

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 44

Topic: Crawford Review Recommendations

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: RRA&T 133

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

Number of pages: 1

Senator HUMPHRIES: If you decide not to do what they recommend and do something different I am happy with that. I just want to know if that is the case or not. That is all I am asking. If a specific recommendation were made, for example, for 5,000 additional new community coaches and officials, and you have done something different with different money, that is fine. I just want to know what it is that you have actually done. That is all I am asking.

Senator Lundy: That is just a matter of looking at the Crawford review and then looking at Pathway to Success. We are happy to go through it in detail here, but it is all a matter of public record and it has been on the public record for several years.

Senator HUMPHRIES: As I say, I did not think that you had put on the record exactly whether you had implemented these recommendations or not, but perhaps I will put this on notice

Answer:

The Government's response to the report of the Independent Sport Panel led by Mr David Crawford is contained in its direction paper *Australian Sport: the pathway to success*. The Government's response was released in 2010 and is available at: http://www.ausport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/368597/Australian_Sport_the_pathway_to_success.pdf.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 45

Topic: Debt Forgiveness

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 the last five years, has the Commonwealth Government forgiven debts owed to the Commonwealth by any sporting organisation, with the exception of the \$4.0 million debt held by FFA as noted on page 265 of MYEFO? If so, please list each instance where debt has been forgiven, the organisation for which the debt was forgiven, and the amount of the debt forgiven, including any interest forgone.

Answer:

A debt of \$86,900 to the Australian Paralympic Committee was forgiven by the Australian Sports Commission in 2011-12. There was no interest forgone.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 46

Topic: Grant to GWS Giants

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. Was a funding application received in relation to the \$2 million grant to the GWS Giants AFL club?
2. If so, when was the application received?
3. Was the grant made under a particular Government grants program, or was the grant a one-off payment?
4. According to MYEFO, the \$2 million grant is contingent on contributions from the NSW Government and the AFL. Were those contributions made, as at 1 July 2012? If not, was it appropriate to pay the grant to the GWS Giants in 2011-12 before the contributions from the NSW Government and AFL were received?
5. Did the Office for Sport provide advice in relation to the grant to the GWS Giants? If so, on what date was advice first sought?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Discussions were held with the GWS Giants AFL Club and the AFL in March. A concept plan was provided in support of an application for funding on 29 March.
3. A one-off payment.
4. At the time the Commonwealth made its contribution, there were firm financial commitments from the NSW Government and the AFL.
5. Yes. Advice was first sought in early May.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 47

Topic: Major Sporting Events Taskforce

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. Prior to the allocation of \$2.8 million to the Major Sporting Events Taskforce in MYEFO, what was the annual budget for the taskforce?
2. How many FTE staff positions work in the Taskforce?
3. Please provide the terms of reference for the Major Sporting Events Taskforce?
4. What are the objectives of the Major Sporting Events Taskforce?
5. What are the criteria applied by the Department to determine which sporting events are considered 'major' and therefore provided assistance by the Taskforce?
6. To which sporting events is the Taskforce currently providing advice and/or assistance?
7. Which other Commonwealth and State Government agencies are represented on the Taskforce?

Answer:

1. Prior to the allocation of \$2.8 million to the Major Sporting Events Taskforce in MYEFO, the annual budget supporting major events was \$1.1 million per year over three years.
2. Up until November 2012, there were five FTE staff positions. This will be increased by a further six as a result of additional funding provided pursuant to MYEFO of \$2.8 million.
3. & 4.

The Major Events Taskforce has been established within DRALGAS to coordinate the Australian Government's involvement in the 2015 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup, the 2015 International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup, and the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

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Its role is to coordinate the operational support the Commonwealth will provide in support of these events and to coordinate with state and territory governments.

The Taskforce works closely with the organising committees to ensure event planning is closely aligned with operational planning.

5. The Taskforce plays a role in those events which require Commonwealth operational support (e.g. national security, immigration support, commercial rights protection) as part of their delivery.
6. The Cricket World Cup 2015, the 2015 AFC Asian Cup and the Gold Coast City 2018 Commonwealth Games.
7. The Taskforce comprises DRALGAS employees and is not representational. A governance framework exists which provides for the Taskforce to work closely with other Commonwealth agencies and state governments.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 48

Topic: Bellerive Oval

Asked By: Senator BUSHBY

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

1. Are you aware if any stakeholder privy to the Federal Government's \$15 million contribution to the upgrade of Bellerive Oval also known as Blundstone Arena, (whether Cricket Tasmania, the Tasmanian government, or a Labor Senator or Member) has requested more than that amount?
2. Are you aware of any discussions or negotiations with the AFL for funding?
3. Were there any conditions on the \$15 million provided to Cricket Tasmania? If so, what were they?
4. When do you anticipate the redevelopment will be completed?

Answer:

1. No
2. The Department is aware of discussions between Cricket Tasmania and the AFL but has not been involved in any negotiations.
3. The funding has been provided to Cricket Tasmania through a standard funding agreement. Conditions include provision of progress reports, a final report and an independently audited statement of expenditure.
4. The \$15 million development is scheduled to be completed by August 2014.