

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Sports Agencies

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority

Question: PM54

Asked By: Senator XENOPHON

Topic: ASADA's protocols

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA page, 129-130, 21 February 2011

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Number of pages: 2

Senator XENOPHON—There is a concern as to whether ASADA is merely providing a service to professional sports rather than being a regulator. In other words, are you satisfied as to the rigour of that testing regime?

Is it sufficiently random to appropriately assess the level of doping in sports or to ensure that you are catching the cheats?

You give notice of some tests, do you not?

Answer:

- ASADA's anti-doping program incorporates a scientific and intelligence driven targeted Test Distribution Plan, involving In Competition (IC) and Out of Competition testing, with a strong emphasis on No Advance Notice (NAN) doping control.
- The ASADA anti-doping program for all sports adheres to the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) and the International Standard for Testing (IST). Strict adherence to the Code and Standards is required to uphold the integrity of the process and resulting analysis.
- Except in exceptional circumstances, ASADA conducts all testing on a No Advance Notice basis. During 2009-2010, 99% of all testing was conducted with No Advance Notice to the athlete or sport. Three tests were conducted on an Advance Notice basis primarily because the location of the athletes in a regional area required firm arrangements to be put in place to ensure testing occurred.
- The programs ASADA designs for the professional sports are based using intelligence to ensure the most efficient and targeted testing. The program also encompasses the principles of No Advance Notice testing.

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- ASADA works closely with professional sports in relation to matters such as the numbers and types of tests and events that testing should be conducted under their User Pays contracts.
- Whilst User Pay contracts usually stipulate a fixed number of tests to be conducted In and Out of Competition, the distribution of those tests and the selection of athletes is organised and conducted independently by ASADA.
- In addition, a greater percentage of testing is in the form of Out of Competition testing. The 2009-10 and Year to Date (YTD) numbers confirm that 70% of testing undertaken under user pay arrangements were done Out of Competition where the “who, when and where” are solely determined by ASADA.
- In addition, ASADA maintains its ability to test any athlete anywhere, any time. All user pay contracts contain a clause which recognises ASADA’s ability to undertake additional testing. If ASADA obtains new information about a sport or determines that there is a gap in any User Pays program for a professional sport, it will conduct Government Funded testing as required. An example of this occurred with the NRL in 2010 when ASADA identified a gap in the NRL testing program and conducted large numbers of Government Funded tests in addition to the NRL’s User Pays contract.
- During 2010, ASADA announced the signing of the AFL and the NRLs’ most comprehensive programs incorporating Human Growth Hormone and CERA-EPO testing for the first time in a User Pays contract in Australia.
- The agreements demonstrate ASADA’s ongoing commitment and dedication to work closely with sports to develop world-leading programs and the commitment of professional sports like AFL and NRL to achieve pure performance in sport.