

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 12 February 2013

Question: 164

Topic: Investigation into Drug Use in Australian Sport

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 143

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ:When was ASADA first made aware that the Australian Crime Commission was conducting an investigation into drug use in Australian sport?

Mr Eccles: We will send that to ASADA, but it is fair to say that they were involved. It was the early exchange of information at the very beginning of the project that led to the joint agreement that there was something worth pursuing. So we are looking at well over 12 months ago. I will need to check; it was before my involvement.

Senator ABETZ: Take it on notice.

Answer:

Project Aperiio commenced in February 2012.

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Question: 165

Topic: Budget Cuts at ASADA

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 143

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ: Has ASADA had any budget cuts in recent times?

Mr Eccles: We would need to refer that to ASADA; we will take that one on notice. But there is none that springs to mind.

Answer:

ASADA has been subject to the Targeted savings – public service efficiencies measure included in the 2012-13 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) update and reported in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Update. The savings measure impact on ASADA was \$45,000 for 2012-13, and \$41,000 per annum over the forward estimates.

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Question: 166

Topic: Positive Drug Tests

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 143

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator BACK: Can I ask who the catalyst was? Was ASADA or the ACC the catalyst for the decision to go ahead and—

Mr Eccles: I think it is fair to say that it was a discussion about vulnerabilities. They have a regular interaction, as you would imagine, and it was some information that ASADA had that they shared with the Crime Commission, and the Crime Commission were able to essentially put two and two together and they identified a joint work program and essentially Project Aperio was—

Senator BACK: ASADA's was on the basis of positive drug tests?

Mr Eccles: They do not just gather information through positive drug tests, but it is something that we should take on notice and get their details—

Senator BACK: Okay. I will defer to Senator Abetz.

Senator ABETZ: If you could take that on notice, I would be obliged.

Answer:

The ACC was the catalyst.

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Question: 167

Topic: ASADA Guidelines for Drug Testing

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 143

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Senator ABETZ: Can somebody provide us with an explanation as to why an Olympic gold medallist like Sally Pearson told us on the weekend that she was drug tested 11 times last year outside of competition, yet professional footballers may be tested only once or not at all in a whole season? How did that evolve or happen?

Mr Eccles: That is a question for ASADA. ASADA's guidelines will be able to steer you to that answer.

Answer:

Under the World Anti-Doping Code each anti-doping organisation with testing jurisdiction must develop a plan for the efficient and effective allocation of its testing resources across the different sports under its jurisdiction, and across the different disciplines within a sport. Under the Code's International Standard for Testing, this is referred to as a 'Test Distribution Plan'.

Whilst developing a Test Distribution Plan ASADA, and other anti-doping organisations, must as a minimum evaluate the potential risk of doping and possible doping pattern for each sport and/or discipline based on:

- The physical demands of the sport and/or discipline and possible performance-enhancing effect that doping may elicit
- Available doping analysis statistics
- Available research on doping trends
- The history of doping in the sport and/or discipline
- Training periods and the Competition calendar; and
- Information received on possible doping practices.

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In developing testing plans across all sports, the International Standard for Testing references to make 'Target testing a priority' using the aforementioned principles. The resultant effect of this being that athlete test selections are weighted towards higher risk athletes and sports.

The ASADA Test Distribution Plan adheres to the International Standard for Testing for all sports, be it Professional Leagues under contract to ASADA or those in receipt of Government appropriated funded test programs.

It is not unusual for a professional sport to have more than 400 elite first grade players that are subjected to the ASADA testing program whereas in comparison for any one particular Olympic sport there may be less than 100 Australian athletes at the elite level.

During 2011-2012 conducted 3,996 Government Funded tests across 45 sports and 3,200 user-pays on professional and international sports.

Without commenting on individual athletes, top ranking elite Olympic athletes in the lead up to major games, such as the "Olympic Games" are subjected to an extensive targeted testing program by both ASADA and the athlete's respective International Federations (IF).

In the lead up to the London Olympic Games ASADA tested every athlete representing Australia at the Games at least once. 245 athletes were tested 2 times while 136 athletes were tested 3 or more times.

Similarly although some Professional sporting athletes were either tested once or less during 2011-2012, other players were tested more than 7 times during the same period

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Question: 168

Topic: Budget Cuts from Sports Anti-Drug Initiatives

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

The 2011-12 Budget cut \$5.6 million from sport anti-drug initiatives, including the research component of the Sport Anti-Doping program. Was any of that research into peptides or other substances named in the ACC report?

Answer:

The reduction of the Sport Anti-Doping Program (SADP) funding was \$0.2 million a year totalling \$0.8 million over four years from 2010-11.

There was no research funded in 2011-12 involving substances mentioned in the ACC report.

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Question: 169

Topic: Impact of budget cuts on ASADA operational ability

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

What impact have the Government's cuts in 2011 and 2012 to funding for anti-drugs in sport programs had on ASADA's operational ability? i.e. has ASADA been forced to shed staff, reduce capacity, etc?

Answer:

ASADA's anti-doping operational capability remained unchanged in 2011 and 2012.

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Question: 170

Topic: Office for Sport knowledge of ACC investigation

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

When was the Office for Sport first made aware that the Australian Crime Commission was conducting an investigation into drug use in Australian sport?

Answer:

The Office for Sport was made aware of the Australian Crime Commission investigation on 23 August 2012.

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Question: 171

Topic: Cuts to Anti-Drugs in Sport Programs

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Why did the Government cut funding for anti-drugs in sport programs while ASADA and the ACC were investigating allegations of widespread drug use in Australian sport?

Answer:

The Government's decision to reduce funding for the Illicit Drugs in Sport program in 2012-13 took into account the reduced call on funds provided under the program.

This reduction in funding will not affect the activities of ASADA, nor the Government's overall support for anti-doping.

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Question: 172

Topic: Briefing of State Ministers on Project Aperio

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Why were State Sport Ministers not offered a briefing on Project Aperio around the same time as the heads of the major sporting codes?

Answer:

Minister Lundy provided preliminary advice on the Project Aperio investigation to her state and territory colleagues by phone prior to the release of the Project Aperio investigation findings. A formal confidential briefing was provided to State and Territory Sport and Recreation Ministers by the Australian Crime Commission on 14 February 2013.

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Question: 173

Topic: CEOs attendance at Project Aperiio press conference

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

1. Did the Minister for Sport personally ask the CEO of the NRL to attend the joint press conference with the ACC, ASADA, and the Ministers for Justice and Sport?
If so, on what date?
2. Did the Minister for Sport personally ask the CEO of the AFL to attend the joint press conference with the ACC, ASADA, and the Ministers for Justice and Sport?
If so, on what date?
3. Did the Minister for Sport personally ask the CEO of the ARU to attend the joint press conference with the ACC, ASADA, and the Ministers for Justice and Sport?
If so, on what date?
4. Did the Minister for Sport personally ask the CEO of the FFA to attend the joint press conference with the ACC, ASADA, and the Ministers for Justice and Sport?
If so, on what date?
5. Did the Minister for Sport personally ask the CEO of COMPPS to attend the joint press conference with the ACC, ASADA, and the Ministers for Justice and Sport?
If so, on what date?

Answer:

1. No
2. No
3. No
4. No. The Minister spoke with the CEO of the FFA on 6 February, to alert him to the serious nature of issues at hand, on the basis that the CEO had not been able to attend the COMPPS briefing provided by the ACC.
5. No

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Question: 174

Topic: Grant to Asian Football Confederation

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

2012 MYEFO notes that DRALGAS is giving the Asian Football Confederation \$4.2 million as a grant, in connection with the Asian Football Cup. Why? What is the grant for?

Answer:

Government guarantees were entered into by the Australian Government in 2010 to secure the right to host the 2015 Asian Cup. This included a \$4.2 million grant to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to help offset costs for participating federations in connection with the 2015 Asian Cup.

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Question: 175

Topic: Financial assistance for 2015 Asian Cup

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Page 261-262 of MYEFO outlines the assistance to be provided by the Australian Government in relation to the 2015 Asian Football Cup and notes that the cost of these measures will be offset by a provision in the Contingency Reserve. Was the provision set aside in the Contingency Reserve sufficient to offset the entire \$55.7 million cost of the measures?

Answer:

Yes.