

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 1**

**Question 1:** Provide emails sent from Sport Australia to Minister's Office outlining risks of the program.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 4, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Chisholm

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** How many times did you communicate with the minister's office a concern or a risk about the way the program was being implemented?

**Mr McCann:** That would have been formally on two occasions via email....

**CHAIR:** Would you be able to table those emails that Mr O'Neill sent?

**Mr McCann:** I'll have to take that on notice. I'll take that under advisement and get back to you.

**Answer:**

The first formal occasion was in the context of Round 1 decisions. An email was sent from Sport Australia to the Minister's office on 5 December 2018 regarding final decisions differing from recommendations. This was followed up on 9 December 2018 with a more detailed description covering examples of specific projects. Refer to attachments.

The second formal occasion was in March 2019 in relation to round 3. An email was sent from Sport Australia to the Minister's office on 5 March 2019 concerning the provision of the application form to the Minister's office after applications had closed. This was reinforced via email to the Minister's office on 22 March 2019. Refer to attachments.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robin O'Neill  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 December 2018 9:32 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@health.gov.au); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Kate Palmer; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Move it Australia - Community Sport Infrastructure grants

Hello [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Can you please send the revised list of approved community infrastructure projects through?

After your decisions to the allocation of approved community infrastructure grant approvals, our team at Sport Australia believes it is important to reinforce our advice.

As the Minister is the nominated delegate, we recognise she is entitled to make changes to recommendations by the Panel however the Sport Australia Grant Management Framework clearly states the following;

- In instances where the delegate rejects or changes the funding amount from what is being recommended, the reasons should be recorded.

One of the issues would be the reputational risk 'funding decisions could be perceived as favouring localised projects that did not meet the assessment criteria'.

We also recognise your comments that in making changes to the approved list that the Ministers Office used the rating scale provided by Sport Australia as reference.

Note information is subject to providing material to any applicant/organisation/media under the *Freedom of Information Act*.

The Minister is advised that as the delegate she may need to defend the decisions at Senate Estimates i.e. If changes were made she could not state that she approved the recommended decisions of the Industry Panel that followed due process where a rigorous transparent and defensible process took place.

regards,

Robin

Robin O'Neill  
Executive Director  
Sport Partnerships



[REDACTED]  
[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)

# MOVE IT AUS



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

**SPORTAUS**



**AIS**

SPORTING  
*Schools*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robin O'Neill  
**Sent:** Sunday, 9 December 2018 9:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Community Sport Infrastructure Grant - Projects not recommended for funding.xlsx  
**Attachments:** Not recommended for funding.xlsx

Hello [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

There were 130 projects that did not match the original brief. All of those projects scored in a low range. Projects ranged in score from 59 down to 39 are considered too low to fund without significant risk to the completion period and / or safe passage of the project.

Some projects included seeking support for equipment, furniture, scoreboards, power supply, repair and maintenance – that constitute ineligible projects under the program guidelines.

Other projects did meet the funding criteria however received very low scores that placed them in a high risk category.

It is our role at Sport Australia to provide a transparent, consistent assessment via agreed guidelines and funding criteria. Sport Australia cannot put forward projects for funding that do not meet a score cut off or that do not meet the program guidelines.

If there are projects that the Ministers Office wishes to fund, you may choose to select those projects and fund them separately via a Ministerial budget - noting the risks to successful completion through the project assessment.

The Minister as delegate, is entitled to make changes to recommendations by the Panel however the Sport Australia Grant Management Framework clearly states the following;

***• In instances where the delegate rejects or changes the funding amount from what is being recommended, the reasons should be recorded.***

If the Minister would like to make any changes to our recommendations, we will require the Brief returned with notes recorded.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you need any further assistance, [REDACTED] and I are available to support you.

Our aim is to help you make the deadline of the Wednesday media event with a signed and returned brief from the Minister.

Regards,

Robin

**Robin O'Neill**  
**Executive Director**  
Sport Partnerships



[REDACTED]  
[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robin O'Neill  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 March 2019 1:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@health.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Community Sport Infrastructure grants update

Dear [REDACTED],

I thought it was important to clarify our position in relation to [REDACTED] request for a copy of the Sport Australia application for the Move it AUS – Community Sport Infrastructure grants program.

The program has now closed. To invite applications on an ad hoc basis outside of the grant program means that all applicants do not enjoy the same opportunity. Further, it is inappropriate to provide the application form without attached guidelines, and as the program has closed the guidelines are not relevant. We are therefore not comfortable providing you with a copy of the application form.

There has also been a request for a copy of all unsuccessful applications. The grant was established as a competitive program following a decision of Government. As the money has been fully allocated and the program closed the provision of this list for consideration of projects outside of the assessment process does not afford the same opportunity to all applicants. The provision of all unsuccessful applications would be inappropriate.

Both of these requests carry risk to the integrity of the processes built into the existing program.

Further, the significant delays between an approved Round 2 list and ad hoc governments announcements has a ripple effect on completing funding agreements. We will need to address this with you as many projects require a milestone to be reached before final payment – at this point by June 30 which will be impossible to achieve. I will provide an approach to resolve this to you shortly.

Thank you for your understanding with regards this request and happy to discuss further.

Regards,

Robin

**Robin O'Neill**  
**Executive Director**  
Sport Partnerships

[REDACTED]  
[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)

# MOVE IT AUS



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

**SPORTAUS**



**AIS**

SPORTING  
*Schools*

**From:** Robin O'Neill  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 March 2019 3:15 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@health.gov.au  
**Subject:** FW: CSIG [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The application process for the Community Sport Infrastructure grant program closed on 14 September 2018.

No new applications have been accepted since this time and this has been communicated publicly - to the many MPs, sporting clubs and other organisations and individuals who have written expressly for the purpose of requesting the opportunity to apply. Therefore it is not appropriate to invite or accept new applications at this time.

Further, it is not possible to amend an existing application or look to apply additional funding to existing projects. Projects have been assessed and awarded funding on merit, in their original form. Requests for amendments to a range of projects have already been made and declined through the current CSI program.

Given the number of existing applications for funding that have already been assessed and ranked regarding their ability to meet program guidelines, Sport Australia will refer to this list and put forward projects for Ministerial approval via a formal briefing process.

Can you please confirm

- your preferred timing for receipt of the brief, and
- if Sport Australia is to use the notes provided by the Department of Health last week for a total allocation of \$40m to form this list?

Regards,

Robin

**Robin O'Neill**  
**Executive Director**  
Sport Partnerships

[REDACTED]  
[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)





**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 2**

**Question 2:** Provide minutes of FAR meetings of when risks related to administration of CSI were recorded.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 4, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Gallagher

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Can I jump in on that line of questioning. Mr Wylie, you said all concerns were properly recorded—I think probably more broadly than just the email. Can the committee be provided with a copy of those records where the concerns were recorded?

**Mr Wylie:** As I say, as part of our normal and functioning governance processes, when these issues were identified by the staff and raised with the minister's office, they then reported to our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee in mid-December and it was duly noted in the minutes of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. That is the proper exercise of board governance responsibilities. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee looks at risks of the organisation, and so it did. So we acquitted our governance obligations. It was noted by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee that, because of the structure of the program guidelines, it was not considered to be a matter that needed to be elevated further.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Beyond the emails and the records that you were keeping?

**Mr Wylie:** We have those records, yes.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Would they be able to be made available to the committee for its inquiry?

**Mr Wylie:** We'll take it on notice, but yes.

...

**Mr Wylie:** Yes, and the minister had the ability to make these decisions. As I said earlier on, in exercise of our proper governance, the issue was raised with our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; that's the mechanism through which matters of risk and the like are raised on behalf of the board.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Could we have the minutes of those meetings you referred to, Mr Dalton?

**Mr Dalton:** We will take it on notice and provide them.

**Answer:**

Refer to attachment.



- [REDACTED]

## 2.2 Risk Update

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The three new risks to Sport Australia were **noted**. In relation to the Community Infrastructure Grants program it was **noted** that Minister for Sport had overturned some of the recommendations that were put forward to her and endorsed others that were not part of the original recommendations. Whilst this is not the ideal outcome, it was **noted** the Office for Sport had been engaged and the risks of the variation in the approval process had been comprehensively articulated.
- The Committee had a general **discussion** about the integrity of the assessment process and the hard work and efficiency of the processes adopted by the grants team was noted. The committee **discussed** the requirement to continue to ensure the assessment process is robust and to consider whether there are alternative methods or other administrative processes that could be adopted. The need to be strategically responsible as an agency ensuring the endorsement process is evidenced based was **discussed**. In addition, the requirement to ensure that discussions with the Minister's office were robust in the event there were differing views about the grant recipients was also **noted**.
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### 4. Other Business

- To close the meeting the Chair thanked all members and Sport Australia staff for their ongoing contribution over the 2018 year. The meeting closed at 11.00am.
- There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.00am.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 5**

**Question 5:** Was Sport Australia copied into any emails between the Minister's Office and Prime Minister's Office?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 6, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Gallagher

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Were any of those emails forwarded to anyone in Sport Australia?

**Mr McCann:** I wouldn't generalise about what emails you're actually talking about, but we weren't copied into emails—

**Senator GALLAGHER:** These are the 136 emails that went between the minister's office and the Prime Minister's office, specifically in relation to this program and the CSIG—the grants—as they were being considered—

**Mr McCann:** No.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** or reassessed.

**Mr McCann:** To my knowledge no, we were not copied into those emails.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** You might want to take some of that on notice and just go and check your records.

**Answer:**

After searching its records Sport Australia was not able to find an instance where it has been copied into an email from the Prime Minister's Office to the Minister's Office or from the Minister's Office to the Prime Minister's Office in relation to the Community Sport Infrastructure Grants program. In addition, Sport Australia cannot find an instance where an email, as described above, was forwarded or included in an email trail received by Sport Australia.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 6**

**Question 6:** Were the reasons, like the concrete cancer, included in the application that the club put in?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 8, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Rice

**Question:**

**Senator RICE:** Were these rationales available to you when you were doing your assessment of the applications?

**Mr McCann:** They were rationales that we would consider to be within the scope of section 8.1 of our grants guidelines.

**Senator RICE:** All of those rationales were available to you when you were doing your assessment?

**Mr McCann:** No, Senator, they were not.

**Senator RICE:** So they weren't included? Were the reasons, like the concrete cancer, included in the application that the club put in?

**Mr McCann:** I will have to take that on notice. I don't know exactly what was in the applications for those particular projects.

**Answer:**

In respect to the five additional and four amended applications provided to Sport Australia, material was provided by the Minister's office as rationales for their inclusion in the list of approved projects. This information was not available to Sport Australia when the four amended applications were originally assessed, prior to Round 1, and not available at the time all nine were internally assessed prior to Round 3.

All nine of these projects were not recommended by Sport Australia.



**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 7**

**Question 7:** What was the lowest CSI score?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 9, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Abetz

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ:** And that spreadsheet had a column of the numerical success of each application. I think we've been told that the top one had 98. What was the lowest?

**Mr Wylie:** I'll have to defer. Mr McCann will have those details—

**Senator ABETZ:** If I recall, I think it was four.

**Mr McCann:** I'd have to take the exact lowest number on notice—

**Answer:**

The lowest score received by an applicant in the Community Sport Infrastructure program was four.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 8**

**Question 8:** Were the assessor's comments in the spreadsheet identical for each application?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 10, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Abetz

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ:** 'Primarily'? Yes, I think that was on the left-hand side, but that which was presented to the Senate also, if I recall correctly, had a column on the right-hand side that had a heading, something like 'Assessor's comments'. Is that correct?

**Mr McCann:** To my knowledge that's correct.

**Senator ABETZ:** Right. Now, in the assessor's comments, from 98, the top score, down to four, the lowest score, can you take on notice, if need be, whether on that spreadsheet the assessor's comments were absolutely identical in each and every case?

**Mr McCann:** I'll take that on notice.

**Answer:**

In the spreadsheet Sport Australia extracted for the Minister's Office of all CSIG projects, assessment comments recorded by a Sport Australia assessor against a specific project was erroneously repeated throughout the document. This comment was not intended to inform assessment of any other project other than the project it was originally recorded against.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 9**

**Question 9:** Under Sport Australia's assessment, would 30 electorates have missed out on funding?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 10, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Abetz

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ:** And, under your assessments, 30 electorates would have missed out on any funding whatsoever. Is that correct?

**Mr Wylie:** It's not part of our assessment process.

**Senator ABETZ:** No. Is that correct or not? It's a simple answer: yes or no.

**Mr Wylie:** We'd have to take it on notice.

**Answer:**

No.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 11**

**Question 11:** Was there any debate relating to the minister making the final decision being in the guidelines?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 16, 27 February

**Questioner:** Senator Farrell

**Question:**

**Senator FARRELL:** After he resigned? Okay. So we've got the guidelines. Was there any debate about whether the powers that Mr Wylie is referring to relating to the minister making the final decision should or should not be included in the guidelines?

**Mr McCann:** I couldn't answer that. I wasn't part of those conversations.

**Senator FARRELL:** Okay, so who could we get the answer to that question from? Who would know the answer to that question?

**Mr McCann:** I'd have to take that on notice and come back to you.

**Answer:**

There was an internal discussion regarding the Australian Sports Commission Act 1989 and the view that it enabled Sport Australia to deliver all elements of the CSI Program. During development of the guidelines there was discussion on who would be the final approver for the grants which resulted in the final guidelines as published.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 14**

**Question 14:** The dates when draft guidelines were provided to Tennis Australia?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 21, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Canavan

**Question:**

**Senator CANAVAN:** I'll repeat the question. Last week when we were here, the Audit Office mentioned that early drafts of the guidelines had been provided to, I believe, Tennis Australia. I was just seeking more information about who specifically those drafts were provided to and on what dates.

**Mr Dalton:** I don't have the information available on who they were given to. We'll take that on notice and provide that to you.

**Senator CANAVAN:** So you can't confirm that they were provided to Tennis Australia?

**Mr Dalton:** I thought you were asking for who?

**Senator CANAVAN:** Yes. You obviously don't have the individuals, but can you confirm that early drafts were provided to Tennis Australia as an organisation.

**Mr Dalton:** Yes. That's correct.

**Senator CANAVAN:** Do you have the dates when they were provided?

**Mr Dalton:** I don't have those with me, but we can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Short extracts of the guidelines, including the eligibility criteria and the selection criteria, were pasted into emails and sent to Tennis Australia on 30 July 2018. On 2 August 2018, three hours before being publicly released, a link was provided to the program guidelines.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 15**

**Question 15:** Table analysis of funding provided by sport.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 23, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Canavan

**Question:**

**Mr McCann:** We have done our own analysis and they don't match these figures.

**Senator CANAVAN:** Are you willing to table that, are you?...

...Going back to tennis, what we have from the Audit Office, and I presume what they have access to, is what was funded. The figures which you've provided, are they also based on what was funded and not what was scored—if you understand the distinction?

**Mr McCann:** Yes, they were.

**Senator CANAVAN:** Okay. I suppose—

**Senator ABETZ:** Are you able to table that for us?

**Senator CANAVAN:** Yes, if you could table them—

**Mr McCann:** I'll table them.

**Senator CANAVAN:** and/or take the question on notice.

**Answer:**

The analysis undertaken by Sport Australia related to the top ten sports that benefitted through Community Sport Infrastructure grant program investment. In addition to the single sport applications, this included the multisport projects that had been applied for where a grant application listed the multiple sports that would benefit from investment.

Sport Name	Number of projects this sport features in (including multisport projects)	Total Funding Amount that this sport benefits from
Cricket	188	\$ 37,527,443

Football (Soccer)	160	\$ 32,578,424
AFL	146	\$ 29,506,572
Netball	124	\$ 26,272,132
Fitness/Gym	121	\$ 24,886,476
Other activity not listed here	141	\$ 24,567,175
Walking (Recreational)	97	\$ 18,325,573
Tennis	147	\$ 16,676,037
Touch Football	72	\$ 16,630,321

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 17**

**Question 17:** What proportion of projects, by sport, achieved a score of 74 or higher?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 23, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Canavan

**Question:**

**Senator CANAVAN:** And the further question is: in your scoring, what proportion of projects, by sport, achieved a score of 74 or higher—keeping in mind that was the score that the Audit Office identified as an important number. If you understand my distinction, that's different from what was funded. But your scoring was what was potentially influenced by the head start that Tennis Australia was given. Do you understand that question?

**Mr McCann:** Yes, Senator.

**Answer:**

Of the 2061 total CSI applications, 655 identified one sport and 1,406 applications identified multiple sports.

Sport	Number of applications (Single Sport only)	% of applications (single sport only) with a score of 74 or more
AFL	20	15%
Aircraft Sport	7	14%
Archery	6	17%
Athletics	12	0%
Baseball	2	0%
Basketball	13	15%
BMX	14	14%
Bocce/Boules	1	0%
Bowls	111	14%
Calisthenics	2	50%



Campdraft	2	0%
Canoeing/Paddlesports	4	0%
Cricket	37	5%
Croquet	11	9%
Equestrian	18	11%
Football (Soccer)	41	20%
Golf	56	13%
Gridiron	1	0%
Gymnastics	3	0%
Hockey	14	21%
Indoor Football/Futsal	1	0%
Karate	3	0%
Lacrosse	1	0%
Motorcycling	6	17%
Motor Sport	8	0%
Netball	21	19%
Other activity not listed here	10	20%
Petanque	1	0%
Pony Club	6	17%
Roller Sports	1	100%
Rowing	6	0%
Rugby League	3	0%
Rugby Union	4	25%
Sailing	12	8%
Shooting	42	7%
Skateboarding	1	100%
Softball	5	20%
Squash	4	0%
Surf Life Saving	1	0%
Swimming	2	0%
Table Tennis	3	0%
Tennis	137	21%
Volleyball	1	0%
Water Skiing/ Wakeboarding	1	0%
TOTAL	655	

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 19**

**Question 19:** Did the Minister's Office give you any requirements in relation to announcements or launches for the five additional projects?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 29, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Rice

**Question:**

**Senator RICE:** I have just one final question. It goes back to the five new projects that we were discussing before. Did the minister's office give you any requirements in relation to announcements or launches for these projects?

**Mr Wylie:** I'll ask Mr McCann to respond.

**Mr McCann:** I'm not aware of any requirements. I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Sport Australia did not receive any requirements in relation to announcements or launches for these projects.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 20**

**Question 20:** Was a slack channel used for communication on CSI project?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 31, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Rice

**Question:**

**Senator RICE:** I'll check on whether there was. This link is to that there was a slack channel in operation. So you're saying—

**Mr Wylie:** Not to our knowledge.

**Mr McCann:** We're not aware of it.

**Senator RICE:** Could you check on that?

**Mr McCann:** We will.

**Answer:**

Slack is not an official ASC corporate system.

The Australian Sports Commission has no awareness of a slack channel being used for the Community Sport Infrastructure Grants program.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 21**

**Question 21:** What grant program was the application for funding for East Camberwell Tennis Club made under?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 31, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Rice

**Question:**

**Senator RICE:** I mean, are you aware of the grant made to the East Camberwell Tennis Club?

**Mr McCann:** No, not off the top of my head.

**Senator RICE:** Okay, well, maybe you could take this on notice then. What grant program was the application for that funding made under? Because it appears that it originally applied under the Community Development Grants Program and then ended up being funded under the community sports program. But you're not aware of that?

**Mr McCann:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

East Camberwell Tennis Club received funding under round 3 of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant program. Sport Australia has no knowledge of whether the applicant previously applied for any other grant program.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 23**

**Question 23:** Was the Secretary of Health asked to excuse themselves in relation to the CSI program at any Sport Australia Board meetings?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 32, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Canavan

**Question:**

**Senator CANAVAN:** Was there any time during those board meetings when the Community Sport Infrastructure program was discussed in which the secretary was asked to excuse themselves from discussions?

**Mr Wylie:** Not that I recall.

**Senator CANAVAN:** Can you take that on notice?

**Mr Wylie:** Okay.

**Answer:**

No.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 24**

**Question 24:** Would there have been any states or territories that missed out on funding if Sport Australia's recommendations for Round 3 had been accepted?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 33, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Abetz

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ:** In relation to stream 3 of the program, if all of Sport Australia's assessments would have been accepted as final recommendations, to your knowledge would there have been any states or territories that would have missed out completely on any funding?

**Mr Wylie:** Under round 3?

**Senator ABETZ:** Yes.

**Mr McCann:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

If all of Sport Australia's round 3 recommendations were funded, no state or territory would have missed out on funding.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 29**

**Question 29:** Provide the request Sport Australia received from the Minister's Office on 25 March 2019 for a list of funding recommendations for \$39.6 million of projects under a third round, including consideration of the nine new or revised applications being assessed, as referenced in paragraph 19, page 72 of the ANAO report.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 35, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Chisholm

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** The request Sport Australia received from the Minister's Office on 25 March 2019 for a list of funding recommendations for \$39.6 million of projects under a third round, including consideration of the nine new or revised applications being assessed, as referenced in paragraph 19, page 72 of the ANAO report.

**Answer:**

Refer to attachment.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 March 2019 9:40 AM  
**To:** Robin O'Neill; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: CSIG [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Robin

Further to my email last week can you please prepare a list for round 3 of of \$39.6 million in projects including consideration of the projects in the table below.

Separately I will provide further information on the nature of the emerging issues

Happy to discuss

regards

[REDACTED]  
Office of Senator, The Hon Bridget McKenzie  
Minister for Regional Services  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Local Government and Decentralisation  
Suite MG 64 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600  
[REDACTED]

---

**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 March 2019 4:33 PM  
**To:** 'Robin O'Neill' <Robin.O'Neill@ausport.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CSIG [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Thanks Robin

I really appreciate your email which allows me to clarify the Minister's request.

As per 8.1 of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant Program guidelines of August 2018 the Minister would like the applications in the table below assessed, and in the case of updated applications reassessed for consideration as part of round 3 of the Community Sports Infrastructure Grants Program.

The Minister has identified these emerging issues since the completion of the assessment process.

PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	COST	COMMENTS
Katanning Country Club	Katanning, WA	\$248,048	New application
Shire of Coolgardie	Kambalda West, WA	\$287,823	Amendment to current application
Westbury Bowling Club	Westbury, TAS	\$235,000	New application
Belgrave Reserve Netball Court	Belgrave, VIC	\$500,000	New application



Yeppoon Swans AFL Club	Yeppoon, QLD	\$146,200	New application
North Wangaratta Football Netball Club	Wangaratta, VIC	\$500,000	Amendment to current application
Nagambie Foreshore Walk	Nagambie, VIC	\$350,000	New application
Pennant Hills AFL Club	Pennant Hills, NSW	\$500,000	New application
Cheong Park AFL Club	Croydon South, VIC	\$500,000	Amendment to current application

The applications are being sent separately and were all constructed according to the guidelines and are considered priorities that have not been met.

I understand that the \$40 million set aside for Round 3 does not include administration costs as the assessment process has been completed (with the exception of the applications above) but we are mindful of the need to administer the contracts and we would consider justifiable administration costs of around \$400,000 from Sport Australia as part final make up of the \$40 million.

Happy to discuss

regards

[REDACTED]  
Office of Senator, The Hon Bridget McKenzie  
Minister for Regional Services  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Local Government and Decentralisation  
Suite MG 64 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robin O'Neill <Robin.O'Neill@ausport.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 March 2019 3:15 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: CSIG [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

The application process for the Community Sport Infrastructure grant program closed on 14 September 2018.

No new applications have been accepted since this time and this has been communicated publicly - to the many MPs, sporting clubs and other organisations and individuals who have written expressly for the purpose of requesting the opportunity to apply. Therefore it is not appropriate to invite or accept new applications at this time.

Further, it is not possible to amend an existing application or look to apply additional funding to existing projects. Projects have been assessed and awarded funding on merit, in their original form. Requests for amendments to a range of projects have already been made and declined through the current CSI program.

Given the number of existing applications for funding that have already been assessed and ranked regarding their ability to meet program guidelines, Sport Australia will refer to this list and put forward projects for Ministerial approval via a formal briefing process.

Can you please confirm

- your preferred timing for receipt of the brief, and
- if Sport Australia is to use the notes provided by the Department of Health last week for a total allocation of \$40m to form this list?

Regards,

Robin

**Robin O'Neill**  
**Executive Director**  
Sport Partnerships

  
[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)



---

Keep up to date with what's happening in Australian sport visit [www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient please note that any form of distribution, copying or use of this communication or the information in it is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you receive this message in error, please delete it and notify the sender.

---

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 31**

**Question 31:** Provide an unredacted copy of the Email from 14 September from Sport Australia to PMO.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 36, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Farrell

**Question:**

**Senator FARRELL:** Yes, right. So, presumably, you have the original, unredacted copy of the document that Sport Australia sent to the Minister? (Email from 14 September from Sport Australia to MO)

**Mr McCann:** my understanding is that we would be able to locate that.

**Senator FARRELL:** Yes. And would you be able to provide us with a copy of that?

**Mr McCann:** We'll take that on notice Senator

**Answer:**

Refer to attachment.

**From:** Robin O'Neill  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 September 2018 5:27 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; Kate Palmer  
**Subject:** RE: Draft email for [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED],

Crikey!

As the siren has blown on grants submissions...

**Submissions have been received totalling in excess of \$393 million via 2046 individually completed applications!**

**Robin O'Neill**  
**Executive Director**  
Sport Partnerships



[REDACTED]  
[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)



---

**From:** Robin O'Neill  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 September 2018 3:45 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@health.gov.au; Kate Palmer <Kate.Palmer@ausport.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Draft email for [REDACTED]

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

I wanted to provide a quick update to thank your Office and share the success of the Sport Australia community sport infrastructure grant program.

The grant closes today and to date we have surpassed all expectations. **Submissions have been received totalling in excess of \$128M via nearly 900 individual completed applications. This is expected to increase significantly across today.**

Submissions totalling \$128M places solid demand on our total available grant funds of \$28 million and provides evidence of the need for continued, increased support to improve the provision and quality of community sport infrastructure across Australia.

The Sport Australia team have managed over 2,200 phone calls and emails supporting local clubs through the process and through this are driving our vision for Australia to be the world's most active nation. The grant is providing Sport Australia with incredible leverage to broker new partnerships; between sport and communities, with local government, state departments and schools, to ensure improved infrastructure drives greater participation opportunities.

The grant has proven to be a successful door opener, adding tangible value to the sector, facilitating cooperation amongst stakeholders and instilling confidence in the new direction of Sport Australia.

The grant is a catalyst for partnerships and is further igniting the value of Sport Australia to the sport sector and beyond.

Please thank the Minister on behalf of the team here at Sport Australia.

I look forward to providing further updates,

Robin

**Robin O'Neill**  
**Executive Director**  
Sport Partnerships



[robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:robin.oneill@sportaus.gov.au)  
[www.sportaus.gov.au](http://www.sportaus.gov.au)



**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 32**

**Question 32:** Did Sport Australia, Minister's Office and Office for Sport all have copies of the guidelines, or draft copies of the guidelines?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 37, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Farrell

**Question:**

**Mr McCann:** The grants projects, specifically with regard to this project, were developed in consultation with Sport Australia staff, the minister's office and the Office for Sport within the Department of Health.

**Senator FARRELL:** Is that the answer you gave earlier today? Is it the same answer?

**Mr McCann:** Yes.

**Senator FARRELL:** So all three organisations were involved in the drafting of these guidelines.

**Mr McCann:** I wouldn't say they were all involved in drafting. They were all involved in discussions around the formulation of what would become the guidelines.

**Senator FARRELL:** All three organisations had copies of the guidelines, or draft copies of the guidelines?

**Mr McCann:** I'd have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

All three organisations had draft copies of the guidelines throughout the preparation process.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 33**

**Question 33:** How were the guidelines for Move it AUS Participation and Move it AUS Better Aging prepared?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 37, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Farrell

**Question:**

**Senator FARRELL:** Mr Wylie referred to some other grants programs. I think he might have been referring to Move It AUS - Better Ageing and Move It AUS - Participation. Were they the two programs you were referring to earlier, Mr Wylie?

**Mr Wylie:** Yes. They are two of the recent ones.

**Senator FARRELL:** Is that how those program guidelines would have been prepared?

**Mr McCann:** I would have to go back and check our records as to how they were prepared.

**Answer:**

Both the Move It AUS Participation and Better Ageing program guidelines were developed by Sport Australia to address Sport 2030 priorities in consultation with the Ministers Office and the Office for Sport (Department of Health). Additional consultation for the Move It AUS Better Ageing program guidelines included industry experts from:

- o State and Territory Agencies for Sport and Recreation;
- o The academic sector; and
- o The aged care sector.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 35**

**Question 35:** Did Sport Australia receive any communication - written or verbal - from the PMO in relation to Sans Souci Football Club?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 39, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Gallagher

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Did you receive any communication - written or verbal - from the PMO in relation to this project?

**Mr McCann:** Not to my knowledge.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Do you want to take that on notice?

**Mr McCann:** Yes.

**Answer:**

On 4 July 2019 Sport Australia received a request for a media release and talking points, via the Federal Sports Minister's Office, for the Prime Minister's Office.

Sport Australia's media and government relations teams had follow up correspondence with the Prime Minister's Office and the Prime Minister's Electorate Office ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the venue, on 11 July, 2019.



**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 36**

**Question 36:** What date was Sport Australia made aware of the Prime Minister visiting the Sans Souci Football Club to announce the grant?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 39, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Gallagher

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Can you take on notice what dates Sport Australia was made aware of the Prime Minister visiting the Club to announce the grant?

**Answer:**

Sport Australia first became aware on 4 July, 2019, with the visit confirmed 10 July, 2019.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 37**

**Question 37:** Did any Sport Australia representatives attend Sans Souci event?

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 40, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Farrell

**Question:**

**Senator FARRELL:** Sport Australia would have had somebody at that event, would they not? (Sans Souci opening)

**Mr McCann:** Yes.

**Senator FARRELL:** Sport Australia would have had somebody at that event, would they not?

**Mr McCann:** I'll have to take that on notice. I imagine we would've.

**Answer:**

Two members of Sport Australia's media team attended the opening event.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 38**

**Question 38:** What time this announcement was made and whether Sport Australia invited the Prime Minister to open the Sans Souci Football Club project.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 40, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Abetz

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ:** Can you just confirm what time this announcement was made and whether Sport Australia invited the Prime Minister to open the project. Can you take that on notice?

**Mr McCann:** We can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The event took place on 11 July, 2019, at approximately 12.30pm. Sport Australia did not organise the event.

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Sport Australia**

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000009**

**Question Number: 39**

**Question 39:** How often has the minister exercised her discretion with Move It Participation grants? Include how many grants and what the funding amounts were.

**Type of Questions:** Hansard Page 41, 27 February 2020

**Questioner:** Senator Rice

**Question:**

**Mr McCann:** In relation to the Move It Participation grants, the minister has exercised the delegation in respect to that program.

**Senator RICE:** And how about the other one?

**Mr McCann:** No, not to my knowledge.

**Senator RICE:** How often has the minister exercised her discretion with Move It Participation?

**Mr McCann:** In the most recent round—I'll have to get the exact date—there was some discretion applied.

**Senator RICE:** Could you take on notice when, how many grants and what the funding amounts were under the program.

**Mr McCann:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

Regarding the Move It AUS Participation grant program, the former Minister for Sport exercised discretion on one occasion (03/04/2019).

On this occasion, the former Minister for Sport did not approve two of Sport Australia's recommended applicants which were large professional sports. Instead, approval went to six alternative sport and community organisations drawn from Sport Australia's original pool of applicants.