

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Sports Commission

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 62

Topic: Use of *Body Politics*

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 130

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ: Have you ever used the firm called Body Politics?

Mr Hollingsworth: I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The ASC has no record in its financial management system of a payment to the firm called Body Politics.

An employee of the firm has advised that some consultancy work was undertaken for the ASC in the late 1980s.

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Australian Sports Commission

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Question: 63

Topic: Team Building Costs

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 130

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 4

Senator ABETZ: Has the ASC paid for any trips for so-called team building or so-called forward planning in the last couple of years?

Mr Hollingsworth: Again, I would have to take the question on notice.

Senator ABETZ: If you could do that for me. Could we be provided with details of the number of attendees and all expenditures incurred in relation to each of these trips?

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Answer:

The table below lists trips paid for by the ASC which included aspects of “team building” or “forward planning”, in the period 1 January 2011 to 30 September 2012.

The vast majority of the costs relate to the activities of the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program. The dispersed nature of AASC employees (70 offices around the country, including 33 single-person offices) means that face-to-face team events invariably involve expenses for employee travel and accommodation. While all of the AASC meetings in the table below included aspects of team building and forward planning, the meetings were also focussed on day-to-day operational issues such as educating staff on process enhancements to improve program efficiency, and ensuring national consistency in program delivery.

Date of trip	Area	Purpose	Number of ASC attendees	Total cost to the ASC	Components of cost
21-22 March 2011	AIS Performance Psychology	Staff planning exercise	7	\$4200	Flights, accommodation, meals
12-13 April 2011	Australian Sports Foundation	Planning and professional development	6	\$4200	Venue hire, accommodation, catering
10-13 May 2011	AASC National Office	National management team meeting	8	\$8748	Airfares, accommodation and catering

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22-23 June 2011	Information Management and Technology Services	Planning days	35	\$14186	Travel, accommodation, meals, facilitation
25-26 August	Funding, Sports Planning and Review	Workshop	24	\$7750	Venue hire, catering, accommodation
18-19 October 2011	AIS Performance Psychology	Staff planning exercise	6	\$2550	Flights, accommodation, meals
2-3 November 2011	Australian Sports Foundation	Planning and professional development	6	\$4350	Venue hire, accommodation, catering
15-16 November 2011	Sports Development Division	Planning day	32	\$9338	Venue hire, catering, accommodation
9-11 April 2012	AIS Performance Psychology	Staff planning exercise	7	\$4798	Flights, accommodation, meals
17-18 May 2012	Sports Development Division	Planning day	33	\$8999	Venue hire, catering, accommodation
12-13 July 2012	Sports Performance and Planning	Planning day	18	\$4816	Venue hire, catering, accommodation

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Various (8 separate events)	AASC Eastern Zone (NSW/ACT)	State conferences; State management team meetings; Regional team meetings	Range from 8 to 59	\$48,769	Airfares, accommodation, venue hire, catering and professional development
Various (4 separate events)	AASC South West (WA/SA)	State conferences; State management team meetings; Regional team meetings	Range from 6 to 20	\$32,258	Airfares, accommodation, venue hire, catering and professional development
Various (11 separate events)	AASC Southern (VIC/TAS)	State conferences; State management team meetings; Regional team meetings	Range from 6 to 51	\$100,250	Airfares, accommodation, venue hire, catering and professional development
Various (13 separate events)	AASC Northern (QLD/NT)	State conferences; State management team meetings; Regional team meetings	Range from 6 to 33	\$102,116	Airfares, accommodation, venue hire, catering and professional development

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Question: 64

Topic: *Australian Sport: the pathway to success* report - Sport and Education Strategy

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

The following questions relate to the Government's policy document "*Australian Sport: the Pathway to Success*", which can be found on the ASC website at:

http://www.ausport.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/368597/Australian_Sport_the_pathway_to_success.pdf

1. Has the Government developed a Sport and Education strategy, as promised on page 2 of "*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*"?

If so, is the strategy consistent with the Government's decision to reduce funding for the Active After School Communities program in the 2012-13 Budget, relative to previous years?

Answer:

A health and physical education stream is being progressed as part of the Australian curriculum being developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. The Government is considering further options to ensure a greater focus on sport in schools through a Sport and Education Strategy.

Both the number of students and facilities covered by the AASC have remained steady over recent years.

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Question: 65

Topic: Funding agreements with NSO's

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. Does the ASC now require an increased focus on participation as part of funding agreements with NSO's, as promised on page 2 of "*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*"?
2. What are the tangible outcomes expected of NSO's with respect to the "increased focus on participation outcomes" referred to in "*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*"? How are these outcomes being measured?
3. With one very minor exception, every National Sporting Organisation received the same participation-related grant in 2012-13 that it did in 2011-12. Did every NSO achieve its participation targets in 2011-12? If so, should the targets be more ambitious? If not, why was funding not reduced to the underperforming NSOs?
4. How many direct grants to community clubs have been disbursed, as promised on page 2 of "*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*"? What is the total value of the grants? Please provide a list of grant recipients, the value of each grant, and the purpose of each grant.

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Expected outcomes include an increase in the participation numbers based on the NSO's own participation plans and targets. The targets are measured through the Australian Sport Commission's Annual Sports Performance Review using a national reporting framework agreed with all states and territories.
3. 2011-12 was the first full financial year that new participation funding was available to NSOs. Not every NSO achieved their performance target in 2011-12.

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Funding was not reduced to many NSOs, as participation programs are in many cases in the formative stages of development and reduction in funding at this time would severely impact the sports capacity to contribute to future participation increases.

4. Through *the Pathway to Success*, an additional \$11.3 million was allocated annually to National Sport Organisations (NSOs) for participation outcomes. The additional funding now forms part of the annual participation grants to NSOs. A decision was taken to provide all of the additional funding to NSOs rather than some of the funding being provided directly to community clubs. Funding NSOs for participation outcomes is considered the most effective strategic investment for the ASC. The funding is spent in accordance with each NSO's participation strategy and performance against the strategy is assessed as part of the Australian Sports Commission's Annual Sport Performance Review process.

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Question: 66

Topic: Assistance to Coaches

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

What new funding, training, support, and mentoring programs have been introduced to assist coaches as promised on page 2 of “*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*”?

Answer:

Success Profile for High Performance Coaches

The AIS has developed a *Success Profile for High Performance Coaches* and, in partnership with the National Institute Network (NIN) and National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), has profiled over 130 coaches across 18 sports. Areas of strength and development needs were identified for each coach, and development plans actioned, leading to significant advancement in coaching practice and leadership.

Coach forums

The AIS also facilitates a number of coach forums, both formal and informal, which bring coaches together to hear from world leading experts (Podium Coach Forums) and/or share their experiences and challenges (Coach Exchanges). Forums have also been conducted, in partnership with the Australian Olympic Committee, to help prepare Australia’s Olympic coaches for the London Games and to debrief them afterwards.

Coaching study tours

The AIS recently partnered with the AOC and the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) in a new initiative aimed at better preparing our future Olympic and Paralympic coaches for their first Games.

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The International Coach Study Tour provided 14 identified coaches with a focussed development program culminating in either an Olympic or Paralympic experience where they were able to observe and meet with coaches, view training sessions, attend competition and reflect as a group. This provided great insight into the high pressure and unique environment of a Games and what they are likely to face in Rio and future Games.

National Coaching Scholarship Program

The National Coaching Scholarship Program provides an accelerated two year development program for potential high performance coaches, with many graduates having advanced to high-level coaching positions. This program provides the platform for a new strategic direction for developing high performance coaching and leadership in Australia. From 2013, the new approach will focus on improving the professional development of our high performance coaches and performance leaders and will drive the research that underpins this. It will also reach a broader range (potential international through to world class) and a larger number of coaches.

Australia's Winning Edge

Announced in November 2012, the *Winning Edge* is the ASC's plan for moving Australian sport from world class to world best.

A key aspect of the *Winning Edge* is the establishment of the AIS Centre for Performance Coaching and Leadership, which will improve and formalise a pathway designed for professional development for our high performance coaches and sport leaders.

In addition, the ASC will create a competitive funding pool for sports to promote innovative initiatives to attract, retain and develop coaching and high performance personnel. The ASC will contribute up to \$1.5 million per annum to this initiative.

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Question: 67

Topic: Coaching and officiating training opportunities

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. Has the Sports Commission provided 45,000 additional coaching and officiating training opportunities since the release of “*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*”? If so, what was the nature of the training opportunities provided? If not, when will the 45,000 target be reached?
2. What is the total value of subsidies available to help with costs for training 5000 new community coaches and officials, as noted on page 2 of “*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*”? How many coaches and officials have accessed the subsidies?

Answer:

1. Since the release of *Pathway to success*, over 60,000 individuals have completed the Beginning Coaching General Principles and Community Coach Training Program provided by the Commission online. In addition, more than 11,000 have completed the online Introductory Level Officiating General Principles course.
2. This training is provided free of charge to the user. The cost to the Commission, depending on numbers of people accessing courses, is between \$3 and \$5 per person.

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Question: 68

Topic: ASC Talent ID Program

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. Has the talent ID program been doubled, as promised on page 2 of “Australian Sport: the pathway to success”?
2. Where is the additional talent being sought?
3. Has the ASC employed additional talent scouts?

Answer:

1. Through *Australian Sport: the pathway to success*, an additional \$23 million was allocated annually to National Sport Organisations (NSOs) for high performance outcomes including talent ID. In the first year this new funding was received, over \$5.7 million (25 per cent) was allocated by NSOs to deliver enhanced programs to develop potentially elite athletes.

This additional funding now forms part of the annual high performance grants to NSOs, which are spent in accordance with each NSO’s high performance strategy and will vary from year to year based on NSO needs. The performance of each NSO in delivering outcomes against their plan is assessed as part of the Australian Sport Commission’s (ASC) Annual Sport Performance Review process.

Through this process, the ASC does not specifically seek information on the size of NSOs’ talent identification programs but rather the effectiveness of each NSOs talent identification and development systems. Performance is measured against achievement of higher level targets identified in each NSO’s high performance strategy.

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2 & 3.

Following *Australian Sport: the pathway to success*, the ASC, through the AIS, adopted a new approach towards national talent identification and development. Rather than direct delivery on national talent identification initiatives, the AIS moved to a capability building role by providing resources and advice to NSOs to support them to implement their own initiatives and programs in the development of targeted athletes in order to bridge gaps in their talent development pathways. Collectively the programs run by NSO seek to identify talent from across the country.

Announced in November 2012, the *Winning Edge* is the ASC's new high performance strategy and seeks to move Australia from world class to world best. As part of the strategy, it was announced that the AIS will complement NSOs' talent identification programs by conducting its own activities, including an annual 'Sports Draft' and 'Second Chance' programs for Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sports. The ASC will allocate an additional \$2 million per annum to these initiatives.

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Question: 69

Topic: Sporting Role Models

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. In “Australian Sport: the pathway to success”, and Government commits to introducing a new program to enable our current and retired athletes to use their position as sporting role models to give back to the community or assist the development of aspiring sports men and women. Has this program been implemented?
2. If so, what is this program called?
3. How many former athletes are engaged with the program?
4. What is the cost of the program?
5. What is the nature of the activities undertaken through the program?

Answer:

1. Yes
2. AIS Athlete Volunteer Scheme.
3. Data is collected annually. From the 2011-12 athlete cohort, 46 per cent of AIS athletes were involved in volunteer activities.
4. Support for this program is provided through the existing resources of the Athlete Career and Education Program and AIS Sport Programs.
5. The range of activities have included:
 - sporting clubs – officiating, coaching, clinics, presentation functions;
 - charities – hospital visits, fundraising activities;
 - athlete mentoring programs;
 - community services – country fire service, indigenous community visits, flood relief efforts, surf life saving patrol, Red Shield Appeal, animal welfare, homeless shelters, childcare community services;
 - state government programs – sporting challenges; and
 - schools – public speaking, school gala days.

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Question: 70

Topic: Role of Volunteers

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

In “*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*”, and Government commits to recognising the critical role of volunteers to our entire sports system and introducing measures to support, subsidise and reward their efforts.

1. What measures have been introduced to support sport-related volunteers?
2. What measures have been introduced to subsidise sport-related volunteering activities? What is the total value of these subsidies provided in the 2011-12 financial year?
3. What measures have been introduced to reward sport-related volunteers?

Answer:

1-3. Through *Australian Sport: the pathway to success*, an additional \$11.3 million was allocated annually to National Sport Organisations (NSOs) for participation outcomes. This additional funding now forms part of the annual participation grants to NSOs, which are spent in accordance with each NSO’s participation plan.

Ultimately, NSOs and their affiliated organisations have responsibility for looking after volunteers, who are the lifeblood of sports across Australia. The additional participation funding provided through *Australian Sport: the pathway to success*, in part, helps NSOs to develop strategies and programs to support, subsidise and reward the efforts of volunteers. The effectiveness of these strategies and programs is assessed as part of the Commission’s Annual Sport Performance Review process.

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Question: 71

Topic: Funding to Retain High Performance Coaches

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

How much additional funding has been delivered to retain high performance coaches, as noted on page 2 of "*Australian Sport: the pathway to success*"?

Answer:

Through *Australian Sport: the Pathway to Success*, an additional \$23 million was allocated annually to National Sport Organisations (NSOs) for high performance outcomes. In the first year this new funding was received, over \$3.8 million (16 per cent) was allocated by NSOs to recruit, develop and retain coaches at all levels of the elite athlete pathway.

This additional funding now forms part of the annual high performance grants to NSOs, which are spent in accordance with each NSO's high performance strategy and will vary from year to year based on NSO needs. The performance of each NSO in delivering outcomes against their plan is assessed as part of the Australian Sport Commission's Annual Sport Performance Review process.

Announced in November 2012, the *Winning Edge* is the ASC's plan for moving Australian sport from world class to world best. A key aspect of the *Winning Edge* is the establishment of the AIS Centre for Performance Coaching and Leadership, which will improve and formalise a pathway designed for professional development for our high performance coaches and sport leaders.

In addition, the ASC will create a competitive funding pool for sports to promote innovative initiatives to attract, retain and develop coaching and high performance personnel. The ASC will contribute up to \$1.5 million per annum to this initiative.

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Question: 72

Topic: Costs incurred by ASC for London Olympics

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

1. What was the total of all expenses incurred by the ASC directly related to the London Olympics, including:
 - a. Flights (please provide the total number of round trip flights to London paid for by the Sports Commission, including a breakdown of first class, business class, premium economy, and economy flights, and any other Olympics-related flights including Australian domestic flights and flights within Europe.)
 - b. Accommodation (please provide the total cost of accommodation paid by the Sports Commission for athletes, coaches, officials, supporters, family, etc)
 - c. Transfers and Transportation costs. (Please provide the total cost of all transfers and transport paid for by the Sports Commission, including airport transfers and public transport passes.)
 - d. Expenses and Allowances (Please provide the total cost of all expenses not included in the above three categories, including meal allowances, luggage allowances, clothing and laundry allowances, communications costs, and any other expenses incurred by the Sports Commission directly relating to the London Olympics.)

Answer:

a. Flights:

- i. First Class: Number of Flights = 0.
- ii. Business Class: Number of Flights = 2. Cost = \$24,264
- iii. Premium Economy: Number of Flights = 0.
- iv. Economy: Number of Flights = 4. Cost = \$8,448

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- b. Accommodation:** \$31,229
- c. Transfers and Transportation Costs:** \$730
- d. Expenses and Allowances:** \$143,868. This amount includes \$90,000 that was provided to the Australian Olympic Committee for the 'Green and Gold Room', and \$25,000 that was provided to Rowing Australia to support athlete accommodation.

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Question: 73

Topic: Costs incurred by ASC for London Paralympics

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

What was the total of all expenses incurred by the ASC directly related to the London Paralympics, including:

- a. Flights (please provide the total number of round trip flights to London paid for by the Sports Commission, including a breakdown of first class, business class, premium economy, and economy flights, and any other Paralympics-related flights including Australian domestic flights and flights within Europe.)
- b. Accommodation (please provide the total cost of accommodation paid by the Sports Commission for athletes, coaches, officials, supporters, family, etc)
- c. Transfers and Transportation costs. (Please provide the total cost of all transfers and transport paid for by the Sports Commission, including airport transfers and public transport passes.)
- d. Expenses and Allowances (Please provide the total cost of all expenses not included in the above three categories, including meal allowances, luggage allowances, clothing and laundry allowances, communications costs, and any other expenses incurred by the Sports Commission directly relating to the London Paralympics.)

Answer:

- a. Flights:
 - i. First Class: Number of Flights = 0.
 - ii. Business Class: Number of Flights = 3. Cost = \$28,007
 - iii. Premium Economy: Number of Flights = 0.
 - iv. Economy: Number of Flights = 0.

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- b. Accommodation: \$9,867
- c. Transfers and Transportation Costs: \$0
- d. Expenses and Allowances: \$20,664