



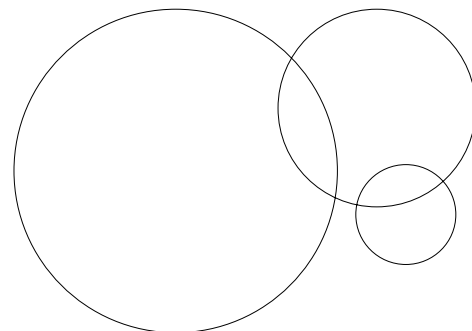
Australian Government

**Australian Sports
Anti-Doping Authority**

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16 July 2008

Mr Russell Chafer
Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Chafer

In response to your letter of 11 June 2008 inviting a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the effect of the efficiency dividend on small agencies, I am providing the following submission for the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA).

In March 2006 ASADA transitioned from a Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (CAC) agency (the Australian Sports Drug Agency) to become a Financial Management and Accountability Act (FMA) agency. Entailed in this transition was the requirement to become compliant with all the relevant legislation and underlying procedures of FMA agencies. This was achieved and ASADA is fully compliant.

Also with this transition ASADA received powers and functions relating to investigations of alleged doping violations and the presentation of cases to relevant sporting tribunals. These were in addition to the drug testing, education and advocacy functions formerly exercised by the Australian Sports Drug Agency and which transitioned to ASADA.

The testing work that is undertaken using Government through appropriation is fixed by the number of tests - 4,200 for 08-09. However, the number of investigations or the complexity of investigations is not known from year to year. This is the same for the cases that are brought forward to the tribunals.

In order to successfully transition and to achieve the outcomes set by the Government, ASADA was provided with additional funding of \$4.74 million p.a.. This was a lapsing program with an end date of 30 June 2008.

Following the lapsing of previous funding, the 2008-09 Budget included a measure of \$4.34 million to ensure that ASADA had the ability to continue to provide the outcomes expected. In effect, the efficiency dividend amounted to a decrease of \$0.2m..

In addition to Government appropriation, ASADA is able to retain receipts from the provision of contract services under section 21(1)(k) of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Act 2005. During 2007-08 receipts from ASADA's contract work totaled \$1.496m. The 2008-09 Budget estimates revenue of \$1.796m.

To implement ASADA's efficiency dividend for 2008-09, a review of the internal budget was undertaken in conjunction with the business plan for 2008-09. This allowed us to determine any potential for staff reductions, reductions in consultants and contractors and any projects that could be delayed into future years.

With the resignation of one SES Band 1 officer a review was also undertaken of whether this position would be replaced or if a more efficient organisational structure could be implemented. This review resulted in this position not being replaced. Together with this saving, we have also decided to have the position of General Counsel, currently staffed by an outposting from the office of the Australian Government Solicitor, revert to a less expensive in-house position in the second six months of the year.

For future efficiency savings a review of our methods of conducting business will be undertaken in this financial year. This will include process mapping of core functions to determine areas for improvement and to identify the potential for cross over of tasks.

With the move into a new portfolio agency, Department of Health and Ageing, ASADA has looked at opportunities to leverage off any contracts for the provision of goods and services. We have been able to make some cost savings through the use of the Department's travel arrangement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Ings', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom.

Richard Ings
Chairman and CEO