

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 16, 3 March 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000261

OUTCOME: 10 – Sport and Recreation

Topic: Sporting Schools – Costs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Peris, Nova

Question:

Has the ASC monitored the fees for sports delivered through the Sporting Schools Programs compared to fees for the same programs prior to the introduction of the Sporting Schools programs?

How have the costs set by NSOs for sport changed after the introduction of the Sporting Schools program?

Answer:

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) does collect data and monitor the cost of sport offerings within the Sporting Schools Program. The data collected and monitored does not indicate an increase in the cost of National Sporting Organisation (NSO) school offerings since the introduction of the Sporting Schools Program.

There can be some localised increases in program costs to those nationally advertised, which are generally a result of community nuances such as a regional location requiring additional travel. These costs are offset by additional grant funding provided to schools in eligible areas.

Twelve of 32 NSOs are delivering the same or similar sports offering in the Sporting Schools Program than was offered prior to the introduction of the program or is currently offered outside the Sporting Schools Program.

Outside of delivery within the Sporting Schools Program, sports have traditionally priced on a per participant basis. However, the grant structure of the Sporting Schools Program has seen a number of NSOs apply a per program cost structure. In some instances this has resulted in an overall decrease in the per participant cost.

Eighteen of the 32 NSOs have introduced new sport offerings for the Sporting Schools Program and therefore there is no comparison available.

Two of 32 NSOs are still piloting a variety of different offerings in the Program and are yet to finalise a price point whilst they investigate the success of the offerings and the feedback of children and schools.

The ASC continues to work with the NSOs to evolve the sport offerings to best meet the needs of the children, their families and schools and it is envisaged that there will continue to be price changes to sport offerings as insights are applied. It should be noted however that regardless of the variances in price points the Sporting Schools program remains free for all children.