federation Australia are set to receive a massive cash windfall from the Federal Government.

Buoyed by the increase in soccer's popularity and exposure since the Socceroos qualified for the 2006 World Cup, the government will tonight announce a \$16 million funding program that will help steer the Australians towards the 2010 World Cup.

The four-year program will be for FFA to spread across the Socceroos, Matildas, junior and paralympic teams as they strive to compete against the best teams in the world.

The government's previous funding program worth \$15 million has expired, and it was primarily used to help FFA restructure and establish the A-League, which has just started its third season as a vibrant competition.

``Recently we have seen a resurgence in the popularity of the game in Australia, boosted by a stronger domestic competition and a number of standout international performances, most notably the Socceroos performance in the 2006 World Cup," Minister for Arts and Sport, Senator George Brandis said.

``This funding will continue to cement the further growth and success of football in Australia."

This year, all Australia's international football teams are scheduled to play a combined 117 matches, including tonight's Socceroos friendly against Argentina at the MCG, the Olyroos' qualifier against Lebanon tomorrow in Gosford, while the Matildas are set to kick-off their World Cup campaign in China.

``The popularity of football around Australia is steadily growing and the Coalition Government is determined to make sure it is on a sure footing," Senator Brandis said. ``Australia is also bidding to host the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup."

GRAHAM Arnold's rollercoaster ride in charge of the Socceroos since last year's World Cup concludes against the might of Argentina tonight.

Arnold's tenure has produced five wins, three draws and five losses, including the penalty shoot-out quarter-final loss to Japan in the Asian Cup.

A total of 52 players have worn the Socceroos shirt under Arnold and many of those have been blooded young. That's the legacy Arnold believes he's left for the man who'll take over the Socceroos, almost certain to be Dick Advocaat.

``I've bought a lot of new, young players into the squad and I'm excited about the future of some of them," Arnold said.

“From the day Guus Hiddink came in I was made assistant and Olympic coach and in the transitional period, I knew I'd be in charge as interim. So this day was always coming and I feel great.”

Kennedy key for 2010, Page 94

Copyright 2007 / Herald Sun

Source: Herald Sun (Melbourne), SEP 11, 2007

Item: 200709111102852420

Record: 32

State Government pledges \$6m for redevelopment; New Skilled cash By: JULIE McNAMARA.
Geelong Advertiser, 25/09/2007 (AN 200709251007683020)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

State Government pledges \$6m for redevelopment; New Skilled cash

Section: News, pg. 007

SKILLED Stadium's redevelopment project received a \$9 million boost yesterday following funding announcements from the State Government and the AFL.

The Labor Party also promised it would commit \$14 million to the project if it won the federal election, matching the \$14 million promised by the federal Government last week.

Premier John Brumby announced the State Government would commit \$6 million towards redeveloping the Ross Drew Stand and the AFL said it would contribute \$3 million.

The club will provide \$3 million and is seeking the final \$2 million from the City of Greater Geelong.

The \$28 million project will increase ground capacity by about 3500 to more than 30,000, expand the gymnasium by more than 50 per cent and install water harvesting and recycling systems to maintain surrounding sports fields.

Geelong Football Club CEO Brian Cook said the club had been working on the project for a number of years and it was fantastic it was coming to fruition.

Work on the redevelopment was expected to start at the end of 2008.

Cook said the extra seating would generate about \$800,000 in extra profit for the club each year.

Mr Brumby said a recent study found more than 90 per cent of Geelong businesses believed the football club's home games at Skilled Stadium were important to business activity.

Federal Member for Corio Gavan O'Connor said the redevelopment would secure the future of the club in the national competition and was a tribute to the co-operative effort of local, state and federal governments of all political persuasions.

Copyright 2007 / Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

Source: Geelong Advertiser, SEP 25, 2007

Item: 200709251007683020

Record: 33

UOW gets \$2 mil sports boost By: COURTNEY TRENWITH. Illawarra Mercury, 06/10/2007;
Abstract: THE University of Wollongong has received another \$2 million to help support its sporting facilities in the wake of voluntary student unionism. (AN SYD-5GUD82SBRA0IQ0MREP5)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: News, pg. 17

UOW gets \$2 mil sports boost

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By COURTNEY TRENWITH

THE University of Wollongong has received another \$2 million to help support its sporting facilities in the wake of voluntary student unionism.

The new grant, announced yesterday by Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, follows funding worth \$6.6 million for a new sports centre.

The money has come from the Federal Government's Voluntary Student Unionism Transition Fund for Sporting and Recreational Facilities, introduced to help universities cope with the new funding arrangements.

The \$2 million grant will allow the university to upgrade its main oval.

University Recreation and Aquatic Centre manager, Paul Manning, said the oval would become much sought after and help the centre generate more income to cover its losses since voluntary student unionism.

A state-of-the-art irrigation system would be installed to make the oval more resilient to flooding or drought.

Mr Manning said that meant the oval could be used more frequently and there would be fewer cancellations due to the condition of the oval, which meant more money.

"The bottom line is it will help our bottom line," Mr Manning said.

"We'll get more external groups through, which will generate other sorts of income because if they use the oval they'll use the gym and the pool because it's all in the one place."

On the downside, Mr Manning said, some sporting groups would be forced to use alternative sites for a season while the oval was being upgraded.

Also, groups which used the oval after its upgrade would likely be charged more for access.

The facilities have not been upgraded since the mid-1980s.

Mr Manning said before voluntary student unionism, the centre had planned to gradually fund the upgrade itself but after compulsory membership fees were abolished the project became "impossible".

The Federal Government transition fund will provide universities with \$80 million over three years.

But it has been criticised because it is limited to sporting facilities and associated services.

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Record: 34

We shall fight on the sports grounds By: Josh Gordon. Age, The (Melbourne), 29/09/2007; Abstract: THE sporting fields of Australia are shaping up as key electoral battlegrounds. (AN SYD-5GQRK4WNAV8CHNMDAXH)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: News, pg. 5

**We shall fight on the sports grounds**

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

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Josh Gordon

THE sporting fields of Australia are shaping up as key electoral battlegrounds.

John Howard and Kevin Rudd aren't renowned for their ball skills, but that hasn't stopped them from hamming it up for the cameras in spending announcements targeting sports fans.

Yesterday, Mr Rudd seized on Victoria's grand final fever. After (awkwardly) tossing a ball around with a group of Auskick kids at the MCG, the Opposition Leader announced that a Labor government would introduce a local champions grant program.

Grants of up to \$500 an individual and \$3000 a team would be offered to people up to the age of 18 to compete in sporting events involving travel of more than 250 kilometres.

Mr Rudd said the grants would cost about \$1.6 million a year. That followed the announcement of \$14 million to redevelop Geelong's Skilled Stadium and \$70,000 to South Barwon Football and Netball Club for a lighting upgrade.

The PM has also homed in on sports. At the start of the year, Mr Howard announced \$25 million towards a new grandstand at the Sydney Cricket Ground - in Malcolm Turnbull's seat of Wentworth. That was followed by \$25 million for a rugby academy in Queensland, among other, smaller spending announcements. -- JOSH GORDON

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Record: 35

We'll only back winners Sunday Mail (Adelaide), 21/10/2007 (AN 200710211067471117)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

We'll only back winners

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 067

OLYMPIC sports that do not produce medals may struggle for government funding, it has been revealed.

Australian Sports Commission CEO Mark Peters has said investing in fewer sports might be the only way for Australia to remain internationally successful.

He said without a major investment in sport, Australia would have no alternative but to specialise in certain sports and events.

"If we continue at the same investment level, we can either support a whole lot of sports and be mediocre, or we can invest in a smaller number of sports and continue to be successful on the international stage," he said.

Peters made his comments in Inside Sport magazine, in its edition due out today.

Sports under threat include badminton, fencing, handball, table tennis, wrestling and weightlifting.

The commission oversees a budget of about \$250 million a year, covering 68 sports.

Among them are the 28 sports and 20 associated disciplines at the Olympics.

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Mail (SA)

Source: Sunday Mail (Adelaide), OCT 21, 2007

Item: 200710211067471117

\$million pledges delight AFLCA Centralian Advocate, 02/11/2007 (AN 200711021056913046)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$million pledges delight AFLCA

Aussie Rules

Carenda Jenkin

BIG bucks are being thrown at Aussie Rules as Alice Springs gets caught up in federal election campaigning. much to the delight of AFLCA general manager Brett O'Farrell.

The coalition has pledged \$4 million over four years to support AFLNT run two sporting programs.

This comes after a \$2.5 million promise from Labor in September.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough said the Coalition money would be used to establish an Alice Springs-based NT side to play in an interstate competition and for youth development.

AFLNT is currently finalising its business plan which will form part of its bid to join the SANFL or WAFL.

It is not yet known where the NT side will be based.

O'Farrell welcomed the promised funding at Traeger Park yesterday.

He said the funding would benefit current players and help the league to develop them into future stars.

O'Farrell said: "Central Australia has produced many excellent AFL players who have decided to travel out of the Territory to develop their football career -- Kangaroos' Matt Campbell, being the most recent.

"This new NT team will hopefully encourage promising players to stay in the Territory.

"The announcement is an acknowledgement by both parties of the important role that Australian rules football plays in the Territory.

"Not just for players but for the health and social development of citizens of Alice Springs and the surrounding communities.

"The importance of junior development has also been highlighted and we're delighted with this aspect.

"While the emphasis has been on Australian Rules football, it was pleasing to see that other sports will benefit from this funding announcement further emphasising the need for a healthy lifestyle via sport."

Country Liberal Party Candidate for Lingiari Adam Giles said these games would provide a massive impact to local economies and would also provide a great social boost to the region.

"Footy is one of the common threads that binds the Territory and any such games would draw tremendous crowds -- a real boost to the economy.

"Team sports like football harness the characteristics of responsibility and mateship and this new franchise will bring people together doing the Territory proud."

Copyright 2007 / Centralian Advocate

Source: Centralian Advocate, NOV 02, 2007

Item: 200711021056913046

Record: 2

ALP boost for women's football By: Jacquelin Magnay. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 19/11/2007; Abstract: ON THE day Australia celebrated winning the world netball championships, Federal Labor unveiled a multi-million-dollar women's sport initiative - for football. (AN SYD-5HGY64KLEL4U3ZE771M)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 2

ALP boost for women's football

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Jacquelin Magnay

ON THE day Australia celebrated winning the world netball championships, Federal Labor unveiled a multi-million-dollar women's sport initiative - for football.

Labor's sports spokeswoman, Senator Kate Lundy, said a Rudd government would invest \$32 million in Football Federation Australia, with half the money to underpin a televised national women's league and provide grants to local clubs. The handout is about six times the normal subsidy received by top-level sports.

"We need to support our Socceroos in the lead-up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup and we also want to make sure our elite female players have a pathway ... to becoming a Matilda," Senator Lundy said.

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Record: 3

ALP grandstands on stadium funds By: JASON GORDON. Newcastle Herald, The (includes the Central Coast Herald), 22/11/2007; Abstract: THE Labor Party will add the final carrot to its pre-election basket in the Hunter this morning, announcing a \$10 million commitment towards the ongoing upgrade of EnergyAustralia Stadium. (AN SYD-5HIJZZQIK6W3X6XN71M)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: Late, Section: News, pg. 4

ALP grandstands on stadium funds

AUSTRALIA DECIDES - CONCOURSE FUNDING - MPs come off the bench with \$10m pledge

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By JASON GORDON

THE Labor Party will add the final carrot to its pre-election basket in the Hunter this morning, announcing a \$10 million commitment towards the ongoing upgrade of EnergyAustralia Stadium.

The money, which is contingent on Labor winning Saturday's election, would be available to the stadium trust immediately and provide enough funds for the entire western spectator concourse to be completed.

The Hunter International Sports Centre Trust needs \$30 million to complete the \$60 million western grandstand project but trust chairman Ted Atchison said yesterday that he remained hopeful of getting further federal funds down the track.

The Hunter's five Labor MPs and candidates confirmed the funding commitment to The Herald yesterday.

"It will be the final piece in our package of commitments to the Hunter," member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said.

Asked if a Labor government would commit to providing the remaining \$20 million to the project, Ms Grierson said "the door is still open".

"We were originally planning to make that full commitment but the Hunter has developed several other big-ticket needs after 11 years of Howard Government neglect," she said.

"We've had to make a \$105 million commitment to climate change initiatives in the Hunter, \$5 million towards the establishment of two GP super clinics in the Charlton and Paterson electorates and funding for the Medicare licences for an MRI and PET scanner.

"We're now adding \$10 million towards the stadium project which John Howard and Bob Baldwin have failed to deliver on."

Mr Atchison said he was thrilled by the commitment.

The \$10 million will be added to the \$12 million already released to the trust from the \$30 million State Government commitment.

That \$22 million will be used to construct spectator concourses in the south-western and north-western corners of the stadium, and the concourse linking the two. Completion of the actual western grandstand will be funded with the remaining \$18 million in state funding and the \$20 million yet to be secured.

"If Labor wins on Saturday we can get a development application into [Newcastle] council for the rest of the western concourse," Mr Atchison said. "The funds will enable us to start the three-year rolling works program on the western side of the ground."

2 DAYS TO GO

YOUR SEAT IN PROFILE

PAGE 20

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Record: 4

Aussie sport's election of neglect By: geoff roach. Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 03/11/2007
(AN 200711031124612319)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Aussie sport's election of neglect

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 124

CONSIDERING the powerful hold it wields over a substantial percentage of the Australian public, it is passing strange that sport remains jarringly absent from the federal election campaign.

Thus far, neither of the major parties has unveiled any revolutionary plans to help Australia regain its rapidly fading reputation as a persistent world sport powerhouse.

This at a time when many countries, particularly those in Europe, are pouring massive amounts into ensuring their athletes perform impressively at next year's Beijing Olympics.

Sure, a fair parcel of government cash has been splashed around for specific projects such as Adelaide Oval's exciting western grandstand plan.

And several months ago now, apparently at the influential urging of Football Federation Australia chairman Frank Lowy, the Libs somewhat quietly gifted soccer a very generous special grant of \$4 million a year for the next four. That can at least be attributed both to the code's success in reaching the 2006 World Cup finals and the vast expense it will incur in attempting to do so again through the Asian zone.

And presumably the \$16m handout will remain a core promise even if Labor happens to win. But so far there's been no word.

Football Federation Australia will also trouser an extra \$3m a year from the Australian Sports Commission, bringing its taxpayer-funded base to a lusty \$7m annually. Other recently revealed 2007-8 Sports Commission grants also show a continued commitment to rewarding success, particularly in the Olympic arena.

Medal pacesetter swimming, for instance, is in receipt of a whopping \$6.2m while consistently performing Australian hockey also appears bountifully treated with \$5.12m.

Cycling, which also punches above its medal weight, has \$5.4m and basketball can ante up for \$4.4m

Yet chronically under-performing track and field still comes in second to highest with \$5.7m.

Against which, netball, the nation's top female participant sport, must make do with just \$1.8m.

Still, with three more weeks of election campaigning to endure, anything can happen. Indeed, the most likely scenario is that an outbreak of the sport known as pork barrelling will eventuate any time soon.

AUSTRALIA'S continued domination of world cricket has not earned his nation much in the way of adoration from opponents.

Quite the opposite in fact. As our touring players can readily attest, the hostility now persistently displayed to them in foreign climes appears to have intensified in direct proportion to the extent of their success.

Nonetheless, when it comes to improving their own standards, the rest of the cricketing world has no compunction in raiding Australian talent.

This week's defection by Australian batting coach Jamie Siddons to become head mentor for emerging Bangladesh brings to four the number of Aussies coaching other international sides. Geoff Lawson now has charge of Pakistan, Trevor Bayliss is heading Sri Lanka's current Australian tour and John Dyson has succeeded Bennett King in the West Indies.

Additionally, Dav Whitmore is about to head up India's Centre of Excellence and Greg Chappell has been appointed to run Rajasthan's Centre of Excellence some six months after resigning as the national coach.

Plus which there is more than a fair chance that former International Cricket Council high performance manager Richard Done may assume Chappell's former role.

Nor might it stop there with Rodney Marsh, just returned from a surveillance expedition to Dubai, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Kuwait about to start recruiting topline coaches for the ICC Academy he will run in Dubai when construction of its state-of-the-art facilities is completed soon.

Copyright 2007 / The Advertiser

Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), NOV 03, 2007

Item: 200711031124612319

Record: 5

Fans call on Labor to save Brookie - NRL 2007 By: DEAN RITCHIE. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 22/11/2007 (AN 200711222106496110)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fans call on Labor to save Brookie - NRL 2007

Edition: 2 - Extended Metro

Section: Sport, pg. 106

MORE than 1000 Manly fans last night demanded the State Government and federal Labor Party provide urgent funding to upgrade a collapsing Brookvale Oval.

The push to revamp Brookie gathered momentum at a successful fan rally organised by the Sea Eagles.

Manly require nearly \$18million to revamp the Pittwater Rd ground with the Howard Government this week pledging \$9million – provided Liberal is re-elected.

Guest speakers last night included Manly godfather Ken Arthurson, author Thomas Keneally, ex-hooker Max Krilich, local member Bronwyn Bishop, Manly owners Scott Penn and Max Delmege and current Sea Eagles player Mark Bryant.

As a result of the rally, ALP sports spokesman Kate Lundy will meet Manly officials today at Brookvale in a move the club hopes will draw a significant financial commitment.

“All my life I dreamed of playing for Manly at Brookvale Oval,” Krilich told the crowd. “That was my purpose in life -- to play for Manly and Australia and I managed to achieve that.

“For Manly to leave Brookvale would be a complete disaster. They tried Gosford before and it didn't work.

“The governments have given us nothing and it's now time they started to look after us. The ground is in desperate need of repair.”

Manly chief executive Grant Mayer was delighted at the support the rally attracted.

“Maybe the Liberals' announcement during the week turned a few people away but the fight is still on,” Mayer said. “We are working exceptionally hard to get the money for Brookvale.

“The fans were wonderful tonight -- it was a sea of maroon and white.”

* FORMER prop Geoff Gerard has been appointed to the Parramatta board of directors.

Gerard will replace long-term director Peter Miller, who has stood down.

Copyright 2007 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), NOV 22, 2007

Item: 200711222106496110

Record: 6

Fed: Howard makes second visit to Lindsay AAP Australian National News Wire, 10/11/2007
(AN 74C1553860746)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fed: Howard makes second visit to Lindsay

POLL07 LINDSAY

SYDNEY, Nov 10 AAP - Prime Minister John Howard has made his second visit to the crucial marginal western Sydney seat of Lindsay in two days, promising a \$5 million upgrade for a sports centre.

Accompanied by his wife Janette and Liberal candidate Karen Chijoff, Mr Howard chatted to children, signed some basketballs and posed for photos in the Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre.

Mr Howard said the centre was important to the lifestyle of the community in the region, with about 25,000 people using it each month for a range of sports, including netball, basketball and indoor soccer.

The Liberals hold Lindsay by 2.9 per cent, but popular MP Jackie Kelly is retiring at the November 24 election.

Mr Howard visited Penrith yesterday for a shopping centre visit.

He said the seat was important and Labor was taking it for granted.

"They've tended to say that this one will go into (their) list simply because the very popular sitting member is retiring," Mr Howard told reporters.

"The Labor Party is taking Lindsay for granted. I've got to say that they're mistaken in doing that.

"We do have a very popular member who's retiring, but she is being replaced as our candidate by an extremely capable and energetic local person.

"She is a very worthy replacement and I do say that the Labor Party should not take the seat of Lindsay for granted.

"This girl is a real star."

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Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Nov 10, 2007

Item: 74C1553860746

Record: 7

Fed: Labor to double \$16 million grant to soccer body AAP Australian National News Wire, 18/11/2007 (AN 74C4127820735)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fed: Labor to double \$16 million grant to soccer body

POLL07 SOCCER

CANBERRA, Nov 18 AAP - A federal Labor government would boost funding to promote soccer in Australia including setting aside money to support a televised national women's league.

Labor sport spokeswoman Senator Kate Lundy said \$16 million would be given to football's governing body, the Football Federation of Australia (FFA).

Labor today announced plans to double the \$16 million already committed to the FFA in the government's mid-year economic and fiscal outlook.

Some of the money would be used to support a televised national women's league.

It would also deliver grants to local clubs and provide additional support for Australia's participation in the Asian Football Confederation and for education and recognition programs for coaches, referees and volunteers.

"We need to support our Socceroos in the lead-up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup," Senator Lundy said.

"We also want to make sure that our elite female players have a pathway and match practice on the way to becoming a Matilda.

"It also provides significant additional support for the development of the game at a grassroots level."

Senator Lundy said more than 450,000 people across Australia were registered participants in football along with almost 100,000 registered match officials and coaches.

Copyright 2007 / Australian Associated Press

Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Nov 18, 2007

Item: 74C4127820735

Record: 8

Fed: Tree of Knowledge project may be scrapped - Rudd AAP Australian National News Wire, 17/11/2007 (AN 74C3903954313)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fed: Tree of Knowledge project may be scrapped - Rudd

POLL07 REGIONAL RUDD (ADELAIDE)

Labor leader KEVIN RUDD says he'll scrap two funding commitments in Queensland if they fail to get departmental approval.

Deputy Prime Minister MARK VAILE is accusing Labor of being hypocritical for slamming the government's use of the regional partnerships program.

He says the same Labor party has committed to fund two projects that had been knocked back by the department.

Mr VAILE says Labor has announced two-point-six million dollars for a project involving the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine.

Another one-point-five million dollars will go to a sports facility in Dysart.

Both projects were rejected by the department.

But Mr RUDD says if the projects do not pass the approval process . they'll be scrapped.

Copyright 2007 / Australian Associated Press

Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Nov 17, 2007

Item: 74C3903954313

Record: 9

Funding promised for upgrading training facilities Sunday Tasmanian (Hobart), 11/11/2007 (AN 200711111A24096621)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Funding promised for upgrading training facilities

Section: Kingborough Times, pg. A24

A LABOR Federal Government will commit \$10,000 to improve training facilities, including upgrading of lighting and drainage at the Kingborough Lions United Soccer Club.

Labor's sport and recreation spokeswoman Senator Kate Lundy announced the funding when she visited Kingston last week.

A further \$55,000 was promised to three other sporting projects in the Franklin electorate.

Ms Lundy said it was important to recognise that sport and recreation played a large part in the ``social fabric of Tasmanian communities".

``We want to make sure that sporting clubs receive the support they need to provide opportunities for our communities to be active," Ms Lundy said.

Copyright 2007 / Sunday Tasmanian

Source: Sunday Tasmanian (Hobart), NOV 11, 2007

Item: 200711111A24096621

Record: 10

Labor pledges cash bonanza Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 19/11/2007 (AN 200711191035148619)

Database:

Labor pledges cash bonanza

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 035

SOCCKER could be significantly richer if Labor is elected next weekend after Opposition sport spokeswoman Kate Lundy yesterday committed a Labor government to doubling the \$16 million grant already made by Prime Minister John Howard for the next four years.

Labor would emphasise the grassroots and a televised women's league as priorities for the extra cash, and would also support a prospective Australian World Cup bid.

The money would flow over the next two years.

Copyright 2007 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), NOV 19, 2007

Item: 200711191035148619

Record: 11

Mr Howard's flying visit By: LEADER. Newcastle Herald, The (includes the Central Coast Herald), 22/11/2007; Abstract: PRIME Minister John Howard's last minute pre-election visit to the Paterson electorate yesterday seems to have been designed as little more than a photo opportunity for sitting Coalition member Bob Baldwin. Mr Howard had no special gifts for Hunter voters, other than an assurance that funding for the continuation of the F3 freeway was guaranteed. (AN SYD-5HIHV5Y3Z1KU70FI71M)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: Late, Section: News, pg. 8

Mr Howard's flying visit

Policing progress

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LEADER

PRIME Minister John Howard's last minute pre-election visit to the Paterson electorate yesterday seems to have been designed as little more than a photo opportunity for sitting Coalition member Bob Baldwin. Mr Howard had no special gifts for Hunter voters, other than an assurance that funding for the continuation of the F3 freeway was guaranteed.

Specifically asked whether he would match the commitment made by federal Labor yesterday to provide \$10 million towards the redevelopment of Newcastle's EnergyAustralia Stadium, Mr Howard replied that roads were more important than football stadiums.

Acknowledging the fact that his Government had funded plenty of sporting facilities in more marginal seats, the Prime Minister moved on to safer subjects.

Taken all in all, Labor has provided the Hunter with a more attractive set of promises than the Coalition during this election campaign. This is not surprising given the region's lack of marginal seats and the overwhelming Labor incumbency.

It will be interesting to see whether Labor's stadium pledge influences Paterson voters, many of whom are fans of the Knights and the Jets and who consequently have a strong interest in the comfort and utility of the region's foremost sporting facility. Mr Howard and Mr Baldwin clearly don't think so.

In recent weeks Labor has promised a \$50 million solar institute for Newcastle, \$55 million for Hunter clean coal projects and a raft of smaller but vital pledges such as two GP super clinics, a PET scanner licence for the Mater Hospital and money to operate a flood early-warning system in low-

lying suburbs of Newcastle. Labor has also matched the Coalition's pledge to fund the F3 freeway extension.

Promises aren't always kept, of course, but these attractive pledges may offer Hunter voters a reminder of the nearly forgotten sensation of being substantially represented by federal members who are part of the government instead of the opposition.

Policing progress

THE threat of industrial action by Lower Hunter police may have been averted by yesterday's agreement by the Government to boost police numbers in the troubled command by at least 20.

The command is already technically operating above its authorised strength, but is severely hampered by having about 30 officers unavailable due to long-term sick leave and other reasons. So depleted is Lower Hunter's manpower that it hasn't been able to sign off on its first response agreements, which guarantee its ability to meet minimum staffing standards.

Adding 20 officers to the Lower Hunter is a good first step, but it can't happen quickly and it won't solve the intractable problems that arise because of the command's enormous geographical size and recent rapid growth in population.

Much as it may wish to avoid the expense, the Government must sooner or later bite the bullet and create a new Port Stephens local area command as it promised to do before the state election.

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Record: 12

PM won't match ALP's Newcastle stadium funding ABC Regional News, 22/11/2007 (AN P6S076658702507)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

PM won't match ALP's Newcastle stadium funding

The Prime Minister says the Coalition funding to upgrade the New South Wales Hunter's roads is more important than throwing money at Newcastle's EnergyAustralia Stadium.

During a flying visit to the Paterson electorate last night, John Howard confirmed the Coalition's pledge to invest \$887 million upgrading the F3 Freeway link through to Branxton.

But Mr Howard again refused to match the federal ALP's \$10 million pledge towards the upgrade of Newcastle's EnergyAustralia Stadium.

"Our view is that the people of the Hunter will be more advantaged by this commitment than the commitment of money to the Energy stadium and I would say that improving roads which saves lives, and my Government has supported other sporting facilities, I don't think that it's as high a priority as road funding," he said.

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Source: ABC Regional News, Nov 22, 2007

Item: P6S076658702507

Record: 13

Sea Eagles staying put for now By: JAMES PHELPS. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 27/11/2007 (AN 200711271074679248)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Sea Eagles staying put for now

Edition: 1 - State
Section: Sport, pg. 074

MANLY last night committed to staying at Brookvale Oval for another two years -- despite losing \$9million in funding pledged by the Howard Government to upgrade the dilapidated ground.

The Sea Eagles' plan to bring the ageing facility into the new millennium suffered a major blow on Saturday night when Labor leader Kevin Rudd was elected Prime Minister.

The Howard Government promised funding for the ground's redevelopment should they be re-elected -- but Rudd's win has left the Sea Eagles without the money for urgent upgrades.

Manly CEO Grant Mayer last night said the club would honour an agreement to stay at Brookvale Oval for the next two years.

"The money they pledged means nothing now," Mayer said. "Except that it sets a benchmark for what we need."

"Obviously the announcement by the Government last week was a bit of grandstanding. The fight had been fought for three years and we got nothing."

"It took them until 10 days out from the election to make the announcement."

Mayer called on the newly elected government to match the Coalition's pledge of \$9million.

"We want to see a similar commitment from the new government," Mayer said.

"We will be lobbying all the people in the ALP to get the money we need to stay at Brookvale."

"It is disappointing but we have made our focus on getting the money out of the ALP."

Copyright 2007 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), NOV 27, 2007

Item: 200711271074679248

Record: 14

Sports fund promise Mercury, The (Hobart), 06/11/2007 (AN 200711061012557648)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Sports fund promise

FEDERAL Labor has pledged \$65,000 for sport and recreation in Franklin should it win the election.

Labor candidate Julie Collins said funding would include \$35,000 for a gymnasium at Cygnet; \$10,000 to improve training facilities at Kingborough Lions United Soccer Club; \$10,000 for two cricket nets at Rokeby Cricket Club; and \$10,000 to buy equipment for Port Huon Sports Centre.

Copyright 2007 / The Mercury

Source: Mercury, The (Hobart), NOV 06, 2007

Item: 200711061012557648

Record: 15

Townsville roars - Sporting complex to cater for V8 Supercar racing By: Ray Kershler and Gordon Lomas. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 15/11/2007 (AN 200711151095358719)

Database:

Townsville roars - Sporting complex to cater for V8 Supercar racing

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: Sport, pg. 095

TOWNSVILLE will echo to the roar of V8 Supercar racing -- as the NSW Government continues to resist the plan to race the cars around the streets of Sydney.

Townsville officials yesterday announced a Federal Government grant of \$10 million as the last part of a jigsaw which will allow them to develop a sporting complex around the city with the first V8 race planned for 2009.

While V8 officials were jubilant at the Townsville announcement yesterday they remain disappointed the NSW Government has continually balked at plans for a street race around the Olympic complex at Homebush Bay.

V8 boss Tony Cochrane has been negotiating with NSW officials for more than three years and while at times optimistic about government approval, he has failed to get agreement.

The NSW Premier Morris Iemma last year said the plans to race around the Olympic Stadium were not economically viable. The V8s dispute the government figures and point out the additional economic benefits the race and its worldwide TV coverage would present.

The V8s suggest a race weekend crowd of 300,000 from all over Australia would watch the iconic battle between Ford and Holden.

The decision to race at Townsville means the north Queensland city will join Adelaide, the Gold Coast and Melbourne as street circuits for the V8s.

Melbourne is part of the Formula One grand prix circus. The streets of Mt Panorama are also closed for the annual Bathurst 1000.

Negotiations with Perth officials for a V8 street race are in their infancy after the city dropped their World Rally Championship round last year.

The New Zealand city of Hamilton will also host a street race for the first time next year (with 100,000 tickets already sold) after earlier proposals for an event in Auckland and Wellington fell through.

Buoyed by the success of getting Queensland and Federal government commitments for Townsville, Cochrane said yesterday he would renew his efforts to change the mind of Premier Iemma and his bureaucrats.

``As I have proven many times, I don't take no for an answer," Cochrane said.

* Championship favourite Garth Tander will have to unlock the secret to a 17-year-old record if he is to maintain his winning relationship with Tasmania's Symmons Plains circuit this weekend.

Tander is on the cusp of winning three consecutive rounds of the V8 Supercar championship at the track on the outskirts of Launceston, a feat not matched since Dick Johnson's menacing Ford Sierra days when he won the Tasmania leg from 1988-1990.

The tall Tander holds a skinny 20-point lead in the series after shooting up the standings to replace Ford's Jamie Whincup at the table top.

Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), NOV 15, 2007

Item: 200711151095358719

\$30,000 FUNDING; Skate park has lift-off Gold Coast Bulletin, The, 06/02/2008 (AN 20080206B016097807)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$30,000 FUNDING; Skate park has lift-off

Edition: B - Main

Section: Village Voices, pg. 016

FOOTPATH skateboarders on the southern Gold Coast have reason to celebrate following the announcement of \$30,000 in funding for a skate park project at Tweed Heads South.

The NSW Government's money will be combined with \$175,000 from the Tweed Shire Council and \$75,000 from local sports clubs, to be used for the completion of the \$350,000 SK8tweed facility on the corner of Minjungbal Drive and Heffron Street.

A further \$100,000 for the project had previously been allocated under the Federal Government's Regional Partnerships Program, but the funding is under review following the Coalition's election loss in 2007.

Tweed Shire Council is working closely with Federal Member for Richmond Justine Elliot to ensure the allocation is reconfirmed as soon as possible.

Copyright 2008 / Gold Coast Bulletin

Source: Gold Coast Bulletin, The, FEB 06, 2008

Item: 20080206B016097807

Record: 2

\$3m for Murray complex despite `funding cut' By: Tony Raggatt. Townsville Bulletin, 08/02/2008 (AN 200802081005216779)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$3m for Murray complex despite `funding cut'

Section: News, pg. 005

GOVERNMENTS are often accused of giving with one hand while taking with the other.

In the case of Townsville, it seems to be the other way around.

The Rudd Labor Government announced this week it was cutting \$3 million in spending for an international sports centre at Townsville's Murray sports complex.

The measure was part of more than \$640 million in `savings' aimed at fighting inflation.

However in the fine print of its announcement, the Government said the funding for Townsville would be provided through another program.

Yesterday, Townsville Mayor Tony Mooney was happy although Federal Liberal Townsville MP Peter Lindsay was suspicious.

``I'm concerned that the vital Murray funds may well be slashed when Labor finds what they have done," he said.

Cr Mooney said he had it from one of the highest authorities in the Government, Treasurer Wayne Swan, that the funding would be provided.

A spokesman for Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner maintained its announcement of a cut to the Murray funding was a saving although he agreed thousands would not understand how that could be so.

The money which would be provided for the Murray complex would come from different areas and programs which had been budgeted for as part of Labor's election commitments.

The spokesman said Labor would deliver on all its election promises to the Townsville region.

Mr Lindsay said many of the programs listed in Labor's savings document were being funded under different programs.

“Getting the money from a different government program does not qualify as a saving,” he said.

“This is dodgy accounting at its best.

“If this is the way Mr Rudd is going to run our country, then big troubles lie ahead.”

Both Labor and Liberal promised \$6.5 million for Murray.

Cr Mooney said the council had received \$3.355 million from the previous government and a further \$3 million from the Rudd Government would complete the contribution to the council's satisfaction.

Copyright 2008 / Townsville Bulletin

Source: Townsville Bulletin, FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802081005216779

Record: 3

ARU hopes \$25m `mistake' is rectified Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 08/02/2008 (AN 200802082078256646)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

ARU hopes \$25m `mistake' is rectified

Edition: 2 - Extended Metro

Section: Sport, pg. 078

AUSTRALIAN rugby officials believe Kevin Rudd's bean counters slashed \$25million in funding for a National Rugby Academy at Ballymore using wrong information and remain hopeful the lost money can be rescued.

If not, QRU boss Peter Lewis says Ballymore risks becoming a “white elephant” with no income and an annual \$2million maintenance bill.

The proposed state-of-the-art home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds was thrown into jeopardy on Wednesday when the Federal Government announced it won't hand over the grant promised by former prime minister John Howard last June.

But Lewis said yesterday he'll seek a meeting to persuade the government to reverse the decision, arguing it was too hasty and that the \$40million re-development can help reduce Federal sports funding by housing small Olympic teams.

“There was literally no consultation on the decision,” said Lewis. “We were given a phone call from the government as [finance minister] Lindsay Tanner was giving his speech.

“We have been told of two key reasons for it being knocked back, both of which were incorrect. We will be seeking to lobby the government and say: “Here are the reasons for your decision. In our view

they are incorrect. It's an honest mistake. We want to have at least a chance to talk you through it in the hope you will reconsider'."

Lewis declined to specify details of the "incorrect information". But having been informed by Howard the "money is in the bank" last year, the ARU and QRU have spent \$500,000 on planning for the project -- which would include gymnasiums, a sports medicine clinic and accommodation.

While having a rugby focus, Lewis said the "self-sustaining" facility was also a venue that could be a home to minor Olympic sports.

He also said the project was backed by the previous government to help Pacific Island rugby development.

Copyright 2008 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802082078256646

Record: 4

Ballymore ballyhoo - QRU seeks state help over funding furore By: Jim Tucker. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 09/02/2008 (AN 200802091117977213)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Ballymore ballyhoo - QRU seeks state help over funding furore

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: Sport, pg. 117

'It was one of the most thoroughly developed and well-researched sports plans to cross my desk as sports minister last year'

Former sports minister George Brandis

A MEETING on Tuesday with the State Government has become a lifeline to keep afloat the Ballymore redevelopment project, which is reeling from the axing of a \$25 million grant.

While there is no suggestion that state purse strings will be loosened to help fill the void created by the Federal Government's withdrawal of funding, all support is being canvassed to prop up the plans.

Queensland Rugby Union chairman Peter Lewis will meet State Government representatives because former Premier Peter Beattie was a strong backer of the Ballymore idea.

Lewis said: "The economic impact behind the Ballymore redevelopment is the creation of 200 permanent jobs and millions of dollars coming into Queensland.

"Those economics, apart from the merit for sport, mean there has to be more discussion on this project at government level."

Lewis will spend the weekend compiling a detailed presentation for Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to press for a rethink on backing for the centre of excellence plans, which include a national rugby academy and administrative offices for smaller sports.

The grant documents had not yet been signed off when the \$25 million was pulled. Fine-tuning of the joint ownership arrangements between the ruling bodies at Queensland and Australian level and the final design detail of the centre of excellence had almost been concluded when the government decision was made.

Former sports minister George Brandis backed a rethink.

He said: "It was one of the most thoroughly developed and well-researched sports plans to cross my desk as sports minister last year."

The Ballymore drama drew emotional reactions to The Courier-Mail website yesterday.

They ranged from slating the Government's ignorance of the Ballymore project's possibility of helping other sports and Pacific nations to snipes that the project was a waste of money on sporting silvertails.

Shadow sports minister Pat Farmer yesterday described the overturning of the commitment of the previous government as "almost without precedent" and demanded a government explanation be sent to the ARU.

* New coach Dan McKellar will guide Souths in the first pre-season club trial against Auckland's College Rifles at Chipsy Wood Oval from 4.30pm today.

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Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 09, 2008

Item: 200802091117977213

Record: 5

Blocker bitter at PM cash backflip By: NEIL CADIGAN. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 08/02/2008 (AN 200802081082302425)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Blocker bitter at PM cash backflip

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 082

TEST and Tigers legend Steve Roach has slammed the Federal Government for robbing rugby league of the promised Hall of Fame in its centenary year.

The 19-Test veteran joined a chorus of protest at Wednesday's decision by the Rudd Government to withdraw \$10million pledged by John Howard last June.

Roach, one of many greats who are ecstatic about the centenary celebrations, said he was dumbfounded how the Government could so quickly overturn the funding pledge.

"Rugby league has already copped a back-hander by the State Government with increased poker machine tax which threatens a major source of revenue from leagues clubs," Roach said. "Now the Australian Government wants to get in on the act and rob us of a Hall of Fame we should have had years ago."

"I thought the Labor Party was the blue-collar party who looked after the man on the street -- and they are the people who follow rugby league."

"I think it is sad. This is going to be such a great year for the game when all our history gets brought out but at the end of it we could have had a lasting legacy. That's been taken away."

Bulldogs legendary halfback Steve Mortimer said it "absolutely stinks" that Kevin Rudd would not honour a commitment of the former PM.

"I heard on radio today that Rudd had apparently put aside \$2million for AFL in his electorate, that's terrible if that's true," Mortimer said.

"With him being a Queenslander I thought he would have been fully supportive of rugby league in its centenary year."

Former ARL boss John Quayle said this was the third strike to the game's ambitions to have its own museum -- and he fears that three strikes could definitely be "out".

Quayle's administration secured premises in George St at the Rocks in the early 1990s but aborted plans for a Hall there when it accepted an invitation from Kerry Packer to include a hi-tech museum as part of his bid for Sydney's first casino licence.

When the bid was unsuccessful the ARL then agreed to attach itself to Lend Lease's bid to build the Olympic Stadium at Homebush. It was beaten by Multiplex in the tender process.

"But then the world went crazy with Super League hitting us and we had to focus on other issues," Quayle said. "Now to finally get the funding and, apparently, have a suitable site and have it taken away is heartbreaking.

"My experience is that governments don't withdraw a previously approved \$10million then come back in three or five years and offer it again. League can feel badly cheated, the backflip was heartless, totally unnecessary and I can't understand why it has happened.

"I hope the Government hasn't served the death knell for a Hall of Fame as its reward for the game's 100 years of contribution to society."

Former NSW Liberal premier John Fahey, a former Canterbury player, was a driving force behind the museum's establishment through his roles on the Rugby League Centenary Committee and as patron of the Men Of League organisation.

The former chairman of the Bradman Museum at Bowral, who helped co-ordinate the submission to the Government, had a "gut feeling" Labor would not turn its back on Howard's pledge. That proved sadly wrong.

"The Government's timing is impeccably poor -- this was going to be a centrepiece of the sport's fantastic milestone and, I believe, major tourist and function venues in Sydney and Brisbane," Fahey said.

Copyright 2008 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802081082302425

Record: 6

Codes' anger at cuts to cash By: STEVE MASCORD. Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071094350827)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Codes' anger at cuts to cash

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 094

AUSTRALIA's rugby codes were furious last night after Kevin Rudd's razor gang stripped them of \$35 million in funding.

Rugby league lost \$10 million which had been set aside for its Centenary celebrations - already underway - while union will go without the \$25 million which had been allocated to set up an academy at Ballymore.

The government regarded them as "last minute" promises by the outgoing Howard administration and has included the programs in cuts intended to save \$642 million over four years.

But NRL chief executive David Gallop said: "It is particularly disappointing given that the grant was announced by the then Prime Minister on grand final day before the election was called.

"It wasn't an election promise but a commitment by the government of the day."

League was to spend the funding on halls of fame in Sydney and Brisbane plus education programs and volunteer recognition.

The decision has cost the already cash-strapped ARU \$500,000 which they spent on the academy project after former Prime Minister John Howard announced the capital contribution on June 30 last year.

"We're absorbing the shock of this decision," ARU Chief Executive and Managing Director John O'Neill said last night.

O'Neill said the action by the Federal Government had come "out of the blue".

"We had a commitment from the previous government. We were told the money was in the bank," O'Neill said.

"Together with the Queensland Rugby Union, we'd been working towards finalising a funding agreement on that basis.

"There was no contemplation of risk given we were dealing with our Federal Government."

ARL chief executive Geoff Carr said the opposition had raised no objection to the funding when it was first announced.

"It is all the more perplexing given that one of the reasons given to us was the need to concentrate on participation and obesity programs," Carr said.

The financial setback follows O'Neill's revelation last week that the game will suffer a \$7-8 million loss this year, at which time he also described Australia rugby as being at the crossroads.

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Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802071094350827

Record: 7

Decision on funding flawed - QRU chief By: Iain Payten. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 08/02/2008 (AN 200802081096037507)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Decision on funding flawed - QRU chief

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: Sport, pg. 096

AUSTRALIAN rugby officials believe Kevin Rudd's bean counters slashed \$25 million in funding for a National Rugby Academy at Ballymore using wrong information, and remain hopeful the lost money can be rescued.

If not, QRU boss Peter Lewis says Ballymore risks becoming a "white elephant" with no income and an annual \$2 million maintenance bill.

The proposed state-of-the-art home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds was thrown into jeopardy on Wednesday when the Federal Government announced it will not hand over the grant promised by former Prime Minister John Howard last June.

But Lewis said yesterday he would seek a meeting to persuade the Government to reverse the decision, arguing it was too hasty and that the \$40 million redevelopment can help reduce federal sports funding by housing small Olympic teams.

``There was literally no consultation on the decision," Lewis said.

``We were given a phone call from the Government as (Finance Minister) Lindsay Tanner was giving his speech.

``We have been told of two key reasons for it being knocked back, both of which were incorrect."

Lewis declined to specify details of the ``incorrect information".

But having been told by Howard the ``money is in the bank" last year, the ARU and QRU have spent \$500,000 on planning for the project -- which would include gymnasiums, a sports medicine clinic and accommodation for athletes.

Copyright 2008 / Courier Mail

Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802081096037507

Record: 8

FED: Labor's spending cuts "easy pickings": Minchin AAP Australian National News Wire, 07/02/2008 (AN 74C1829554638)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

FED: Labor's spending cuts "easy pickings": Minchin

RAZOR MINCHIN

CANBERRA, Feb 7 AAP - Labor's spending cuts are "easy pickings" that do not deal with long-term federal government expenditure, a former coalition finance minister says.

The Rudd government yesterday announced it would axe almost \$650 million from spending promises made by the Howard government prior to the November 24 poll.

The cuts include a \$147.5 million regional funding program and grants to sporting groups.

"It's very much the easy pickings," Senator Minchin told ABC Radio today.

"What (Finance Minister) Mr (Lindsay) Tanner announced was just knocking off some one-off grants.

"If you're going to really deal with government expenditure you have actually got to attack on-going programs and they have done none of that."

Senator Minchin - now opposition defence spokesman - said it was very important that Labor maintained its election promise to make personal income tax cuts of \$31 billion.

"It's very important that the Labor party does abide by its promise to the electorate that it will reduce taxation and not act like the (Paul) Keating government which after the 1993 election broke its promise on taxation."

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Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Feb 07, 2008

Item: 74C1829554638

Record: 9

Fed: Sporting groups not even told of funding cuts By: Peter Veness. AAP Australian National News Wire, 06/02/2008 (AN 74C2258792550)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fed: Sporting groups not even told of funding cuts

RAZOR RUGBY

By Peter Veness

CANBERRA, Feb 6 AAP - Rugby union and rugby league groups and the Victorian Racing Club have been dealt a blow with unexpected funding cuts from the new federal government.

Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner today announced \$25 million of commonwealth taxpayers money would be withheld from the Brisbane-based Australian Rugby Academy.

He is also withholding \$5 million from the Victorian Racing Club (VRC) for an alternative water program and \$10 million from the National Rugby League which was to be used to build a hall of fame.

The decisions are the first concrete announcements to come out of Labor's razor gang which is aiming to help drive the nation's surplus to 1.5 per cent of GDP in time for the May budget.

Cuts made by the razor gang will be over and above the \$10 billion already identified by Labor before the election.

The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) said it had already spent \$500,000 drawing up plans for the academy which was to be built next to Ballymore Stadium.

"We had a commitment from the previous government," ARU chief executive John O'Neill said.

"We were told the money was in the bank. We engaged architects, undertook feasibility studies and opened discussions with proposed tenants.

"Those exercises alone mean we have already spent around \$500,000."

VRC chairman Rod Fitzroy said he had no idea the funding had been withdrawn until Mr Tanner made the announcement in a speech to the National Press Club today.

"We just don't think they have dealt with this particularly fairly," Mr Fitzroy told AAP.

"The project has no political affiliation. The grant that was made for Flemington was on the basis of a detailed submission."

Mr Fitzroy said he was even more surprised by the decision given its environmental benefits.

"We have to reduce our reliance on potable water.

"We are happy to see this tested as an appropriate project for government funding."

As early as this morning Queensland rugby chairman Peter Lewis believed the grant to create a major new national academy for young rugby players was still valid.

"I don't believe for one moment that the Rudd government would consider this grant inappropriate, given there are some 250,000 young rugby players in Australia actually involved in this great sport," Mr Lewis said in a newsletter.

But tonight he was in shock.

"I feel like a lineout jumper whose lifters have suddenly walked off with me still in midair," Mr Lewis said in a statement.

"One of the points made at the time was that in the 11 years of the Howard government, federal capital grants for sport in Queensland had totalled less than \$1 million.

"The \$25 million was to kick-start a project that would be self-supporting and cashflow positive, with benefits for the state, country and region and any profits being reinvested in the game of rugby."

The National Rugby League was not immediately available for comment.

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Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Feb 06, 2008

Item: 74C2258792550

Record: 10

Fed: Sporting groups not even told of funding cuts AAP Australian National News Wire, 07/02/2008 (AN 74C1490589483)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fed: Sporting groups not even told of funding cuts

RAZOR RUGBY (CANBERRA)

Rugby union .. rugby league and the Victorian Racing Club are all in shock funding.

Finance Minister LINDSAY TANNER has announced 25 million dollars of commonwealth taxpayers money will be withheld from the Brisbane-based Australian Rugby Academy.

He's also withholding five million from the VRC for an alternative water program and 10 million from the National Rugby League .. which was to be used to build a hall of fame.

The decisions are the first concrete announcements to come out of Labor's razor gang .. which is aiming to help drive the nation's surplus to 1.5 per cent of GDP in the May budget.

Cuts made by the razor gang will be over and above the 10 billion dollars already identified by Labor before the election.

The Australian Rugby Union says it has spent 500 thousand dollars drawing up plans for the academy .. which was to have been built next to Ballymore Stadium.

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Source: AAP Australian National News Wire, Feb 07, 2008

Item: 74C1490589483

Record: 11

FFA set to survive Tanner's razor gang By: Jacquelin Magnay. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 07/02/2008; Abstract: FOOTBALL Federation Australia looks as if it might survive savage cuts that have befallen other football codes as part of the Federal Government's withdrawal of \$243 million of "irresponsible spending" promises made for the current financial year. (AN SYD-5IM215FZVL4Z5O82B54)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 34

FFA set to survive Tanner's razor gang

SPORTS FUNDING

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Jacquelin Magnay

PHOTO: Plain sailing ... teams in the Laser world championships finetune their boats during a final practice run yesterday, mindful not to disturb the serious business of fishing at Terrigal Haven. Photo: Tim Clayton

FOOTBALL Federation Australia looks as if it might survive savage cuts that have befallen other football codes as part of the Federal Government's withdrawal of \$243 million of "irresponsible spending" promises made for the current financial year.

Australian Rugby League has lost the \$10 million pledged by former prime minister John Howard to establish a hall of fame and the Australian Rugby Union has had its \$25 million Queensland-based national rugby academy abandoned.

Among other sports targeted, fishing lost \$3 million earmarked for a hall of fame, and racing has had the government's \$5 million contribution to a water-saving strategy at Flemington withdrawn.

But FFA chief executive Ben Buckley said the substantial commitments to football - a four-year \$16 million government grant - would be maintained. "We have had no signal that anything would change. We would like to think that it may even go the other way," Buckley said.

The Federal Government's \$6.5 million commitment to the Bradman Cricket Museum also appears to have survived.

Minister for Finance Lindsay Tanner yesterday announced spending cuts of \$643 million over the next four years, designed to help rein in inflation.

Tanner said the former government made a substantial number of "irresponsible" new spending commitments before the last election.

Their funding had to be included in appropriation bills to be tabled in Parliament next week, but they have now been reversed.

The ARL was to have received \$3 million this financial year and \$7 million in 2008-09 for the hall of fame, tentatively proposed for the Sydney Football Stadium. Other venues were in the process of being considered until yesterday's email notification from the minister's office.

ARL chief executive Geoff Carr said it was "extremely disappointing" that the code's contribution to encouraging children to be active during the past 100 years had been withdrawn without consultation. "We have had little or no government support in getting children to play rugby league," he said. "We pour about \$8 million a year into schools, with 65 development officers to get kids active, yet the government does this."



The cuts come as government spending in other sports is being reassessed. Tanner said the spending cuts were an initial and modest down-payment on further cuts to be announced in the federal budget. Already, budgets for the programs of the Australian Sports Commission and the AIS are being slashed by about 4 per cent across the board.

The AIS gymnastics program and other development programs of non-Olympic sports are under immediate threat of being abandoned.

Meanwhile Australia's influence in world sport was heightened yesterday when International Olympic Committee member Phil Coles was appointed a vice president of the World Taekwondo Federation. Coles, a three-time Olympian in the sport of canoe-kayak, replaces Cha Sok Park, who died last year.

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Record: 12

Funding is undermining Australia's medal hopes By: Jason Koutsoukis. Sun-Herald, The (Sydney), 03/02/2008; Abstract: AUSTRALIAN sport is facing a drubbing at the Olympics level without urgent reform to the way sport is funded and administered. (AN SYD-5IJYIWMP7TW1EF3Y17D5)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: Second, Section: Sport, pg. 95

Funding is undermining Australia's medal hopes

OLYMPICS

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By Jason Koutsoukis

PHOTO: Flying the flag . . . wins such as Jana Rawlinson's 400 metres hurdles world title may become increasingly rare. Photo: AP

AUSTRALIAN sport is facing a drubbing at the Olympics level without urgent reform to the way sport is funded and administered.

Senior sports administrators have told The Sun-Herald that, at best, Australia might salvage a haul of 42 medals in Beijing - down from the record 58 in Sydney and 49 in Athens - but the tally could slip to below 30 at the 2012 London Games.

In her first interview since being appointed, Federal Sports Minister Kate Ellis has acknowledged that there are "major challenges" facing sports administration and funding. "We need to take a very close look at who is taking responsibility for sports funding, the different roles being played by federal, state and local governments," she said. "We need to ... develop a unified long-term goal."

Australian Sports Commission deputy president and broadcaster Alan Jones has told The Sun-Herald that Australian sport is suffering from a combination of factors.

"Firstly, the Howard Government failed, in our view, to commit the sort of money we have been asking for for several years and there is no doubt we are suffering from that," Jones said. "But other serious challenges are that countries overseas are just spending so much more money funding sports. "We are also finding that our coaches are being pinched, and we will struggle to fill the vacuum left by the departure of top multiple medal winners like Ian Thorpe."

Jones added that with the focus of international sport shifting towards Europe, the tyranny of distance was making it more expensive for Australian athletes to compete at the highest levels.

A looming embarrassment for Australian sporting fans is the prospect of being trounced by the UK, where sports authorities are forecast to spend around \$21 billion in total to host the 2012 Games.

By contrast, the Australian Sports Commission received \$193 million from the Federal Government last year and was able to raise \$24.4 million in other revenue.

A critical issue is whether Australia should fund a broad range of Olympic sports, or deliver the majority of funding to sports in which which Australia traditionally excels and wins medals, such as swimming and cycling.

> Murder Inc: Road to Beijing, pages 84, 85

TOP MEDAL HOPES

Jana Rawlinson (400m hurdles)

Nathan Deakes (50km road walk)

Craig Mottram (5000m)

Ryan Bayley (cycling - sprint/ keiren)

Katie Mactier (cycling - individual pursuit)

Drew Ginn/Duncan Free (rowing - men's pair)
Grant Hackett (swimming - 1500m freestyle)
Leisel Jones (100/200m breaststroke)

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Record: 13

Fury at \$35m sting; Rugby codes reel as Rudd slashes funding By: Steve Mascord and Jon Geddes.
Herald Sun (Melbourne), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802072084511905)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Fury at \$35m sting; Rugby codes reel as Rudd slashes funding

Edition: 2 - SECOND

Section: SPORT, pg. 084

AUSTRALIA'S rugby codes were furious last night after Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's razor gang stripped them of \$35 million in funding.

Rugby league lost \$10 million, which had been set aside for its centenary celebrations -- already under way, while union will go without the \$25 million that had been allocated to set up an academy at Ballymore in Brisbane.

The Rudd Government regarded them as ``last-minute" promises by the outgoing Howard administration.

NRL chief executive David Gallop said: ``It is particularly disappointing given that the grant was announced by the then prime minister on grand final day before the election was called. It wasn't an election promise but a commitment."

The NRL was to spend the funding on halls of fame in Sydney and Brisbane plus education programs.

The decision has cost the Australian Rugby Union \$500,000 it spent on the academy project after former prime minister John Howard announced the capital contribution on June 30.

``We're absorbing the shock. The disappointment is profound," ARU chief executive John O'Neill said last night.

``We had a commitment from the previous Government. We were told the money was in the bank. Together with the Queensland Rugby Union, we'd been working towards finalising a funding agreement on that basis.

``We engaged architects, undertook feasibility studies and opened discussions with proposed tenants. There was no contemplation of risk given we were dealing with our Federal Government."

ARL chief executive Geoff Carr said the Opposition had raised no objection when the funding was announced.

``It is all the more perplexing given one of the reasons given to us today was the need to concentrate on participation and obesity programs," he said.

The union setback follows O'Neill's revelation last week that Australian rugby would lose \$7-8 million this year.

Copyright 2008 / Herald Sun

Source: Herald Sun (Melbourne), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802072084511905

Record: 14

Grand plan for rugby kicked out- Razor gang kills Ballymore centre By: Jim Tucker. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802076009304712)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Grand plan for rugby kicked out- Razor gang kills Ballymore centre

Edition: 6 - Late City

Section: News, pg. 009

SHOCKED rugby union bosses have been left with a \$500,000 bill after the Rudd Government's razor gang reneged on a \$25 million promise to transform Ballymore into the code's centre of excellence.

The Federal Government yesterday reversed the multimillion grant announced by former prime minister John Howard last June.

“The code is gutted, I feel like I'm in shock treatment and I'm sure the smaller sports (water polo and tae kwon do) and medicos who were also to benefit from this worthy project feel the same,” Queensland Rugby Union chairman Peter Lewis said.

“I don't need to replay the videotape of last year's announcement to recall the prime minister's words: ‘This is not an election promise, this is money in the bank.’

“On the basis of it being a grant, something we believed to be a binding business agreement, \$500,000 or more has already been outlaid on plans, surveys, project managers, architects and community consultation.”

Mr Rudd's razor gang has not spared sport in the “pain for gain” measures ahead of the May Budget.

National Rugby League chief executive David Gallop expressed dismay that funding of \$10 million has been withdrawn for Hall of Fame projects in the code's centenary year.

Victoria's Flemington racecourse alternative water strategy (\$5 million) and a proposed Fishing Hall of Fame (\$3 million) also were scrapped.

Mr Lewis urged a re-think of the planned Ballymore makeover to embrace a national rugby academy, sports gym, a 50m pool, sports medicine centre and athletes' motel.

“It's very disappointing because the project was designed to create a train-play-stay environment available to all sports and to all countries in our region,” Australian Rugby Union chief executive John O'Neill said.

The door appears shut on the issue.

“This project will not be revisited but we will continue to work with the ARU on future ideas,” a spokesman for Federal Sports Minister Kate Ellis said.

Queensland's George Brandis, the former Liberal sports minister who drove the Ballymore decision last year, branded the Government axing of the grant as a “deplorable act”.

Projects to be slashed

* Rugby League Hall of Fame - \$10 million.

* Australian National Rugby Academy, Brisbane - \$25 million.

* Fishing Hall of Fame - \$3 million.

- * Growing Regions Program - \$147.5 million.
- * Innovation Ambassador Program - \$5 million.
- * Regional maritime security capacity building - \$7.8 million.
- * Drought package - \$98.8 million.

Sport P100

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Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802076009304712

Record: 15

Group's goal for growing stadium By: BRETT KEEBLE. Newcastle Herald, The (includes the Central Coast Herald), 11/02/2008; Abstract: WESTS Group chief executive Phil Gardner wants to stage more international sporting and entertainment events at EnergyAustralia Stadium in the next 10 years as the ground blossoms into a world-class arena capable of hosting Asian Cup and World Cup soccer matches. (AN SYD-5IO5VE1OR901DC0ZNGZP)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: Late, Section: News, pg. 5

Group's goal for growing stadium

Hopes for world-class arena to become city drawcard

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By BRETT KEEBLE

TWO PHOTOS: ONE ILLUSTRATION: CAPACITY: Crowds regularly pack out Knights and Jets home games; still more seating is needed for bigger events. BIG VISION: An artist's impression of a redeveloped stadium, left, capable of holding 33,000 people. Work started on the western grandstand in December. - Artwork by EJE Architects PHIL GARDNER

WESTS Group chief executive Phil Gardner wants to stage more international sporting and entertainment events at EnergyAustralia Stadium in the next 10 years as the ground blossoms into a world-class arena capable of hosting Asian Cup and World Cup soccer matches.

Football Federation Australia has grand plans to bring the 2015 Asian Cup and 2018 World Cup down under and Gardner does not want to see Newcastle excluded.

Under the new lease agreement between the Knights and the Hunter International Sports Centre Trust, Wests will manage the stadium until the end of 2017 and the Knights will continue as major tenants.

FIFA, soccer's international governing body, requires Australia to provide nine to 12 grounds with a 40,000 minimum capacity to have any chance of hosting an Asian Cup or World Cup.

NSW Premier Morris Iemma and Treasurer Michael Costa, the Minister for the Hunter, indicated earlier this month their vision for EnergyAustralia Stadium to be one of those venues.

Redevelopment began on the western grandstand in December to increase stadium seating capacity to 33,000 and to bring facilities in line with those in the \$30 million Andrew Johns Stand on the opposite side.

Further State and Federal Government funding would allow for an increase to the capacity required to host World Cup and Asian Cup matches, and Australia's qualifying games in the lead-up to either tournament.

"That's the major driver of the stadium. If you talk to the Premier or the Treasurer and other people in Government, they're talking about those sort of things to showcase Australia to the rest of the world," Gardner said.

"If we can get a World Cup, that would be a real turning-stone for Australia on the world stage and we want to be a part of that . . . that's probably more of a driver than the Knights and the Jets, to get the stadium to a standard so those sort of events can be held here."

Apart from finals, the Knights play 12 National Rugby League games each year and the Jets, through a sub-lease agreement with the Knights, play a minimum 10 home games each A-League season, but Wests want the ground to be utilised more often.

Gardner hoped to attract international soccer and other sporting contests such as Super 14 rugby union, Big Day Out-style festivals, and major musical acts that usually play in Sydney or the Hunter Valley vineyards.

He and Knights counterpart Steve Burraston are in the throes of restructuring the business agreement between the two organisations, primarily to clarify how Wests fund the Knights, but also to ensure a better deal for the Jets.

"The end result for both of us is to get a competitive Knights team on the park, but also to have a stadium redeveloped over a period of time that is a centrepiece for Newcastle that attracts a whole lot of new events into the city and acts as an income-generator," he said.

"That will be something Newcastle and the Hunter can be truly proud of because we see this area as being the key part of Hawkesbury to the Queensland border. The Knights are the key team in that, as the Jets are the Jets are an important part of the stadium's overall success.

"We also want to see other events there Super 14, Test events, and I know [Jets' owner] Con Constantine has spoken to me many times about bringing international sides in here to play friendlies against the Jets.

"We always knew in 2005 that the roll-over of the licence management [lease] agreement for EnergyAustralia Stadium would be a watershed for change.

"Part of that management agreement is to ensure all other users of the stadium are treated fairly, and that is quite clear. We take the responsibility to be a fair broker in that situation and to look after the interests of our community, and that important asset which is EnergyAustralia Stadium, and we're going to do that to the best of our ability."

Gardner believed the Wests Group's expertise in catering, staffing, marketing and event management made them the ideal keepers of the keys.

But he said the group, whose flagship Western Suburbs Leagues Club is only a stone's throw away from the ground, stood to make no financial gain.

"There is no return in this for Wests. It actually costs us money, getting involved with the stadium, because we have to absorb our overhead costs," he said.

"I don't think people understand what a great job this State Government Michael Costa and all our local members have been doing fighting out there to get funding for this stadium.

"This stadium is going to be something great for this community. It will allow us to attract international events and events that we never thought we'd have here.

"We see ourselves as doing our part in that, but everyone has to feel that they're being treated fairly in this process and that's part of what we're going to do."

Tell us what you think

letters@theherald.com.au

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Record: 16

Hardly sporting Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 13/02/2008 (AN 200802131030046806)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Hardly sporting

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: Features, pg. 030

QUEENSLAND missed out on federal sports funding for almost the entire period of the Howard government -- a miserable legacy that the government always denied. Former sports minister George Brandis says when he was appointed at the start of last year, he asked his department to investigate Queensland's complaints and found they were, in fact, accurate; the government had never spent a significant sports dollar in the state. He looked for a project to help balance the ledger and came up with a \$25 million national rugby academy at Ballymore. But the Rudd Government's razor gang has ditched the plan as part of its funding cuts in the lead-up to the Budget.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by David Fagan, 41 Campbell St, Bowen Hills, Qld 4006. Printed and published by Queensland Newspapers Pty. Ltd. (ACN 009 661 778)

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Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 13, 2008

Item: 200802131030046806

Record: 17

Minister preaches reform, redemption By: Jacquelin Magnay. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 09/02/2008; Abstract: THE Federal Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, has flagged widespread reform in funding for sport but wants Australian sporting teams to recapture their prominence on the international stage. (AN SYD-5IN1WGD47UGX5MNH54)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 70

Minister preaches reform, redemption

SPORTS FUNDING

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Jacquelin Magnay

THE Federal Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, has flagged widespread reform in funding for sport but wants Australian sporting teams to recapture their prominence on the international stage.

In a week when the Australian Rugby League and Australian Rugby Union officials were stunned to have a total of \$35 million in Federal Government grants axed, Ellis has promised continued support for elite sport amidst a broad review.

But pre-election promises made by the Labor Government will be maintained, such as the \$32million to Football Federation Australia, half of which will underpin a televised national women's league and also incorporate grants to local clubs. The handout is about six times the normal subsidy received by top-level sports. Lobbyists for cricket - which saw a \$6.5m grant for the Bradman Museum survive - and the FFA had been active in Canberra in recent weeks.

Ellis said the Government would continue to fund a \$2.63m contribution to the 2008 Rugby League World Cup and rugby league's centenary celebrations.

NRL chief executive David Gallop yesterday wrote to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to express his disappointment at the axing of \$10m for the league's hall of fame.

Ellis said it was easy for league and union to "blame the cuts on a sports minister from South Australia brought up on AFL", but said the decision was made by a strategic budget committee, which comprised two members from Queensland and two from Victoria. Ellis told the Herald she would look at where the sports money was currently going and what the returns were.

"I have had many conversations about Australia and the cutting edge we used to have and how the rest of the world is catching up," she said. "My priority is to get that edge back and have Australia over-achieve on the international stage, as we are accustomed to. At the same time, it is a huge battle to get children off the couch and participate in sport ... Our priority is to ensure Australia does as best as it can at Beijing at this last stage. The Olympic Games are very, very important. Australians love watching our athletes do well on the international stage and at this stage, the Government wants that to continue. We have done so well in the past because of leading innovations in sports science and the AIS, but that is an area the previous government let us down and dropped the ball and now the rest of the world is catching up."

Ellis said the Government was trying to rein in inflation and sport had to play its role. Basic programs such as the Active After School Program would be reviewed, but were not threatened.

"We don't have a bottomless pit, we have to use the money smarter," she said.

But as to a weighting towards the elite end or grassroots participation, Ellis is hedging her bets. "I see the two absolutely linked: the more participation in sport, the greater the pool of athletes, and we have got to have role models to encourage kids to participate," she said.

"But taxpayers want principles; why do we fund it, what are the goals ..."

Ellis said the review would include a look at the state institutes and their role in various sports.

Minister kicks budgetary goals at sport's expense - Page 73

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Record: 18

Oval upgrade hits new \$20m hurdle By: richard earle. Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 13/02/2008 (AN 200802131085649220)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Oval upgrade hits new \$20m hurdle

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 085

THE South Australian Cricket Association's ambitious western grandstand redevelopment has been jeopardised by a \$20 million cost blow-out and stringent Adelaide City Council approval requirements.

SACA chief executive Mike Deare has indicated the project - to increase grandstand capacity from 8000 to 11,000 - has extended in cost from \$72m to around \$90m.

The federal and state governments have provided \$50m in funding to kick-start the upgrade.

“In addition to the grants we have got we will have to find more money (\$20m). We are talking to our banks about that,” said Deare.

SACA had hoped that building two tiers of seating to the base of the existing stands would start immediately following the completion of the Rugby Sevens tournament at Adelaide Oval on April 6. That is now unlikely.

SACA must convince a City Council Development Assessment Panel hearing tomorrow that it has adhered to eight critical requirements in order to secure approval for the upgrade.

“We still have some hurdles to jump. The in-principle landlord approval that we got before Christmas has eight conditions which are all quite solid,” revealed Deare.

“We are working with our planning advisors to get the answers to those eight questions which we have to submit back to council.”

Obtaining approval for the upgrade will prove costly for SACA.

The \$90m project is destined to result in only an additional 500 spaces for members with the Bradman Stand returned to public seating.

It is also understood the Development Assessment Panel has demanded removal of the much-loved Members Stand marquee and substantial reduction in advertising signage around the playing arena as part of the conditions for approval.

Deare conceded there could be delays to the project which still requires final landlord approval and has not yet gone to tender.

“I am hoping we are in a position to start demolition work after the end of the Rugby Sevens but there are a lot of aspects we have to satisfy people on. We are not taking anything for granted,” Deare said. “Due to of the birth pains the grandstand in Victoria Park has had we want to be sure every thing is done in the right way.”

Deare said a reduced-capacity Adelaide Oval (16,000) would still host a Test match next summer but that it would be New Zealand rather than popular, fellow touring side South Africa.

Adelaide is likely to receive a single one-day international with no guarantee that it will feature Australia.

Deare also criticised the state opposition's announcement of a plan to build a world-class multi-purpose sports stadium on the city's western edge.

“Our view, shared with the SANFL, is that AAMI Stadium and Adelaide Oval, both upgraded and developed, are adequate for all sporting needs of South Australians without spending another \$600m on a new sporting stadium.

“This ground is fine for international cricket, soccer and rugby. The SANFL's Leigh Whicker and I believe both venues could host Commonwealth Games.”

Deare also criticised Football Federation Australia boss Ben Buckley's assertion that Adelaide Oval was not fit to host World Cup matches.

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Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), FEB 13, 2008

Item: 200802131085649220

Record: 19

PM dudding our sports Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071003305418)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

PM dudding our sports

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Local, pg. 003

AUSTRALIA's rugby codes were reeling last night after the Rudd Government stripped them of \$35 million in funding.

Rugby union had been promised \$25 million by the Howard government to set up an academy at Ballymore in Brisbane but was told yesterday the money would not be forthcoming.

And rugby league's centenary celebrations, already begun, will be \$10million short following a similar decision from the Rudd razor gang.

Full report: Sport

Copyright 2008 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802071003305418

Record: 20

QRU seeks talks with Rudd over funding cut By: Jim Tucker. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 08/02/2008 (AN 200802082096102814)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

QRU seeks talks with Rudd over funding cut

Edition: 2 - First Drop

Section: Sport, pg. 096

DESPERATE rugby bosses have requested an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to plead the case to reinstate the \$25 million grant for Ballymore's proposed centre of excellence.

A Queensland Rugby Union board meeting late yesterday voted for chairman Peter Lewis to press formally for a top-level meeting with government to present the detail of the project.

“Of the many things that cut deeply, the suggestion that the national rugby academy plan was a flippant, ill-conceived idea is one of the sorest points,” Lewis said.

“Eighteen months and more than \$200,000 was poured into the detail of what we want to become a self-supporting operation that would help sport get off the purse strings of government.

“Is a new government going to change its mind on a decision? We believe rugby deserves at least a 30-minute meeting with the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister or Treasurer Wayne Swan to explain the concept.

“The other key decision of the board was that we proceed with the Ballymore plans even though it will now be much more of a struggle financially.”

Liberal Senator George Brandis last night slated the Rudd Government for its “nonsense class-based view”.

“There are still sections of the Labor Party who live in out-dated cliches and stereotypes and the notion that rugby is an elitist sport is one,” said Senator Brandis, who as sports minister helped orchestrate the grant.

Of the 35 players on the Reds' playing list, only 15 attended private fee-paying GPS schools in Brisbane.

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Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802082096102814

Record: 21

Queenscliff club near after \$500,000 grant Geelong Advertiser, 25/01/2008 (AN 200801251005122812)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Queenscliff club near after \$500,000 grant

Section: News, pg. 005

THE Brumby Government will plough \$500,000 into the Queenscliff Sports Club redevelopment.

The cash splash marks a massive win for the club after a decade-long struggle to revitalise the old building.

The Borough of Queenscliff and the Queenscliff Sports Club have chipped in \$250,000 each to the \$1.3 million project.

Club president Bill Comerford said he was hoping to get the remaining \$300,000 in funds for the project from Rudd Government community grants.

“This is a very exciting day for the club . . . after such a long battle it's hard to believe we have secured this money,” Mr Comerford said.

The new structure will include:

A DINING room and members' area with panoramic views over the field and ocean;

A MASSIVE gymnasium area catering to the broader community, to serve the growing need for a fitness centre in the borough;

AN IMPROVED spectator pavilion;

NEW female umpire change-rooms, new female and visitor change-rooms, and

IMPROVED general amenities, including toilets, showers, storage and office areas.

State Sports Minister James Merlino announced the good news at the club yesterday, flanked by Bellarine MP Lisa Neville.

Ms Neville, who chaired the reference group which developed the club's submission, said the upgraded facility would meet the community's growing sports participation.

"This is a project that has taken considerable time and commitment and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the community members involved in the club," she said.

Copyright 2008 / Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

Source: Geelong Advertiser, JAN 25, 2008

Item: 200801251005122812

Record: 22

Razor gang strips \$25m from rugby codes Northern Territory News (includes Sunday Territorian), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071039701398)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Razor gang strips \$25m from rugby codes

Section: Sport, pg. 039

SYDNEY: Australia's rugby codes were furious last night after Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's razor gang stripped them of \$35 million in funding.

Rugby league lost \$10 million which had been set aside for its centenary celebrations -- already underway -- while union will go without the \$25 million which had been allocated to set up an academy at Ballymore in Brisbane.

Kevin Rudd's government regarded them as "last minute" promises by the outgoing Howard administration and has included the programs in cuts intended to save \$642 million over four years.

But NRL chief executive David Gallop said: "It is particularly disappointing given that the grant was announced by the then prime minister on grand final day before the election was called.

"It wasn't an election promise but a commitment by the government of the day."

The decision has cost the already cash-strapped Australian Rugby Union \$500,000, which they spent on the academy project after former Prime Minister John Howard announced the capital contribution on June 30 last year.

"We're absorbing the shock of this decision. The disappointment is profound," ARU Chief Executive and Managing Director John O'Neill (pictured) said last night.

League was to spend the funding on halls of fame in Sydney and Brisbane plus education programs and volunteer recognition.

O'Neill said the action by the Federal Government had come "out of the blue".

"We had a commitment from the previous Government. We were told the money was in the bank," O'Neill said.

"Together with the Queensland Rugby Union, we'd been working towards finalising a funding agreement on that basis."

Copyright 2008 / Northern Territory News

Source: Northern Territory News (includes Sunday Territorian), FEB 07, 2008
Item: 200802071039701398

Record: 23

Razor gang to cut out \$650m Mercury, The (Hobart), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071004655117)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Razor gang to cut out \$650m

ALMOST \$650 million of John Howard's last-minute spending promises will be axed when Parliament resumes next week.

Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner will introduce legislation revising or abandoning millions of dollars in promises made by the ousted Coalition government in its final months in office.

The first act of the Rudd government's razor gang will be to scrap \$14.4 million in advertising, a \$147.5 million regional funding program and big grants to sporting groups, including \$3 million for a fishing hall of fame, \$25 million for the Australian National Rugby Academy in Brisbane, \$10 million for a rugby league hall of fame, and \$5 million for a new watering system for Flemington Racecourse.

Drought assistance to help farmers leave the land will be slashed by almost \$100 million.

It is the first instalment of about \$14 billion in spending cuts to be unveiled in the May Budget in a bid to relieve pressure on inflation and interest rates. A second wave of cuts will be announced towards the end of the year, after a review of all Government programs and tax concessions.

Government spending had grown at an unsustainable rate, sending inflation soaring and leading to the latest interest rate rise, Mr Tanner said.

“Interest rate rises like we had yesterday are a kick in the guts for working families,” Mr Tanner told the National Press Club. “Five minutes before the election, the Liberals were throwing the cash around, making desperate promises trying to buy votes. This irresponsible spending will now be cut.”

Likening the Liberals to notorious teen party-thrower Corey Delaney, Mr Tanner added: “Just like teenagers whose party just keeps getting bigger and going longer regardless of the consequences, the Liberals ignored 20 Reserve Bank warnings on inflation and 10 interest rate rises. They kept partying.”

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Source: Mercury, The (Hobart), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802071004655117

Record: 24

Razor gang wields axe Townsville Bulletin, 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071007495287)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Razor gang wields axe

Section: News, pg. 007

ALMOST \$650 million of John Howard's last-minute spending promises will be axed when parliament resumes next week.

Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner will introduce legislation revising or abandoning millions of dollars in promises made by the ousted Coalition Government in its final months in office.

In the first act of the Rudd Government's razor gang, \$14.4 million in advertising, a \$147.5 million regional funding program and generous grants to sporting groups will be scrapped.

They include \$3 million for a fishing hall of fame, \$25 million for the Australian National Rugby Academy in Brisbane, \$10 million for a rugby league hall of fame, and \$5 million for a new watering system for Melbourne's Flemington Racecourse.

Drought assistance to help farmers leave the land will be slashed by almost \$100 million because fewer people than expected have taken up the offer.

This is the first instalment of about \$14 billion in spending cuts to be unveiled in the May budget in an attempt to relieve pressure on inflation and interest rates.

Copyright 2008 / Townsville Bulletin

Source: Townsville Bulletin, FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802071007495287

Record: 25

Razor gang; spoil sports Gold Coast Bulletin, The, 07/02/2008 (AN 20080207B053364939)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Razor gang; spoil sports

Edition: B - Main

Section: Sport, pg. 053

RUGBY union and rugby league groups as well as the Victorian Racing Club have been dealt a blow with unexpected funding cuts from the new Federal Government.

Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner yesterday announced \$25million of Commonwealth taxpayers money would be withheld from the Brisbane-based Australian Rugby Academy.

He is also withholding \$5m from the Victorian Racing Club (VRC) for an alternative water program and \$10 million from the National Rugby League (NRL) which had been earmarked for building a hall of fame.

The decisions are the first concrete announcements to come out of Labor's razor gang which is aiming to help drive the nation's surplus to 1.5 per cent of GDP in time for the May budget.

The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) said it had already spent \$500,000 drawing up plans for the academy which was to be built next to Ballymore in Brisbane.

O'Neill vented his disappointment, saying the decision had 'come out of the blue'.

"We had a commitment from the previous government," said ARU chief executive John O'Neill.

"We were told the money was in the bank.

"We engaged architects, undertook feasibility studies and opened discussions with proposed tenants.

"Those exercises alone mean we have already spent around \$500,000."

The \$40m revamp of Ballymore, now in jeopardy, was to provide a hi-tech home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds.

It would include a gymnasium, covered training area, 50m pool, team village accommodation, a rugby hall of fame, conference centre and sports medicine facilities.

As early as yesterday morning Queensland rugby chairman Peter Lewis believed the grant to create a major new national academy for young rugby players was still valid.

``I don't believe for one moment that the Rudd Government would consider this grant inappropriate, given there are some 250,000 young rugby players in Australia actually involved in this great sport," said Lewis in a newsletter. But last night he was in shock.

``I feel like a lineout jumper whose lifters have suddenly walked off with me still in midair," said Lewis in a statement. ``One of the points made at the time was that in the 11 years of the Howard Government, federal capital grants for sport in Queensland had totalled less than \$1million.

NRL chief executive David Gallop also expressed his disappointment at the announcement, saying the funding would have allowed for hall of fame projects in both Sydney and Brisbane, as well as associated projects including education resources and volunteer recognition.

Copyright 2008 / Gold Coast Bulletin

Source: Gold Coast Bulletin, The, FEB 07, 2008

Item: 20080207B053364939

Record: 26

Roach hits out at Labor back-pedal By: NEIL CADIGAN. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 08/02/2008 (AN 200802082082255529)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Roach hits out at Labor back-pedal

Edition: 2 - Extended Metro

Section: Sport, pg. 082

TEST and Tigers legend Steve Roach has slammed the Federal Government for robbing rugby league of the promised Hall of Fame in its centenary year.

The 19-Test veteran joined a chorus of protest at Wednesday's decision by the Rudd Government to withdraw \$10million pledged by John Howard last June.

Roach, one of many greats who are ecstatic about the centenary celebrations, said he was dumbfounded how the Government could so quickly overturn the funding pledge.

``Rugby league has already copped a back-hander by the State Government with increased poker machine tax which threatens a major source of revenue from leagues clubs," Roach said.

``Now the Australian Government wants to get in on the act and rob us of a Hall of Fame we should have had years ago.

``I thought the Labor Party was the blue-collar party who looked after the man on the street -- and they are the people who follow rugby league.

``I think it is sad. This is going to be such a great year for the game when all our history gets brought out but at the end of it we could have had a lasting legacy. That's been taken away."

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Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802082082255529

Record: 27

RU: O'Neill blast as govt pulls academy funding AAP Australian Sports News Wire, 06/02/2008 (AN 74D2740867541)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

RU: O'Neill blast as govt pulls academy funding

RUGBY FUNDING ARU

SYDNEY, Feb 6 AAP - The Australian Rugby Union has blasted the Federal Government for its decision to scrap a promised \$25 million of funding to establish the Australian National Rugby Academy at Ballymore.

Former Prime Minister John Howard announced funding for the project last June but Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner today announced the new Government would not be providing the funds.

ARU chief executive John O'Neill vented his disappointment, saying the ARU had already spent \$500,000 on the project and were told the funding was "money in the bank".

"This has come out of the blue and we're clearly disappointed about the decision," O'Neill said.

"We had a commitment from the previous Government. We were told the money was in the bank.

"Together with the Queensland Rugby Union, we'd been working towards finalising a funding agreement on that basis.

"We engaged architects, undertook feasibility studies and opened discussions with proposed tenants.

"Those exercises alone mean we have already spent around \$500,000.

"The QRU and the ARU had been progressing on this issue in good faith.

"There was no contemplation of risk given we were dealing with our Federal Government.

The \$40 million revamp of Ballymore, which is now in jeopardy, was to provide a hi-tech home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds.

It would include a gymnasium, covered training area, 50m pool, team village accommodation, a rugby Hall of Fame, conference centre and sports medicine facilities.

O'Neill said the development was intended as a support vehicle for a variety of sports.

"The plan to establish Ballymore into a centre of excellence for high performance athlete development was a significant step into the future for Rugby," he said.

"It was also an initiative that went beyond our game.

"The project was designed to create a train-play-stay environment available to all sports and to all countries in our region, particularly Fiji and other South Pacific nations.

"We're absorbing the shock of this decision. The disappointment is profound."

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Source: AAP Australian Sports News Wire, Feb 06, 2008

Item: 74D2740867541

Record: 28

RU: Rugby academy in jeopardy as funding pulled AAP Australian Sports News Wire, 06/02/2008 (AN 74D3199055738)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

RU: Rugby academy in jeopardy as funding pulled

RUGBY FUNDING (SYDNEY)

The Australian Rugby Union has blasted the Federal Government for its decision to scrap a promised \$25 million funding to establish the Australian National Rugby Academy at Ballymore.

Former Prime Minister JOHN HOWARD announced funding for the project in June last year but the current Government today announced it will not be providing the funds.

ARU chief executive JOHN O'NEILL says the decision is disappointing, given the ARU has already spent \$500,000 on the project and was told the funding was "money in the bank".

The \$40 million revamp of Ballymore, which is now in jeopardy, was to provide a hi-tech home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds as well as support a variety of other sports.

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Source: AAP Australian Sports News Wire, Feb 06, 2008

Item: 74D3199055738

Record: 29

Rudd pulls funding plug on \$40 million national academy By: Greg Growden. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 07/02/2008; Abstract: AUSTRALIAN and Queensland Rugby Union officials were last night devastated when told their proposed National Rugby Academy at Ballymore had been

undermined by the Federal Government's withdrawal of \$25 million in funding. (AN SYD-5IM21BQT004BGY6YB54)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 35

Rudd pulls funding plug on \$40 million national academy

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Greg Growden

AUSTRALIAN and Queensland Rugby Union officials were last night devastated when told their proposed National Rugby Academy at Ballymore had been undermined by the Federal Government's withdrawal of \$25 million in funding.

Former prime minister John Howard announced last June that the government would contribute \$25 million to the state-of-the-art home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds, which was scheduled to include gymnasiums, a sports science centre and a motel for visiting teams. However, the \$40 million revamp is now in serious doubt following the funding cut.

ARU chief executive John O'Neill said last night: "This has come out of the blue and we are clearly disappointed about the decision. We had a commitment from the previous government. We were told the money was in the bank. We're absorbing the shock of this decision. The disappointment is profound."

O'Neill said the ARU and QRU had already spent about \$500,000 in engaging architects and planners to begin the design of the academy.

"The project was designed to create a train-play-stay environment available to all sports and to all countries in our region, particularly Fiji and other South Pacific nations," O'Neill said.

QRU chairman Peter Lewis said the government's decision had "come as a complete shock to us, especially when we believed we had a binding business agreement and have outlaid hundreds of thousands of dollars on plans, surveys and community consultation on that basis".

"I feel like a lineout jumper whose lifters have suddenly walked off with me still in mid-air."

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Record: 30

Rudd razor gang reneges on funding By: STEVE MASCORD. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071082896824)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Rudd razor gang reneges on funding

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 082

AUSTRALIA's rugby union and league officials were furious last night after Kevin Rudd's razor gang stripped \$35 million in funding.

Rugby league lost \$10 million which had been set aside for its centenary celebrations -- already underway -- while union will go without the \$25 million allocated to set up an academy at Ballymore.

Kevin Rudd's Government regarded them as "last minute" promises by the outgoing Howard administration and has included the programs in cuts intended to save \$642 million over four years.

But NRL chief executive David Gallop said: "It is particularly disappointing given that the grant was announced by the then prime minister on grand final day before the election was called. It wasn't an election promise but a commitment by the government of the day."

The decision has cost the already cash-strapped ARU \$500,000, which they spent on the academy project after former prime minister John Howard announced the capital contribution on June 30 last year.

“We're absorbing the shock of this decision. The disappointment is profound,” ARU chief executive and managing director John O'Neill said last night.

League was to spend the funding on halls of fame in Sydney and Brisbane plus education programs and volunteer recognition.

O'Neill said that, together with the QRU, the ARU had been working towards finalising a funding agreement on the basis it was government-guaranteed and was essentially “money in the bank”.

“We engaged architects, undertook feasibility studies and opened discussions with proposed tenants,” he said. “There was no contemplation of risk given we were dealing with our federal government.”

ARL chief executive Geoff Carr said the opposition had raised no objection to the funding when it was first announced.

O'Neill said at the time of the announcement the project had the support of the Queensland Labor Government, which had committed to ensuring security of tenure on the home of rugby at Ballymore.

The Ballymore facility was to have included a gym, covered training area, 50m pool, accommodation, a rugby hall of fame, conference centre and sports medicine facilities.

Copyright 2008 / The Daily Telegraph

Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802071082896824

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Record: 31

Rudd's razor wrecks rugby's grand plan for Ballymore By: Jim Tucker. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802071100984417)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Rudd's razor wrecks rugby's grand plan for Ballymore

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: Sport, pg. 100

BALLYMORE'S bold bid to stay relevant in the modern sporting landscape has been dealt an almost fatal blow by the Rudd Government brazenly pulling out of a \$25 million grant.

You expect footballers to wimp out on agreed contracts -- Melbourne's Steve Turner did the dirty on the Gold Coast Titans a year ago -- not governments.

Ballymore was put on the map by sweat and toil in the 1960s when former Wallaby Jules Guerassimoff even kept the grass trim with a domestic lawnmower. The best little rugby ground in the world it became, but by the late '90s it had fallen off the pace of the great money-making arenas.

By 2006 it was not even hosting big rugby games any more.

Anyone among the 6000-strong “Back to Ballymore” throng for the Reds trial a week ago will tell you it is still the spiritual home of Queensland rugby.

The grand plan of Queensland Rugby Union chairman Peter Lewis was to reinvent it as a home for Australian rugby but with wider use for other sports and Pacific nations.

National rugby academy, sports medicine centre, rugby hall of fame, state-of-the-art gyms, a training pool which water polo would use and an athletes' motel -- a great concept with a cash flow future.



Rudd has buried it with his buzz saw to John Howard's funding promise of just seven months ago and far too little research.

The PM cooed about his childhood cricket experiences as a fan at the Gabba during his recent commentator cameo on ABC Radio's Test cricket coverage.

One wonders if the old Gabba had been up for a makeover at this moment whether Rudd would have taken out the razor so readily. We think not.

A top-strength Reds outfit must boom a message of intent for the Super 14 season with a convincing display against Western Force in their final trial in Perth tonight.

REDS: C Latham, C Schifcofske, M Turinui, C Siale, B Va'aulu, B Barnes, S Cordingley, J Roe (c), D Croft, H McMeniman, J Horwill, V Humphries, R Blake, S Moore, G Holmes. Res: S Hardman, B Coutts, D Edwards, E O'Donoghue, L Houston, W Genia, Q Cooper, P Hynes, A Walker.

FORCE: C Shepherd, N Cummins, R Cross, S Staniforth, D Mitchell, M Giteau, M Henjak, R Brown, D Pocock, S Fava, N Sharpe (c), D Pusey, A J Whalley, T McIsaac, G Hardy. Res: L Holmes, T Takiari, P Cowan, S Timani, T Hockings, J Stannard, S Fardy, M Hodgson, S Wykes, S Daruda, J Tatupu, D Haylett-Petty, J O'Connor, K Longbottom, L MacKay.

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Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802071100984417

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Record: 32

Rugby's fight to save Ballymore By: IAIN PAYTEN. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 08/02/2008 (AN 200802081078512315)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Rugby's fight to save Ballymore

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 078

AUSTRALIAN rugby officials believe Kevin Rudd's bean counters slashed \$25million in funding for a National Rugby Academy at Ballymore using wrong information, and remain hopeful the lost money can be rescued.

If not, QRU boss Peter Lewis says Ballymore risks becoming a ``white elephant" with no income and an annual \$2million maintenance bill.

The proposed state-of-the-art home for the Wallabies and Queensland Reds was thrown into jeopardy on Wednesday when the Federal Government announced it won't hand over the grant promised by former prime minister John Howard last June.

But Lewis said yesterday he'll seek a meeting to persuade the government to reverse the decision, arguing it was too hasty and that the \$40million re-development can help reduce federal sports funding by housing small Olympic teams.

``There was literally no consultation on the decision," said Lewis.

``We were given a phone call from the government as [finance minister] Lindsay Tanner was giving his speech. We have been told of two key reasons for it being knocked back, both of which were incorrect.

``We will be seeking to lobby the government and say: `Here are the reasons for your decision, in our view they are incorrect, it's an honest mistake, we want to have at least a chance to talk you through it in the hope you will reconsider'."`

Lewis declined to specify details of the ``incorrect information".

But having been informed by Howard the ``money is in the bank" last year, the ARU and QRU have spent \$500,000 on planning for the project -- which would include gymnasiums, a sports medicine clinic and accommodation for athletes.

While having a rugby focus, Lewis said the ``self-sustaining" facility was also a venue that could be a home to minor Olympic sports.

``We have had approaches to a lot of smaller sports that don't really have a home, don't have any facilities and have to live hand to mouth," Lewis said.

``We were planning to make office space available for their administrations. By virtue of having a swimming pool, gymnasiums, a medical centre and oodles of grass, for instance, tae kwon do is very keen to be with us.

``Water polo doesn't have a permanent home in Brisbane, they're very keen. And there are a string of others -- we could have all of them at Ballymore.

``They would all pay market rent, as rugby would, to the [Ballymore] trust, and the trust would then plough the money back into sport and the facilities. Ultimately it can help the government in funding these sports."

Lewis said the project was also backed by the previous government to help Pacific Island rugby development.

``It was an absolute bolt from the blue," Lewis said. ``If someone had picked up the phone, and spent 15 minutes allowing me to explain what we're doing, I don't believe this decision would have been made."

Teams from the AFL and NRL had already expressed interest in using the facility when in Brisbane, Lewis said.

But if the revamp collapses Ballymore Oval risks falling into irreversible decline, he said. The Reds and Wallabies now play home games at Suncorp Stadium.

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Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802081078512315

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Record: 33

Sea Eagles lobby for revamp By: Brad Walter and Glenn Jackson. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 13/02/2008; Abstract: MANLY officials yesterday travelled to Canberra to meet new Federal Sports Minister Kate Ellis in a bid to convince her to restore a funding promise from the previous government to upgrade Brookvale Oval. (AN SYD-5IP51GHUVNS19IVP5APS)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 38

Sea Eagles lobby for revamp

LEAGUE

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Brad Walter and Glenn Jackson

MANLY officials yesterday travelled to Canberra to meet new Federal Sports Minister Kate Ellis in a bid to convince her to restore a funding promise from the previous government to upgrade Brookvale Oval.

The Sea Eagles, who play Melbourne in a grand final rematch on Friday night at Central Coast Stadium, admitted that threats during last year's election to move to Gosford were designed to pressure the major parties into offering funding for Brookvale. But the club remains desperate to see the worst ground in the premiership bought up to scratch. Labor last week announced cuts to sports funding, and Manly recognise it is going to be a long process.

"It was really just an introductory ... meeting but the positive thing to come out of it was the suggestion they would try to come to Brookvale Oval at some stage during the season to have a look at the facilities," Sea Eagles CEO Grant Mayer said.

"Unfortunately, we're back to square one in that we had the support of Tony Abbott and the previous government, and we've got a new sports minister, but the local council have been very good and hopefully in the next six to eight weeks there will be some good news coming out of state government. These things take time and it will probably be three years before the initial development of Brookvale happens but we don't intend to play anywhere else."

Besides Friday night's opening trial game, the Sea Eagles will take premiership matches against the Cowboys and the Knights to Gosford, but Mayer said they could not expect the same type of support the Central Coast Mariners enjoyed for last Sunday's A-League semi-final against the Newcastle Jets. "We want to get as many people there as possible but it's only a trial, so all we'd be expecting is about 5000," he said.

However, there is no doubt that both clubs are treating the game seriously and rival coaches Des Hasler and Craig Bellamy have agreed to field their best available sides in the second of the three 30-minute periods.

The main exception is Storm captain Cameron Smith, who will start the match after last week opting out of the World Club Challenge against Super League premiers Leeds, as his partner is due to have a baby.

Antonio Kaufusi will make his comeback from the season-ending knee injury sustained in Origin I and partners former Brisbane prop Clifford Manua, on a three-month trial with Melbourne, in the front row.

Bellamy will name the squad to travel to England for the WCC after the match.

Meanwhile, Albert Hupoate and Tavita Folau will make their returns to the game after spending time as Mormon missionaries in the Roosters match against Port Macquarie on Friday night. Hupoate is a younger brother of former Manly and Wests Tigers winger John Hupoate, while Folau is the elder brother of Melbourne star Israel Folau.

Newcastle's Test and Origin representative Kurt Gidley has revealed that his next contract was likely to be his last in the NRL - his goal is to follow his brother Matt to the UK.

Gidley, 26, is close to signing a new deal with the Knights, with coach Brian Smith suggesting he will be the Knights' next captain after Danny Buderus plays his last game for the club.

Gidley said yesterday he wanted a four-year deal which would enable him to finish his career in England, and club boss Steve Burraston confirmed the Knights planned to secure him long-term.

Gidley will miss the Knights' first trial, against the Warriors on Friday, because of a stomach virus.

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Record: 34

Smoke and mirror trick Townsville Bulletin, 08/02/2008 (AN 200802081020279614)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Smoke and mirror trick

Section: Features, pg. 020

FEDERAL Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner is right about one thing -- thousands of people wouldn't understand his explanation about funding for the Murray Sports Complex. He suggests most don't have the financial mind to grasp the complexities of government budgets. More likely they spot a snow job when they see it. The Rudd Government was at great pains on Wednesday to trumpet its new, so-called, razor gang, which was taking the slasher to programs approved in the dying days of

the Howard government. It argued it had different priorities and that unnecessary spending increased inflationary pressure on the economy. Included in the list of projects to be axed was the \$6 million funding of the upgrade of Murray Sports Complex. Instead, the Rudd administration was only prepared to offer \$3 million. But, as it turns out, we had nothing to worry about. Mr Tanner says the government will cut the \$3 million from the funding program in question but simply pull it from somewhere else. Now

, it is wonderful the government will honour its pledge to a project that is an important piece of social infrastructure, and we would have screamed long and loud if the money was not forthcoming. But Mr Tanner does himself and his government a disservice to continue to pass off this piece of clever accounting as a `saving'. And we wonder how many more of these `savings' fit into the same category.

Poor service

IT can hardly come as a surprise that the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service has lost its bid to have its tender renewed. ATSILS NQ has been criticised from the bench of magistrates and higher courts on a number of fronts, including instances of indigenous people being left in jail for long periods without a visit from a solicitor. One Cairns magistrate was scathing when he discovered one client had remained on remand in jail without proper legal advice for a period possibly longer than any penalty which would be imposed if found guilty. It is up to the new management organisation to prove its tender claims that it can do better by the indigenous people of North Queensland. Failure to do so should not be tolerated by Canberra.

Copyright 2008 / Townsville Bulletin

Source: Townsville Bulletin, FEB 08, 2008

Item: 200802081020279614

Record: 35

Sport hit by Rudd razor gang By: Steve Mascord and Jon Geddes. Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), 07/02/2008 (AN 200802072088068516)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Sport hit by Rudd razor gang

Edition: 2 - Extended Metro

Section: Sport, pg. 088

AUSTRALIA'S rugby union and league officials were furious last night after Kevin Rudd's razor gang stripped \$35million in funding from their sports.

League lost \$10million which had been set aside for its centenary celebrations -- already under way -- while union will go without \$25million allocated to set up an academy at Ballymore.

Racing has also suffered, with the VRC losing a promised \$5million as part of the Flemington redevelopment.

Kevin Rudd's Government regarded them as ``last-minute" promises by the Howard administration and has included the programs in cuts intended to save more than \$600million.

But NRL CEO David Gallop said:``It is particularly disappointing given that the grant was announced by the then prime minister on grand final day before the election was called. It wasn't an election promise but a commitment by the government of the day."

The decision has cost the already cash-strapped ARU \$500,000, which it spent on the academy project after John Howard announced the capital contribution on June 30 last year.

``We're absorbing the shock of this decision. The disappointment is profound," ARU chief executive and managing director John O'Neill said last night.

League was to spend the funding on halls of fame in Sydney and Brisbane plus education programs and volunteer recognition.

O'Neill said the ARU had been working towards finalising a funding agreement on the basis it was government-guaranteed.

"We engaged architects, undertook feasibility studies and opened discussions with proposed tenants," he said.

"There was no contemplation of risk given we were dealing with our Federal Government."

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Source: Daily Telegraph, The (Sydney), FEB 07, 2008

Item: 200802072088068516

Record: 36

State sport short-changed then stripped By: Clinton Porteous. Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), 12/02/2008 (AN 200802121004541915)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

State sport short-changed then stripped

Edition: 1 - First with the news

Section: News, pg. 004

A MINISTER in the former Howard government has conceded Queensland missed out on sports funding for more than a decade.

Queensland Senator George Brandis said money was finally allocated to a national rugby academy for Brisbane last June because the Sunshine State had been overlooked for years.

But the Rudd Government has since ditched the proposed \$25 million academy as it makes major cuts in the lead-up to the Federal Budget.

Former state premier Peter Beattie campaigned for years against the Howard government, saying Queensland was badly treated on sports funding.

Senator Brandis, who was appointed sports minister at the start of 2007, said he had asked his department to investigate and found there was a strong case -- which he presented to prime minister John Howard.

"(The government) had never spent anything significant in Queensland, so I went along and I showed him this list," he said.

"He said: 'If there is a suitable project we will consider it because it does seem fair that if we have spent all this money in other capitals and very little in Queensland we should do something.'

The Liberal Senator, who is now shadow attorney-general, said Mr Howard was shocked by the lack of funding for Queensland.

"He was unaware of this because he really did have a soft spot for Queensland -- no doubt about it," Senator Brandis said.

Queensland used to be the bedrock of the former Howard government but turned sharply to Labor at the last election.

The announcement of funding for the rugby academy was made on June 30, 2007, more than a decade after the Coalition won office.

Senator Brandis said that the recent decision by Labor to axe the \$25 million academy at Ballymore was a major blow to the Brisbane sporting public.

Copyright 2008 / Courier Mail

Source: Courier Mail, The (Brisbane), FEB 12, 2008

Item: 200802121004541915

Back

\$1.5m Olympic rescue By: JENNY SHEPPARD. Weekly Times, The (Melbourne), 09/04/2008 (AN 200804091073128577)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

\$1.5m Olympic rescue

Edition: 1 - FIRST

Section: HORSES, pg. 073

THE Federal Government has confirmed it will provide the Equestrian Federation of Australia with \$1.5 million to assist with preparations for the Beijing Olympic Games, in the wake of the equine influenza crisis.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, and the Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, announced the funding as the Olympic shadow team riders prepare for the Games events in Hong Kong in August.

But although the EFA has welcomed the extra funding, at least one elite rider believes it has come too late.

Late last year the decision was made that Australian riders and their horses recognised as potential members of the Olympic team would go overseas to prepare and qualify for the Games.

The shutdown of the equestrian industry in Australia had left team officials and riders no other option.

The extra expense to the EFA and to the riders themselves was, however, of great concern. A request was made to the Government for assistance.

"This is a huge boost to our Olympic campaign," EFA high performance manager Brett Mace said.

"The funding will come as welcome relief to the riders who have already left Australia to prepare for Beijing and also for those who are about to leave," he said.

EFA president also Geoff Sinclair applauded the Government's response to the situation.

"The whole equestrian community and especially the national squads, who are finalising their preparation, thank the Australian Government for understanding the issue and providing decisive support," he said.

But an elite dressage rider who is shortlisted for Olympic selection, Heath Ryan, said the funding package had come too late for him and other riders.

Ryan said he needed to be in Germany for a qualifying event early next month, which meant his horse should already be in quarantine.

"That's going to be difficult for me to even get into quarantine early enough now, because there's been no chance of funding up until now," he said.

"I'm in real trouble in terms of my Olympic preparation."

Ryan is looking to be selected in the Australian Olympic dressage team.

AUSTRALIAN jumping rider Paul Athanasoff has already left Australia with his Australian-bred horse Wirragulla Nicklaus, looking to gain selection in the Australian jumping team for the Olympic Games.

On the weekend he competed at the Arezzo International three-star show in Italy and placed a superb fifth in Sunday's 1.50m grand prix.

He jumped one of only eight clear rounds in the first round and incurred one time penalty in the second round, to place in the \$40,000 grand prix.

Athanasoff jumped a double clear round in Friday's grand prix qualifier, to place 11th. He will stay in Italy to compete at the four-star international this weekend.

Copyright 2008 / Weekly Times

Source: Weekly Times, The (Melbourne), APR 09, 2008

Item: 200804091073128577

Record: 2

ADELAIDE OVAL Minister tells SACA to move on upgrade; Get on with it - Ellis By: MILES KEMP. Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 09/04/2008 (AN 200804091086701013)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

ADELAIDE OVAL Minister tells SACA to move on upgrade; Get on with it - Ellis

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 086

SPORT Minister Kate Ellis has urged the South Australian Cricket Association to proceed with its \$90 million upgrade of Adelaide Oval as quickly as possible.

Ms Ellis, who has committed \$25 million to the project, told The Advertiser she had met with SACA officials after the organisation last month postponed the development indefinitely.

"We are in (ongoing) communication because we really want this project to go ahead quickly," she said. Ms Ellis said a funding agreement was still being negotiated and she was concerned with the delay.

SACA asked Ms Ellis to hand over the funding now - pending a board decision on the future of the project in August - but the request was refused.

SACA was given a deal by the State Government to provide \$25 million prior to construction, with bank interest contributing towards the project.

SACA chief executive Mike Deare said the request for funding to be provided before construction had been rejected by Ms Ellis.

"The indication I got was that the Government had made large commitments during the election," she said.

"Our view is that they made a commitment to match the State and the State has already given the \$25 million so they should do the same thing but we are pragmatic enough to understand that if they have other commitments then we may have to wait until we start our project."

Despite facing Federal Government funding cuts of two per cent across all portfolios Ms Ellis gained a promise from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd that the \$25 million deal - negotiated with the Howard government - would remain.

Deare said the ``time was not right" for the redevelopment because of recent interest rate increases and high building costs driven by demand in the Adelaide construction market.

``The board wants to be in a position where we can put our project out to tender and get a guaranteed maximum price from the tenderer," he said. ``We also want to be confident that we can borrow the balance of the funds at a commercial rate and not be faced with another half per cent rate rise as soon as we borrow."

He said Ms Ellis' commitment that the \$25 million would still be available would be important for the board's decision in August.

Deare said SACA wanted the project completed before the 2010-2011 ashes series.

``We don't want to delaying this project if we can help it for more than 12 months."

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Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), APR 09, 2008

Item: 200804091086701013

Record: 3

All clear for \$5m By: MICHELANGELO RUCCI. Advertiser, The (Adelaide), 18/03/2008 (AN 200803181105539918)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

All clear for \$5m

Edition: 1 - State

Section: Sport, pg. 105

PORT Adelaide and the Crows will have \$5 million in federal funding confirmed in the Rudd Government's first budget in May.

The \$2.5m promised to each AFL club late last year by the former Howard administration has been confirmed by the new federal sports minister Kate Ellis.

Now the Power and Crows want the \$5m matched by the State Government - more so after the Victorian State Government yesterday handed \$10.5m to nine Melbourne-based AFL clubs to upgrade their facilities.

This is in addition to the \$17m previously promised in the past two years by the Victorian State Government to the Melbourne-based clubs and the \$20m committed to Geelong's major redevelopment project at Kardinia Park.

Adelaide and the Power have filed a joint submission to the State Government to support major projects at AAMI Stadium and Alberton.

Crows chief executive Steven Trigg last night said the SA-based clubs' reputation as pacesetters with off-field facilities was now at risk of being overtaken by the government-backed Victorian clubs.

``Those Victorian clubs soon will have greater facilities than the two SA clubs," said Trigg.

``The great challenge is for the non-Victorian clubs to keep up with developments in Melbourne."

Richmond and North Melbourne were the main beneficiaries of the \$10.5m grants from the Victorian Premier John Brumby.

The Tigers will get \$2.5m to upgrade their training facility at Punt Road.

The Kangaroos, who in the off-season ignored the AFL's \$109m lure to move to the Gold Coast, will get another \$2m from the Victorian Government for their \$12m redevelopment project at Arden Street.

Also in yesterday's grants were \$1.5m for Essendon to reconfigure Windy Hill, \$1m for Melbourne's project of a modern training facility and \$500,000 for the Western Bulldogs' major works at Whitten Oval.

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Source: Advertiser, The (Adelaide), MAR 18, 2008

Item: 200803181105539918

Record: 4

Getting the Lowy treatment By: Michael Cockerill. Sydney Morning Herald, The, 04/04/2008;
Abstract: Football Federation Australia chairman Frank Lowy spoke to Michael Cockerill about the key issues affecting the game. (AN SYD-5JFBR5NGLD474E9H1MV)

Database:

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

Edition: First, Section: Sport, pg. 30

Getting the Lowy treatment

FOOTBALL

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Michael Cockerill

PHOTO: Friends in football ... Lowy talks to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as Australia's bid to host the 2018 World Cup was unveiled. Photo: Darren Pateman

Q Are you happy with where the game is right now, and what are the priorities over the next 12 months?

A Yes, I'm happy, and if you're reasonably objective you can see we are doing very well in many departments. But I don't want to say we are satisfied. We are working brick by brick on our plans. The next 12 months, from the playing point of view, it's the World Cup and the A-League. We are paying a lot of attention to that. We have, I believe, selected the right [Socceroos] coach [Pim Verbeek]. Obviously we expect to be there [at the World Cup]. Obviously it would be a great, great, disappointment if we weren't. It's very, very, very, important that we make it.

Q Taxpayers helped fund the game in your first four years as chairman to the tune of \$15 million in grants and soft loans. There's been a change of government, and it's believed the Rudd Government is committing a further \$32 million over the next four years. Will the game ever be able to support itself?

A That's one of my major objectives. The game should support itself. Occasionally it may need help from taxpayers, like everybody does. Our ambition after these four years is for the game to be self-sufficient, and only ask for help on the odd occasion. When I put this plan to the Government, they responded very positively. We cannot expect the Government to continue to fund the game at all levels.

Q Do you sense much jealousy from rival sports? Does football have a synergy with government that other sports don't have?

A First of all, I don't know whether they [other sports] are jealous or not. It's none of my business. Yes, we do have a lot of things in common with the Government's objectives. Inside Australia, we are developing youth in hundreds and hundreds of thousands, they're kicking balls instead of being somewhere else. You can say all sports want to do that, but our future is a lot bigger because our numbers are a lot bigger. Internationally, we have entered Asia, all the world is focusing on Asia. Australia has special interest in Asia [as trading partners and diplomatically], and our being in Asia is going to be a big help. We are making lots of friends through football. So we have a lot in common with the Government - we are getting good treatment, but we deserve that good treatment.

Q Let's talk about the World Cup bid. Is 2018 a dry run for a serious bid for 2022?

A Not in my opinion. I'm not spending my time on dry runs. I don't have that many years left. I want to make them count. We are going to have the Asian Cup in 2015 also, and that's not a dry run. Why waste your time on dry runs? I want to win the right for the 2018 World Cup. We have a reasonable chance. From the soundings I've made so far, I'm quite encouraged.

Q At the 2000 Olympics, football drove stadium redevelopment across the country, but apart from Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide, all the benefits went to other sports. Are you determined to make sure the same thing doesn't happen again?

A Obviously. Even without the World Cup, we are getting stadiums now. In Melbourne we are getting a nice stadium, we are getting a Home of Football in NSW, we are talking to other states. To win the World Cup, we've got to build stadia. The two go hand in hand. If we don't get it [World Cup] the development of stadia won't be as rapid as it might have been.

Q The FFA has been talking about a Home of Football [national training centre] in Sydney for a few years. Will it be Barton Park [Kyeemagh] or ES Marks Field [Kensington], and how close are these plans to fruition?

A Barton Park would have been the preferred location, but it's been allocated to something else. So we are now concentrating on ES Marks. It's realistic we'll have it in a few years' time. I certainly expect to make an announcement this year.

Q Another key issue for the game is A-League expansion. Recently you suggested there would be two new teams [Gold Coast and North Queensland] in the league next season [2008-09], but in the end the FFA decided to wait. Are you concerned an opportunity has been lost, particularly on the Gold Coast?

A It would have been better if we'd done it this year, no question about that. But we looked at these teams, and how ready they were. We could have forced it, but rather than have two weak teams, we'll have two strong teams in 2009. It will happen. It was quite a big decision, but I think the momentum will not go away. They'll be back, they're there, we're just discussing with them what needs to be done to prepare.

Q What areas do you believe offer the best potential for future A-League teams?

A The Gold Coast seems to be very good; Townsville, surprisingly, seems to be very good. We can have new teams in Melbourne and Sydney, they will create great interest. We'll get more than double the crowds we're getting now. If you add two and two you want to get five, not three. People are talking in Hobart, in Wollongong ... I think Australia can support a 14-team competition. But not [expanding] all at once.

Q Is it true you've talked to [WIN Corporation owner] Bruce Gordon about backing a Wollongong-based team, and, if so, does he seem interested?

A Yeah, sure. He's a serious contender. You want a better owner than Bruce Gordon? There's a man who, if he undertakes, he's going to deliver. If he does take it on, he'll be successful.

Q A broader issue for the A-League is free-to-air television. Is there genuine interest from FTA networks? Are you willing or able to negotiate, and when could it happen?

A Let's be realistic, we have an agreement with Foxtel. Thank God for that, or we wouldn't be here otherwise. We have an agreement until 2013. I doubt they will say, 'Here, have half our games and you can give them to free-to-air'. They want to be rewarded for what they did, and they ought to be congratulated for what they did. They took a risk. But we need pay TV and free-to-air. I don't know how we will achieve it. But we will achieve it in the next round of negotiations, if not before. Circumstances need to be created, we are looking for opportunities. I'm not putting a lot of money on it. You can't expect a company to sign an agreement and give half the benefits away. We have some ideas. Maybe they will come off, maybe not. Certainly in 2013, we'll be competitive. No doubt we'll get more money than we did in 2004. It's a growing business, so we'll need more money, and we'll get more money - whether it's through TV, or other avenues.

Q Are you happy with the World Cup campaign so far? How do you judge the performance of Pim Verbeek?

A I would have preferred two wins, but who wouldn't? A win and a draw puts us in a good position. He's [Verbeek] the right man for us. We could see in the last [China] game, even though we didn't have a full team, we played to a system. They knew what to do. We are in very good hands. We have a coach who knows this part of the world, he fits in with Asia, he fits in with our strategy. He's popular not because he wants to be popular, but because he's good.

Q Have we learnt to be humble in Asia yet?

A I certainly have preached that word several times. We should be humble, particularly when we've got nothing to shout about. We thought we would win the Asian Cup, but we got taught a good lesson.

Q Finally, we're hosting the FIFA Congress in Sydney next month. What sort of opportunity is it?

A We are going to put on a good show, and how could they [the delegates] not be impressed with this city? When they [the FIFA executive] put their hands up for 2018, they will want to know it [the World Cup] is in good hands.

**Record: 5**

No money to play with: university sport on the verge of collapse as scrapping union fees puts teams on the bench By: Deborah Gough, Education. Sunday Age, The (Melbourne), 27/04/2008; Abstract: TWO years ago, the La Trobe University women's football team was so popular it had to knock back 15 young women who wanted to play in a national tournament. (AN SYD-5JR6VD4W5MCN0CHQDHR)

**Database:**

Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre

**Edition: First, Section: News, pg. 1**

**No money to play with: university sport on the verge of collapse as scrapping union fees puts teams on the bench**

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Deborah Gough, Education

TWO PHOTOS: La Trobe University AFL women (from left), Kristie Solar, Aleisha Whitelock, Kate Dowling, Melissa Clarke and Amelia Dobbins. PICTURE: RODGER CUMMINS

TWO years ago, the La Trobe University women's football team was so popular it had to knock back 15 young women who wanted to play in a national tournament.

The competition for a place in the team seemed to pay off - it finished in the top five that season.

But last year La Trobe could barely field a full side in the Australian University Games. The team had just one player on the bench and it came last. Some say it was the victim of the banning of compulsory student union fees.

"The quality of our team was terrible, and that's nothing against the girls who were there - they worked hard," said player and club president Melissa Clarke.

Coach and La Trobe Sports' sports manager John Dumaresq blames the collapse in interest on the Howard government's decision to ban compulsory union fees in mid-2006. Intended to save students' money and stop the subsidising of political groups, it had unforeseen consequences - the women's football team members, for instance, suddenly had to pay \$700 each to travel to Queensland for the tournament - up from \$300.

"Students think, well, I can spend a week on the Gold Coast or I can work and at the end of the year with \$700 I can go to Thailand or Vietnam for an overseas trip.

They have to weigh it up, but in the past they might have done both because it was subsidised," Mr Dumaresq said.

The subsidy cuts were necessary after funding to services without compulsory student union fees dropped from \$7 million to just \$3 million for sport and recreation.

La Trobe is not alone, with newer and less affluent universities hit extra hard by the outlawing of compulsory fees for all but academic purposes.

Older universities have found ways around the problem, including relying on their old boys' and old girls' networks to raise money.

But even at 120-year old RMIT University, seven sporting clubs have been lost - including in-line skating, softball and cycling - and sports club membership is down 40%.

At Deakin University, the volleyball club folded just six months after the law change because of the cost of hiring courts. Also at Deakin, the Bay City Buccaneers gridiron club recently left the student union because the cost of ground hire leapt from \$3000 to \$7000.

"Voluntary student unionism (VSU) has killed us and we are looking for alternative accommodation," club president Garry Wilson said.

The university squeeze on sports, once a mainstay of campus life, is widespread, according to a recent draft report by Australian University Sport. It found sports funding at universities had been cut by 40% since the abolition of the student union fees, and that student participation was down by 17% in three years.

Australian University Sport chief executive officer Don Knapp said 100 sports services nationally had been closed or reduced.

"VSU was supposed to save students money, but most sports have had to increase their fees for those kids who want to participate in sport," Mr Knapp said. Transitional funding grants to regional universities had helped, but even established sports at older universities were hurting.

Australian University Sport, the National Union of Students and Universities Australia are now calling for the Labor Government to introduce a university services support fee of between \$50 and \$150. The Government says it is investigating the option.

Mr Knapp said the "group of eight" elite universities, including Monash and Melbourne, appeared to be surviving through university or alumni support. "I suspect the old boys and old girls have probably been hit a bit harder for their support of late, and good on the alumni for helping out," he said.

Melbourne University Sports development manager Rod Warnecke confirmed the old boys and girls had helped clubs pull through.

This (non) sporting life

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

- Elite athlete support program - cancelled
- Sport scholarships - cancelled
- Student development program - cancelled
- Gridiron team - disaffiliated
- Volleyball team - scrapped

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

- Elite athlete support program - cancelled
- Recreation program - cut by 50%
- Social sport - cut by 50%
- All sporting clubs - funding cut by 50%
- Sport - shut entirely at Bendigo campus.

RMIT

- 7 sports clubs - shut down
- Participation in club sports - down by 40%
- Elite athlete support program - cancelled
- Inter-university sports funding - reduced
- Social sport programs - cancelled

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

- Aquatic centre - hours reduced
- Multi-purpose facilities - hours reduced
- Inter-university sport participation - reduced
- Sporting club funding and membership - reduced

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

- Sporting Clubs - reduced support
- Fitness centre - hours reduced
- Inter-university sport - funding reduced

Source: Australian University Sport Voluntary Student Unionism Impact Study second draft

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Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-060

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: AUSTRALIAN SPORTS FOUNDATION

Hansard Page: CA 63

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Can you provide a list of the projects currently registered with the Australian Sports Foundation?
- b) How many registered projects are actively fundraising?
- c) How many registered projects are classified as Category Two?
- d) How much money has been allocated to Category Two projects over the last financial year?

Answer:

- a) A list of the projects currently registered with the Australian Sports Foundation is provided below.

Project	ProjType	Organisational Name	State
200027	TRA	Australian Deaf Sports Federation Ltd	VIC
200118	SD	Orienteering Australia Inc.	ACT
200129	TRA	Maccabi Australia Inc.	NSW
202005	FEA	Maccabi Victoria Inc.	VIC
202006	SD	Maccabi Victoria Inc.	VIC
202007	SD	Maccabi Victoria Inc.	VIC
202009	FAC	Maccabi Victoria Inc.	VIC
202035	TRA	Touch Football Australia Inc.	ACT
202050	SD	Drummoyne Water Polo Club Inc.	NSW
202055	SD	Australian Sports Commission	ACT
202070	EQU	Unley High School	SA
202080	EQU	Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Inc.	VIC
202081	FEA	Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Inc.	VIC
202082	FAC	Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Inc.	VIC
202083	EQU	Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Inc.	VIC
202085	FAC	Shire of York	WA

202095	EQU	The King`s School Foundation Ltd	NSW
202110	FAC	South Gippsland Shire Council	VIC
202125	FAC	Port Adelaide District Hockey Club Inc.	SA
202140	SD	Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation Ltd	WA
202160	SD	Mentone Track & Field Centre Inc	VIC
202166	EQU	Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc	VIC
202167	SD	Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc	VIC
202169	EQU	Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc	VIC
202170	SD	NSW Golf Association Limited	NSW
202180	SD	The Kooyonga Foundation Inc.	SA
202181	SD	The Kooyonga Foundation Inc.	SA
202185	SD	Parramatta District Rugby Union Football Club Limited	NSW
202200	SD	The Royal Melbourne Golf Club Inc	VIC
202235	SD	Westfields Sports High School	NSW
202240	FAC	The New South Wales Ski Association Limited	NSW
202245	TRA	National Rifle Assoc of Australia Ltd	QLD
202255	EQU	Canberra Girls Grammar School Rowing Club Inc.	ACT
202270	TRA	Gaelic Athletic Association of Australasia	NT
202275	SD	Port Adelaide Football Club Ltd.	SA
202287	FAC	Croydon North Cricket Club Inc.	VIC
202290	EQU	Pembroke School Inc.	SA
202315	EQU	St Catherine`s School	VIC
202316	FAC	St Catherine`s School	VIC
202320	FAC	Victorian Sail Training Foundation Ltd.	VIC
203010	EQU	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	VIC
203020	FAC	Queensland Cricket Association Ltd	QLD
203030	FAC	Somers Yacht Club	VIC
203045	SD	Australian/Victorian Biathlon Association Incorporated	VIC
203065	SD	Australian Canoeing Inc.	NSW
203070	EQU	Sydney Women`s MLC Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
203075	FAC	Northern Areas Council	SA
203080	EQU	Middle Harbour Yacht Club	NSW
203081	FAC	Middle Harbour Yacht Club	NSW
203085	EQU	Brisbane Boys` College	QLD
203090	EQU	Friends of Ruyton Inc	VIC
203105	FAC	Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club Inc	VIC
203106	SD	Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club Inc	VIC
203110	FAC	Albion Park Oak Flats Rugby League Football Club	NSW
203145	EQU	Esperance Bay Yacht Club Inc	WA
203150	SD	Warren Jones Foundation Inc	WA
203155	FAC	Sporting Shooters Assoc of Aust (VIC)	VIC
203156	EQU	Sporting Shooters Assoc of Aust (VIC)	VIC
203157	SD	Sporting Shooters Assoc of Aust (VIC)	VIC
203160	SD	Greg Norman Golf Foundation Inc	QLD
203165	SD	Royal Queensland Lawn Tennis Association Ltd	QLD
203166	FAC	Royal Queensland Lawn Tennis Association Ltd	QLD
203170	SD	The Royal Adelaide Golf Club Inc.	SA
203173	FAC	The Royal Adelaide Golf Club Inc.	SA
203175	FAC	The Grange Golf Club Inc.	SA
203176	SD	The Grange Golf Club Inc.	SA
203180	SD	Queensland Rugby Union Ltd	QLD
203185	SD	Karate Union of Australia Queensland Inc.	QLD

203190	FAC	Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club Inc	VIC
203205	FAC	South Australian Rowing Association Inc	SA
203215	FAC	Kingston Heath Golf Club	VIC
203216	FAC	Kingston Heath Golf Club	VIC
203225	FAC	Altona Hockey Club Inc	VIC
203240	EQU	Prince Alfred College Foundation Inc.	SA
203241	EQU	Prince Alfred College Foundation Inc	SA
203250	EQU	Westernport Yacht Club Inc.	VIC
203260	SD	Toorak East Malvern Hockey Club Inc.	VIC
203265	FAC	Adelaide Hills Hockey Club Inc.	SA
203270	TRA	Australian Water Polo Inc.	TAS
203280	EQU	The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club	NSW
203290	FAC	Arncliffe Scots - St George District Hockey Club Inc.	NSW
203295	FAC	Woden Valley Soccer Club Inc	ACT
203305	FAC	Collingwood Football Club Ltd.	VIC
203306	SD	Collingwood Football Club Ltd.	VIC
203320	SD	Perth Football Club Inc.	WA
203325	FAC	Coomera Watersports Club Ltd	QLD
203326	EQU	Coomera Watersports Club Ltd	QLD
203330	EQU	Melbourne Rowing Club Inc	VIC
203335	FAC	Western Bulldogs Forever Foundation Ltd.	VIC
203336	EQU	Western Bulldogs Forever Foundation Ltd.	VIC
203337	SD	Western Bulldogs Forever Foundation Ltd.	VIC
203340	EQU	Presbyterian Ladies` College	VIC
203350	FAC	The Grand Golf Club Ltd.	QLD
203355	FAC	Glenelg District Cricket Club Inc.	SA
203356	SD	Glenelg District Cricket Club Inc.	SA
203365	SD	The Bobby Pearce Foundation	NSW
203375	SD	Rowing Queensland Inc	QLD
203380	FAC	Southern Grampians Shire Council	VIC
204000	EQU	The Scots College	NSW
204005	FAC	Yinnar Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc	VIC
204010	FAC	Maryborough and District Hockey Association Inc.	QLD
204015	SD	Victorian Netball Association Inc	VIC
204020	SD	National Aboriginal Sports Corporation Australia	NSW
204025	FAC	Red and Blue Foundation	VIC
204026	SD	Red and Blue Foundation	VIC
204030	EQU	Victorian Sabot Sailing Association Inc.	VIC
204035	EQU	Shoalhaven Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
204040	FAC	Vaucluse Amateur 12ft Sailing Club Inc.	NSW
204041	EQU	Vaucluse Amateur 12ft Sailing Club Inc	NSW
204045	SD	Radford College Ltd	ACT
204055	EQU	Union of Master Rowers of South Australia Inc	SA
204070	EQU	UCA - Kinross Wolaroi School	NSW
204075	EQU	Adelaide University Boat Club Inc	SA
204080	FAC	Metung Yacht Club Inc.	VIC
204081	FEA	Metung Yacht Club Inc	VIC
204085	SD	Sydney University Football Club Foundation Limited	NSW
204095	FAC	Somers Tennis Club Inc	VIC
204105	FAC	Melville City Hockey Club Inc.	WA
204110	FAC	Grafton Hockey Association Inc	NSW
204115	SD	Henley Water Polo Club Inc.	SA

204120	SD	SA Tall Ships Inc.	SA
204130	EQU	Walford Foundation Inc	SA
204140	FAC	Shire of Manjimup	WA
204150	SD	Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club	NSW
204155	SD	Soccer Queensland Ltd	QLD
204160	SD	South Adelaide Football Club Inc.	SA
204170	SD	The Western Australian Tennis Association Inc.	WA
204175	EQU	Collegians Football Club Inc.	VIC
204180	EQU	Black Mountain Rowing Club Inc.	ACT
204195	SD	Hockey Queensland Inc.	QLD
204196	SD	Hockey Queensland Inc.	QLD
204200	FAC	Baw Baw Hockey Club Inc.	VIC
204205	FAC	Leongatha Golf Club Inc.	VIC
204210	EQU	St Ignatius` College Riverview	NSW
204215	TRA	Australian Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association Inc.	VIC
204216	EQU	Australian Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association Inc.	VIC
204220	EQU	Cowes Yacht Club Inc	VIC
204225	FAC	Busselton-Margaret River Cricket Association Inc.	WA
204235	EQU	Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron	VIC
205005	EQU	Melbourne Argonauts Queer Rowing Club Inc.	VIC
205025	SD	Pistol Australia Inc.	ACT
205035	ME	ACT Basketball Inc	ACT
205040	SD	Cruising Yacht Club of Australia	NSW
205050	SD	Victorian Rugby Union Inc.	VIC
205055	FAC	St. Joseph`s Football Club Geelong Inc.	VIC
205060	TRA	Australian University Sport Inc	QLD
205065	SD	Eastwood District Rugby Union Football Club Inc.	NSW
205075	EQU	Balmain Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
205085	FAC	North Adelaide Football Club Inc.	SA
205090	FAC	Horsham Rural City Council	VIC
205095	SD	WestVic Academy of Sport Inc.	VIC
205100	FAC	Woodlands Golf Club	VIC
205101	FEA	Woodlands Golf Club	VIC
205102	SD	Woodlands Golf Club	VIC
205105	EQU	St Joseph`s College Gregory Terrace	QLD
205106	EQU	St Joseph`s College Gregory Terrace	QLD
205107	FAC	St Joseph`s College Gregory Terrace	QLD
205120	SD	Women`s Sport Foundation of Western Australia Inc.	WA
205125	EQU	Maccabi NSW Inc.	NSW
205126	SD	Maccabi NSW Inc.	NSW
205127	FEA	Maccabi NSW Inc.	NSW
205130	SD	Stuart Appleby Junior Golf (Victoria) Inc.	VIC
205135	FAC	Spring Valley Golf Club Inc.	VIC
205145	FAC	Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club	NSW
205150	EQU	Scotch Oakburn College	TAS
205155	EQU	NQ Sailing Inc.	QLD
205165	SD	South Australian Volleyball Association Inc.	SA
205170	FAC	Shire of Merredin	WA
205180	FAC	The Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre Inc.	VIC
205190	FAC	Heidelberg Golf Club	VIC
205191	SD	Heidelberg Golf Club	VIC
205195	FAC	Shire of Coolgardie	WA

205200	SD	Woodville West Torrens Football Club Inc.	SA
205215	FAC	Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.	VIC
205220	FAC	Mosman Croquet Club Inc	NSW
205235	SD	Layne Beachley- Aim For The Stars Foundation Ltd.	NSW
205245	FAC	Tennis SA Inc.	SA
205246	FAC	Tennis SA Inc.	SA
205255	SD	On Track For Life Foundation Inc.	VIC
205260	FAC	Wolston Park Centenary Cricket Club Inc	QLD
205265	SD	Port Adelaide Magpies Football Club Inc.	SA
205270	FAC	Onkaparinga Rugby Union Football Club Inc.	SA
205275	FAC	Illawarra Hockey Inc.	NSW
205280	SD	Lawn Tennis Association of Australia Ltd	VIC
205290	FAC	Commonwealth Golf Club Inc.	VIC
205291	SD	Commonwealth Golf Club Inc.	VIC
205295	SD	Lacrosse Australia Ltd	WA
205300	FAC	Carlton Football Club Ltd.	VIC
205305	FAC	St Ives Rugby Club Inc.	NSW
205310	EQU	WH Pincott Club Inc.	VIC
205315	EQU	Xavier College Foundation Ltd	VIC
205320	EQU	Buckingham Rowing Club (Tas) Inc.	TAS
205330	FAC	The Killara Golf Club Limited	NSW
205332	SD	The Killara Golf Club Limited	NSW
205350	EQU	Clarence Valley Anglican School Inc	NSW
206000	FAC	Greenvale Football Club Inc.	VIC
206005	FAC	Berwick Montuna Golf Club	VIC
206010	FAC	Kew Heights Sports Club Inc.	VIC
206015	SD	Midnight Basketball Australia	NSW
206020	EQU	South of Perth Yacht Club Inc.	WA
206021	EQU	South of Perth Yacht Club Inc.	WA
206025	EQU	Hawthorn Rowing Club Inc	VIC
206030	FAC	The Barossa Council	SA
206035	FAC	Canberra Grammar School	ACT
206045	FAC	Hawthorn Football Club Ltd.	VIC
206050	SD	Sydney Australian Football Foundation Ltd	NSW
206055	EQU	St Aidan`s Anglican Girls` School Parents` and Friends` Association Inc.	QLD
206060	FAC	Sandringham Baseball Club Inc.	VIC
206065	FAC	Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron	NSW
206070	EQU	Brisbane Grammar School	QLD
206075	FAC	North Shore Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
206080	EQU	Banks Rowing Club Inc	VIC
206085	SD	Bendigo Bank Academy of Sport Inc.	VIC
206090	EQU	Queenwood Parents Association Inc	NSW
206095	SD	The Australian Open Skiff Trust	NSW
206100	EQU	The Rockhampton Grammar School	QLD
206105	FAC	Sandringham City Junior Soccer Club Inc	VIC
206110	FAC	The Briars Foundation Ltd.	NSW
206115	SD	Australian Sports Commission	ACT
206120	EQU	Wesley College Melbourne	VIC
206121	SD	Wesley College Melbourne	VIC
206125	SD	Swimming Australia Foundation Ltd.	ACT
206130	EQU	The Inside Line Inc.	SA
206135	EQU	St Joseph`s Nudgee College	QLD

206136	SD	St Joseph`s Nudgee College	QLD
206137	SD	St Joseph`s Nudgee College	QLD
206140	SD	Australian Football League	VIC
206145	EQU	North Sydney Girls` High School P&C Association	NSW
206146	SD	North Sydney Girls` High School P&C Association	NSW
206150	FAC	Toowong Rowing Club Inc.	QLD
206151	EQU	Toowong Rowing Club Inc	QLD
206155	FAC	The Casey Hockey Club Inc.	VIC
206160	EQU	SCEGGS Redlands Ltd	NSW
206165	SD	Johnny Warren Football Foundation of NSW Ltd	NSW
206170	EQU	Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron Inc.	SA
206171	SD	Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron Inc.	SA
206172	FAC	Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron Inc.	SA
206175	FAC	Geelong Cricket Club Inc	VIC
206180	SD	Henk Vogels Cycling Foundation Inc	WA
206185	EQU	Newington College	NSW
206190	SD	The Rotary Club of Brighton Inc.	VIC
206200	FAC	Western Australia Maccabi (Inc.)	WA
206205	SD	Yachting Australia Inc.	NSW
206215	FAC	Warehouse Cricket Association Queensland Inc.	QLD
206220	FAC	Bairnsdale & District Table Tennis Association Inc.	VIC
206225	FAC	Applecross Tennis Club Inc	WA
206230	SD	Womensport Queensland Association Inc.	QLD
206235	SD	John Forrest Senior High School Parents & Citizens Association Inc	WA
206240	FAC	St Joseph`s Nudgee Junior College	QLD
206245	FAC	Old Bar Tennis Club Inc	NSW
206250	EQU	Canberra Rowing Club Inc.	ACT
206255	EQU	Adelaide Rowing Club Inc.	SA
206256	FAC	Adelaide Rowing Club Inc.	SA
206260	FAC	Glebe Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
206261	EQU	Glebe Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
206265	SD	Portland Basketball Association Inc	VIC
206270	SD	The Sport Australia Hall of Fame Ltd	VIC
207000	SD	Warringah Rugby Foundation Ltd.	NSW
207005	EQU	Stuartholme School	QLD
207010	SD	Barron Valley Gymnastics Club Inc.	QLD
207015	FAC	Ceres Calisthenics Club Inc.	VIC
207020	FAC	Kimba Districts Football & Netball Club Inc	SA
207025	FAC	Gordon District Cricket Club Inc.	NSW
207030	EQU	Sydney Rowing Club Ltd	NSW
207031	SD	Sydney Rowing Club Ltd	NSW
207035	FAC	The Forest District Rugby Club Inc	NSW
207040	TRA	The Queensland Gaelic Football Association Inc	QLD
207045	ME	Gateway Family Church Inc	VIC
207050	EQU	The Hutchins School	TAS
207055	SD	Lighthouse Sports and Recreation Ministry Inc	NSW
207060	FAC	South Brisbane District Cricket Club Inc.	QLD
207066	FAC	Sporting Car Club of South Australia Inc	SA
207067	SD	Sporting Car Club of South Australia Inc	SA
207070	FAC	OSFC Foundation Inc.	VIC
207075	SD	New South Wales Cricket Association	NSW
207080	SD	AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd.	NSW

207081	FAC	AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Ltd.	NSW
207085	FAC	North Melbourne Football Club Ltd.	VIC
207090	FAC	Dromana Bowls Club Inc	VIC
207095	EQU	Loreto Normanhurst Association Inc.	NSW
207100	FAC	The King David School Holdings Ltd	VIC
207105	FAC	Geelong Lawn Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
207110	EQU	Dandenong Thunder Inc	VIC
207111	FEA	Dandenong Thunder Inc	VIC
207115	SD	Sunnybank Senior Rugby Club Inc.	QLD
207120	SD	Professional Golfers Association of Australia Limited	VIC
207125	FAC	Sorrento Golf Club	VIC
207130	EQU	MLC School	NSW
207131	SD	MLC School	NSW
207135	EQU	Brisbane State High School	QLD
207140	SD	Australian Real Tennis Association Inc.	VIC
207150	EQU	Mackay Rowing Club Inc.	QLD
207155	ME	The Judo Federation of Australia (South Australia) Incorporated	SA
207160	FAC	The Goodwood Saints Football Club Inc	SA
207170	SD	Golf Australia Ltd.	VIC
207175	FAC	Varsity Lakes Community Ltd.	QLD
207180	FAC	Barwon Rowing Club Inc.	VIC
207185	FAC	West Pymble Bowling Club Ltd	NSW
207195	FEA	Brothers Rugby Club Foundation Trust	QLD
207200	SD	The Hampton Cricket Club Inc.	VIC
207205	FAC	Kembla Joggers Inc.	NSW
207210	EQU	Oberon Council	NSW
207215	EQU	Presbyterian Ladies College Sydney	NSW
207220	SD	Mullumbimby Tennis Association Inc.	NSW
207225	FAC	Seventh-Day Adventist Schools (Western Australia) Ltd	WA
207230	SD	Victorian Tennis Association Inc.	VIC
207235	FAC	Portsea Golf Club Ltd	VIC
207236	SD	Portsea Golf Club Ltd	VIC
207240	FAC	Glenelg Football Club Inc.	SA
207245	FAC	Parkes Hockey Association Incorporated	NSW
207250	EQU	All Hallows` School	QLD
207255	FAC	Dalby Town Council	QLD
207260	FAC	Aquinas College	WA
207910	ME	Winton Pony Club Inc.	QLD
208000	SD	Victorian Institute of Sport Limited	VIC
208005	FAC	Mentone Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
208010	FAC	Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust	NSW
208015	EQU	The Southport School	QLD
208016	EQU	The Southport School	QLD
208020	FAC	Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club	VIC
208025	EQU	West Australian Rowing Club	WA
208026	FAC	West Australian Rowing Club Inc	WA
208027	SD	West Australian Rowing Club Inc	WA
208030	FAC	Solway Primary School	VIC
208035	SD	Western Australian Modern Pentathlon Association Inc.	WA
208040	FAC	Birrilee Gymnastics Inc.	VIC
208045	SD	Ice Skating Australia Incorporated	NSW
208050	FAC	Mornington District Basketball Association Inc.	VIC

208055	FAC	South Australian Cricket Association Inc.	SA
208060	FAC	Somerton Bowling Club Inc.	SA
208070	FAC	Launceston City Council	TAS
208075	FAC	Wahroonga Rugby Club Inc	NSW
208080	EQU	Tudor House Foundation Limited	NSW
208085	SD	Sydney Junior Rugby Union Incorporated	NSW
208090	ME	Adelaide Horse Trials Management Inc.	SA
208095	FAC	NSW Fencing Association Inc.	NSW
208100	FAC	Centenary Rowing Club Inc.	QLD
208101	EQU	Centenary Rowing Club Inc.	QLD
208105	EQU	The Victorian 29er Class Sailing Association Inc.	VIC
208110	FAC	Darwin Dragons Rugby Union Club Inc.	NT
208115	SD	Barwon Sports Academy Inc.	VIC
208120	FAC	Scotch College	VIC
208125	SD	Hunter Hurricanes Limited	NSW
208130	EQU	Carey Baptist Grammar School Limited	VIC
208135	SD	Tennis Tasmania Incorporated	TAS
208140	SD	University of Queensland Athletics Club Inc.	QLD
208145	TRA	Football Federation Victoria (FFV) Inc.	VIC
208150	FEA	Central Victoria Hockey Association Inc.	VIC
208155	FAC	Wantirna South Football Club Inc.	VIC
208160	FAC	Buninyong & District Tennis Association Inc.	VIC
208165	SD	Ballarat Basketball Association Inc.	VIC
208170	FAC	Wangaratta Rovers Football Club Inc.	VIC
208175	FAC	Sale Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
208180	SD	The Wally Foreman Foundation Inc.	WA
208185	SD	Sailors With Disabilities Incorporated	NSW
208190	EQU	Essendon Rowing Club Inc.	VIC
208195	EQU	Warrnambool Springers Gymnastics Inc.	VIC
208200	SD	Fremantle Sailing Club Inc.	WA
208205	EQU	The Hamilton and Alexandra College	VIC
208210	SD	New South Wales Rowing Association Incorporated	NSW
208211	SD	New South Wales Rowing Association Incorporated	NSW
208215	FAC	Healesville Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
208220	EQU	Newington Masters Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
208225	FAC	Warrnambool Gun Club Inc.	VIC
208230	EQU	Seymour College Inc	SA
208235	EQU	Dutton Park Rowing & Supporters Club Inc	QLD
208240	FAC	Holland Park Hawks Football Club Inc.	QLD
208245	FAC	Mackay Gymnastics Inc.	QLD
208250	FAC	The Denmark Bowling Club Inc.	WA
208255	SD	Mosman Rugby Fund Incorporated	NSW
208260	EQU	Avalon Sailing Club Limited	NSW
208265	SD	Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Inc.	WA
208270	EQU	Royal Yacht Club of Victoria Inc.	VIC
208271	FAC	Royal Yacht Club of Victoria Inc.	VIC
208275	FAC	The Kooyonga Foundation Inc	SA
208280	SD	Gordon Rugby Foundation Limited	NSW
208285	TRA	Athletics Australia Ltd	VIC
208290	FAC	Hastings Valley Archery Club Inc.	NSW
208291	EQU	Hastings Valley Archery Club Inc.	NSW
208295	SD	Yachting Victoria Inc.	VIC

208300	SD	Donnica Clarke Foundation Limited	NSW
208305	SD	Victorian Gymnastic Association Inc.	VIC
208310	SD	Illawarra Academy of Sport Incorporated	NSW
208315	FAC	Byron Bay Rugby League Club Limited	NSW
208325	SD	Central Coast Academy of Sport Ltd	NSW
208330	SD	The Harvey Nicholson Foundation	VIC
208335	FAC	Adelaide Football Club Ltd.	SA
208340	EQU	Flinders Yacht Club Inc.	VIC
208345	EQU	Port Douglas Yacht Club Inc.	QLD
208350	FAC	Adelaide Hockey Club Inc.	SA
208355	EQU	St Virgil's College Hobart	TAS
208360	EQU	North Murray Diamond Sports Association Inc.	WA
208365	EQU	Fitzroy Junior Rugby League Club Inc	QLD
208370	TRA	Fly Fish Australia Incorporated	NSW
208375	SD	Rowing Victoria Inc.	VIC
208380	FAC	Regional Council of Goyder	SA
208385	SD	Chatswood Junior Rugby Club Inc	NSW
208390	FAC	Dunsborough Bay Yacht Club Inc.	WA
208395	FAC	Macleod Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
208400	EQU	Yarra Yarra Rowing Club Inc.	VIC
208405	SD	Swan River Rowing Club	WA
208410	FAC	Camperdown Football Netball Club Incorporated	VIC
208415	FAC	Eastern Suburbs District Rugby Union Football Club Limited	NSW
208420	FAC	Box Hill Hawks Football Club Limited	VIC
208425	FAC	Sunshine Coast and District Rugby Football Union Inc	QLD
208903	EQU	Condong Bowling Club Ltd	NSW
208904	EQU	Box Hill Wesley Calisthenics Club Inc.	VIC
208905	SD	St Vincent de Paul Society, Broken Bay Diocese	NSW
208906	EQU	Walla Mulla Family and Community Support Ltd	NSW
208907	EQU	Temora Golden Gift Committee Inc.	NSW
208908	SD	Toodyay Cricket Club Inc.	WA
208909	EQU	Halls Creek Golf Club Inc.	WA
221017	EQU	Mosman Rowing Club Incorporated	NSW
221018	FAC	Mosman Rowing Club Incorporated	NSW
221026	FAC	Newcastle Rowing Club Inc	NSW
221027	EQU	Newcastle Rowing Club Inc	NSW
221047	EQU	North Shore Rowing Club Inc.	NSW
221178	FAC	Warringah Bowling Club Ltd	NSW
230017	SD	Victorian Golf Foundation Pty Ltd	VIC
231229	SD	Royal Yacht Club of Victoria Inc.	VIC
231329	EQU	Mordialloc Sailing Club Inc.	VIC
231650	FAC	Richmond Football Club Ltd.	VIC
251107	EQU	Torrens Rowing Club Inc.	SA
251108	FAC	Torrens Rowing Club Inc.	SA
260041	FAC	Melville Water Polo Club Inc.	WA
260042	SD	Melville Water Polo Club Inc.	WA
260043	ME	Melville Water Polo Club Inc.	WA
261029	SD	Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Inc.	WA
400001	SD	The Sport Australia Hall of Fame Limited	VIC
620150	EQU	St Joseph's College	NSW
630141	SD	Loreto Mandeville Hall Association Inc.	VIC
650136	EQU	Pulteney Grammar School	SA

660000	SD	Guildford Grammar School Inc.	WA
881100	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	NSW
881201	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	NSW
881301	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	VIC
881302	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	VIC
881401	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	WA
881501	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	ACT
881601	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	TAS
881701	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	SA
881801	SD	Australian Olympic Committee Inc.	QLD
970003	FAC	Power House Amateur Football Club Inc.	VIC
970007	EQU	Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation Ltd.	WA
970018	FAC	Port Melbourne Yacht Club Inc.	VIC
970024	EQU	Power House Rowing Club Inc.	VIC
980004	FAC	Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club	NSW
980015	EQU	Scotch College	WA
980025	EQU	Loreto Kirribilli Association Inc	NSW
980026	SD	The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	VIC
980027	SD	The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	VIC
980032	TRA	Skate Australia Inc.	QLD
980038	EQU	Canberra Grammar School	ACT
980046	SD	Ballarat Sports Foundation Inc	VIC
980049	SD	Squadron Yacht Racing Foundation Ltd.	NSW
980052	EQU	St Margaret's School Council Ltd.	QLD
980053	SD	Gordon District Cricket Club Inc.	NSW
980059	TRA	Australian Parachute Federation Inc.	ACT
980069	EQU	Cruising Yacht Club of Australia	NSW
980100	EQU	The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	VIC
980110	SD	Ski & Snowboard Australia Ltd.	VIC
980161	SD	Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
980162	SD	Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
980201	FAC	St Kilda Saints Football Club Ltd.	VIC
980350	FAC	Town of Narrogin	WA
980361	SD	Yachting Australia Inc.	NSW
980420	TRA	Australian Underwater Federation Inc.	WA
980510	SD	Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team Inc.	NSW
980570	FAC	Orange Regional Swimming and Leisure Centre Inc.	NSW
980600	TRA	Hockey Tasmania Inc.	TAS
980630	EQU	Scotch College Foundation Inc	SA
980810	SD	Glenhuntly Athletic Club Inc	VIC
980900	FAC	Grace Park Lawn Tennis Club Inc.	VIC
980960	EQU	Capital Lakes Rowing Club Inc.	ACT
980990	EQU	Swan River Rowing Club	WA
981000	FAC	Geelong Football Club Ltd.	VIC
981003	SD	Geelong Cats Sports Foundation	VIC
981020	FAC	Universities Rugby Football Club (ACT) Inc.	ACT
981090	FAC	City of Rockingham	WA
981220	ME	The Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association Inc.	VIC
981370	FAC	Illawarra District Table Tennis Association Inc	NSW
981550	SD	Lesmurdie Baptist Church Inc.	WA
981600	SD	Lacrosse Victoria Inc.	VIC
981601	TRA	Victorian Lacrosse Association Inc.	VIC

981620	FAC	Huntingdale Golf Club Foundation	VIC
981750	EQU	The Korowa Foundation Ltd	VIC
981820	FAC	Santos Stadium	SA
981860	FAC	Richmond Rowing Club Inc	VIC
981861	EQU	Richmond Rowing Club Inc	VIC
981880	SD	NSW Institute of Sport	NSW
981910	EQU	Black Rock Yacht Club Inc	VIC
981970	SD	Boxing New South Wales Inc.	NSW
981990	EQU	Victorian Motorless Flight Group Inc.	VIC
981992	FAC	Victorian Motorless Flight Group Inc.	VIC
982030	EQU	Yachting NSW Inc.	NSW
982050	FAC	Sutherland District Hockey Club Inc.	NSW
982060	SD	Davey`s Bay Yacht Club Inc.	VIC
982090	EQU	Methodist Ladies` College	VIC
982100	SD	SYC Foundation Inc	VIC
982101	EQU	SYC Foundation Inc	VIC
982102	FAC	SYC Foundation Inc	VIC
982130	SD	Sydney Boys High School	NSW
982131	FAC	Sydney Boys High School	NSW
982132	EQU	Sydney Boys High School	NSW
982140	EQU	Port Adelaide Rowing Club Inc	SA
982160	EQU	Mercantile Rowing Club Inc	VIC
982191	SD	Australian Motor Sport Foundation Ltd	VIC
982200	EQU	Tara Anglican School for Girls	NSW
982250	SD	The Sail Training Association of Queensland Inc.	QLD
982290	FAC	Box Hill Athletic Club Inc.	VIC
982310	FAC	Glenelg Golf Club Inc	SA
982311	SD	Glenelg Golf Club Inc.	SA
982390	EQU	Brisbane Bears-Fitzroy Football Club Ltd	QLD
982400	FAC	The Yarra Yarra Golf Club Limited	VIC
982401	SD	The Yarra Yarra Golf Club Limited	VIC
		Legend - Project type	
	FAC	Facility development	
	FEA	Facility development feasibility study	
	EQU	Sports equipment	
	SD	Sport development	
	TRA	Team travel	
	ME	Major event	

- b) 314 registered projects are actively fundraising.
- c) Eight registered projects are classified as Category Two projects.
- d) In 2007/08, \$22,200 has been allocated to Category Two projects. A further amount (not to exceed \$5,000) has been set aside for an equestrian project pending re-scheduling of the event due to the impact of Equine Influenza.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-092

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: NATIONAL ELITE SPORTS COUNCIL

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Can you describe the National Elite Sports Council (NESC) and their relationship with the Minister?
- b) Has the Minister met with the NESC? Has their strategic direction changed since the establishment of the new Government?

Answer:

- a) The National Elite Sports Council is a forum that comprises the Directors of the state and territory institutes and academies of sport as well as observer representatives from the Australian Olympic Committee and Australian Commonwealth Games Association. The Council is an endorsed Sub Committee of the Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport.

There is no direct link between NESC and the Minister. An invitation may be extended to the Minister to attend NESC meetings, or alternatively NESC representatives may seek meetings with the Minister out of session.

- b) The last meeting, known by the Australian Sports Commission, held between some NESC representatives and the Minister was on 13 March 2008. The Commission is unaware of the discussions or outcomes of this meeting.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-093

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: HIGH PERFORMANCE NETWORK FUNDING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernardi asked:

What has been the Commonwealth's financial contribution to high performance network funding?

Answer:

The Commonwealth's financial contribution to high performance sport in Australia, delivered through the Australian Sports Commission, over the current Olympic cycle has been:

Year	Australian Institute of Sport	High Performance Funding for Sports*	Total
2004/05	\$30,130,000	\$48,874,150	\$79,004,150
2005/06	\$32,200,000	\$49,873,600	\$82,073,600
2006/07	\$37,534,000	\$56,387,192	\$93,921,192
2007/08	\$40,813,634	\$57,125,000	\$97,938,634

* High performance sport grants paid directly to national sporting organisations, including national sporting organisations for people with a disability, and direct athlete support paid to athletes.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-174

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: ELECTION COMMITMENTS

Hansard Page: CA 42

Senator Kemp asked:

Let me go into the million dollars for the Campese Oval, Taylor Park upgrade in Queanbeyan. Has the department any information on that? A \$1 million promise was made during the election.

Answer:

Minister Ellis and local member the Hon Mike Kelly MP confirmed funding for the project in a press release on 10 July 2008. A copy of the press release is provided at [Attachment A](#).



THE HON KATE ELLIS MP
Minister for Sport
THE HON MIKE KELLY MP
Federal Member for Eden-Monaro

MEDIA RELEASE

10 July 2008

FUNDING TO UPGRADE LOCAL SPORTS FACILITIES IN EDEN-MONARO

The Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly and the Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, today confirmed the Rudd Government's commitment of \$1.77 million to upgrade local sports facilities.

Ms Ellis said she had written to the Queanbeyan, Palerang and Snowy River councils to confirm the funding commitments.

"Investing in community sport and recreation is an important priority for the Government," Ms Ellis said.

"It is more than just about putting money into grandstands, playing fields and footballs. It is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Australians of all ages."

The grants include:

- \$1,000,000 to upgrade Campese Oval and Taylor Park in Queanbeyan;
- \$650,000 for upgrades to the Jindabyne sports field; and
- \$120,000 for the refurbishment of change rooms at Bungendore swimming pool.

Dr Kelly said the funding commitment was welcome and would allow the councils to progress with their plans.

"Sports of all codes play an important role in the social and cultural life of communities throughout the diverse electorate of Eden-Monaro," Dr Kelly said.

"The Government's commitment of \$1 million will help the Queanbeyan City Council upgrade Campese Oval and Taylor Park, including improving the playing surface and the construction of amenities, including a change room for referees.

"The upgrades to Bungendore swimming pool include renovating the dual-use change rooms located in Bungendore Park, which are utilised by local swimmers and other clubs who use the nearby Mick Sherd Oval for sports such as football.

"While everyone thinks of skiing and Jindabyne in winter, the local sports field is also an important part of the local alpine community. I have had the pleasure of playing touch football on the ground and was struck by the broad community participation in

this activity in Summer. The Government's investment of \$650,000 will help the Snowy River Shire Council upgrade facilities at the field."

Media contact: **Greg Doolan (Kate Ellis MP) – 0433 345 323**
 Terry Bransdon (Dr Mike Kelly MP) – 0488 499 166

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-178

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: SPORT TAEKWONDO

Hansard Page: CA 51

Senator Lundy asked:

So for you to say that they were de-recognised because they sacked a coach, from what you have just said, there is more to that. There is a different point of view. Are you prepared to concede at least that point?

Answer:

In evidence to the Additional Budget Estimates hearing of the Standing Committee on Community Affairs on 20 February 2008, the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Sports Commission, Mr Mark Peters, advised the Committee that “... *the group [Taekwondo Australia] chose not to adopt best practice governance – and in fact did things like fire their coach and athletes while they were overseas ...*” (Hansard page CA 162, 20 February 2008). The reference to the dismissal of the coach was used as an example, and was not presented as the reason for the withdrawal of recognition of Taekwondo Australia; rather, the key issue was the less than best practice governance of that organisation.

The reasons for the withdrawal of recognition are contained in the answer to Question on Notice E08-052.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-095

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: SCHOLARSHIPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Does the National Elite Sport Council (NESC) record the number of scholarships offered to athletes?
- b) How will this affect the overall performance of athletes on the international stage?
- c) Does this translate into Olympic medals?
- d) Are some sports starting to suffer already?

Answer:

- a) Each NESC member provides the number of scholarships offered to athletes within their jurisdiction on an annual basis.
- b) The AIS is not aware of any research that correlates the number of scholarships offered to athletes and the overall performance of athletes on the international stage.
- c) The AIS is not aware of any research that focuses on the number of scholarships offered to athletes and the conversion of these into Olympic medals.
- d) The AIS understands that some NESC members have discontinued scholarship support for some sports throughout the current Olympic cycle.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 4 & 5 June 2008

Question: E08-094

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: INSTITUTES OF SPORT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Is it your understanding that the funding for the State Institutes of Sport in some states and territories is declining?
- b) Does this increase pressure on the Australian Institute of Sport to fill this gap - or do potential athletes just miss out?

Answer:

- a) Information provided by the National Elite Sport Council indicates variable levels of state funding from respective jurisdictions over the current Olympic cycle.
- b) The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) is experiencing increased demands to become more involved, and is being more relied upon, to manage and address broader high performance and systemic issues due to a diminished capacity of other stakeholders in the system. In some cases the AIS has now assumed almost full responsibility for national high performance programs.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-181

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT

Hansard Page: CA 55

Senator Lundy asked:

I am also interested in how the Sports Commission is tracking the progress of nations that we are highly competitive with. I put particular emphasis on the UK.

Answer:

With regard to the Olympic Games, tracking is based on 'benchmark events', i.e. the major event for each Olympic sport each year. This is used as an objective indication of how each nation may be expected to perform in each sport at the next Olympic Games, in this case Beijing.

Based on the benchmark event for each sport, as at 5 June 2008 Great Britain was ahead of Australia with 45 medals expected to be won compared to 44 for Australia.

For the Paralympic Games, world benchmark events are unable to provide accurate comparisons because the Paralympic classifications vary widely across events. At the Paralympic Games many of the classifications contested at World Championship level are combined to form a smaller number of overall categories.

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2008-2009, 5 June 2008

Question: E08-173

OUTCOME 15: Sport

Topic: ELECTION COMMITMENTS

Hansard Page: CA 38

Senator Bernardi asked:

How many have actually been signed off or been through the probative process, or been agreed so far?

Answer:

Funding has been appropriated through the 2008-09 Budget and the Department of Health and Ageing is currently assessing projects and negotiating funding agreements with each proponent. It is expected funding agreements will be executed over the coming months.