

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000926

OUTCOME: 3 – Sport and Recreation

Topic: Sporting Schools

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Don Farrell

Question:

a) Are you aware that the program is being run in a way that is threatening to put some long-standing providers of school sport out of business? b) Are you aware the program is being run in a way that is making it impossible for schools to run preferred, existing programs?

Answer:

a) The ASC has received two official complaints from private providers who attribute a decline in the profitability of their business to the implementation of the Sporting Schools program. One of these complainants is endorsed to deliver Sporting Schools programs on behalf of the respective National Sporting Organisation (NSO). The other is currently seeking endorsement for their affiliated organisations from the respective NSO.

With regards to the NSO endorsed provider, the NSO that has provided endorsement has indicated that the Sporting Schools program has generated over 1,500 coaching hours and \$190,000 in revenue for this private provider over the past two years. The ASC has been encouraging the NSO and the complainant to work together to resolve the issues identified by the complainant.

With regards to the complainant seeking endorsement for its affiliates, the ASC has been working closely with the relevant NSO and the complainant to remove the perceived barriers to endorsement. The ASC expects NSOs, as a condition of being a program partner, to make decisions on endorsement on the basis of ensuring the quality and safety of delivered programs and not any extraneous considerations. All NSOs are aware of such expectations.

In designing Sporting Schools, the ASC made the policy decision to collaborate with the selected NSOs, as the recognised peak bodies and custodians for their sports within Australia, for several reasons including:

- the NSOs' ability to deliver a consistent and quality experience for program participants across Australia;
- the NSOs' ability to leverage their aligned workforce across Australia; and

- the NSOs' and their aligned organisations' ability to allow participants to move from the Sporting Schools program into their sports' community sport offerings to facilitate ongoing participation.

b) The Sporting Schools program was not designed for schools to supplement existing programs with government funds. Rather, the program has been designed to encourage schools to add additional sport-based activity that is complementary to their existing Health & Physical Education (HPE) curriculum.

An independent evaluation of the Sporting Schools program by Orima Research (conducted across Term 3 and Term 4, 2016), noted that:

- Feedback on Sporting Schools is very positive, especially from the school sector. The majority of school staff, including internal coaches, strongly endorse Sporting Schools. On a scale from zero (very unlikely to recommend Sporting Schools to others) to 10 (very likely to recommend Sporting Schools to others) the average score for teachers was 9.3
- Positive reactions to Sporting Schools among school staff can be traced to a perception that Sporting Schools is enhancing existing HPE curriculum, particularly where the school does not have a specialist PE teacher.