

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 – 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000443

OUTCOME: 3 – Sport and Recreation

Topic: Women in Sport - Leadership and Participation

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

1. The Department of Health is also committed (Program 3.1, Sport and Recreation) to increasing participation in sport. Participation in sport is also linked to broader health and social inclusion goals. Can the Department point to specific expenditure items which go to increasing:
 - a. women's representation in sport leadership roles?
 - b. women's active participation in sport?
2. Does the Commonwealth Government provide funding to the Australian Sports Commission for these purposes?

Answer:

- 1 a. To address the under-representation of women in leadership positions, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) conducts the following programs or initiatives:
 - Mandatory Sports Governance Principles (MSGP) which require the top 23 funded national sporting organisations (NSO) to achieve 40 per cent female board representation. Nine out of 23 NSOs have met the target of 40 per cent female board representation and the ASC is working with the remaining 14 NSOs to develop a plan to ensure this target is achieved. Across the top 23 funded NSOs the female board representation is averaged at 39 per cent.
 - Women in Sport Leadership Register was designed to place, and has assisted in the placement of, women on boards within sport.
 - Women Leaders in Sport (WLIS) program is an Australian Government initiative managed by the ASC in partnership with the Australian Government Office for Women. The program provides women with development opportunities to reach their leadership potential in the sports industry.
 - The program has provided over 23,000 Australian women with educational and development opportunities since its initiation in 2002.
 - In 2016-17, \$330,000 in grants has been distributed through the WLIS Grants program.
 - In 2016-17, \$200,000 has been invested in *Stepping in* a new component of WLIS, targeted at identified women leaders who will undertake an intensive 12 month development opportunity to further advance their leadership capabilities.

- AIS Centre for Performance Coaching and Leadership delivers world best approaches to learning and development through the performance coach, podium coach, performance leaders program and open learning opportunities.
 - Male Champions of Change in Sport, a Chief Executive Officer led strategy to actively advance gender equality across the ASC and the sport sector. A range of initiatives have been developed as part of this strategy, including a Flexible Work pilot, Future Female Leaders program and Sponsorship of Talent program.
 - Change the Game partnership, a 12 month pilot program between the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and BlueScope aimed at creating more corporate opportunities for female athletes and improve gender diversity in sport and business. Ten athletes participated in the program in 2016.
- 1 b. To support NSOs to increase participation, the ASC encourages all NSOs to provide products and programs that are inclusive:
- In 2016-17, more than \$21 million in participation funding has been allocated to NSOs.
 - The ASC works with sports to ensure participation investment is directed towards strategic outcomes, including where participation by particular segments is core business.
 - The Sporting Schools Program is a \$160 million Australian government initiative designed to help schools increase children's participation in sport and to connect children to community sport. From July 2017, the program will expand to focus on youth participation in secondary schools, particularly girls in Years 7 and 8. The AFL, Cricket Australia, Tennis Australia and the NRL will receive an additional \$200,000 per organisation for this youth participation project.
2. The program and initiatives listed are funded through the budget allocation provided by the Commonwealth government to the ASC. In addition to this funding, the Australian Government Office for Women co-invests in the WLIS program.