

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 – 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000512

**OUTCOME:** 3 – Sport and Recreation

**Topic:** Sporting Schools

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Don Farrell

**Question:**

Could you please outline any issues that have arisen with the on-the-ground delivery of the program?

**Answer:**

The Sporting Schools program (SSP) has been well received by all stakeholders and particularly by schools. The positive response to the program has been traced by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) research to a genuine belief that SSP is benefitting children, a view that it is enhancing school curriculum and the perception that the program is inclusive. Whilst implementing a new program always results in some challenges, SSP has achieved all milestones and is on track to achieve its target of 5,760 funded schools by June 2017.

The ASC is addressing an issue regarding the SSP delivery model, in relation to the policy requiring non-aligned organisations to seek National Sporting Organisation (NSO) endorsement. The ASC's policy position empowers each NSO to determine the best placed organisations to deliver their sport based on ensuring an age appropriate, safe and quality experience for all participants.

The ASC expects NSOs to make decisions on endorsement on the basis of ensuring the quality and safety of delivered programs (and the ASC has advised relevant NSOs of this expectation).

Complaints regarding the issue of endorsement have arisen in only three of the 32 sports that participate in SSP. The ASC has liaised regularly with the small number of NSOs that have been subject to this concern.

The issue of endorsement within the sport sector is a longstanding one and is often linked to quality assurance/coach accreditation, the role of NSOs in providing such assurance/accreditation and the commercial imperatives of non-NSO aligned sporting organisations.