

Sport Australia statement regarding the Final Report of the Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Sports Grants

19 March 2021

The Australian Sports Commission acknowledges the findings in the *Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Sports Grants Final Report* and we are considering the recommendations directed to Sport Australia.

In administering the Community Sport Infrastructure (CSI) grant program, our organisation ran a thorough, independent, merit-based assessment process of over 2,000 applications, under tight deadlines. Sport Australia notes the overwhelmingly positive impact the CSI program has had on supporting new and improved community sport infrastructure across our nation.

I personally want to acknowledge the work of our staff who continue to implement this important program. At all levels, our organisation is made up of hard working, competent and highly professional people who are deeply committed to advocating the benefits of sport and physical activity to all Australians.

We have always been committed to being a best practice Commonwealth Corporate Entity. The ANAO report and the subsequent Inquiry by the Senate Select Committee have provided opportunities for us to strengthen our practices regarding grant management, tighten internal processes and ensure we continue to manage all our grants programs in accordance with relevant policies and frameworks. Indeed, we have resolved to adopt additional measures over and above the ANAO recommendations to further strengthen our internal procedures.

Sport Australia, including our Board of Commissioners, are also committed to the highest standards for governance and oversight and we pride ourselves on the example we set for the Australian sports sector. We continue to actively promote and support sound governance practices amongst our sporting organisations and such leadership depends on setting a clear and accountable example, which Sport Australia works tirelessly to exhibit in all activities.

We are still reviewing the report in full, but there are a few errors we have identified that I would like to correct:

- The final report states that the committee was unable to access “emails and/or messages forming both direct and indirect representations from the Prime Minister’s office to Sport Australia”. I can confirm that Sport Australia has provided copies of *all* communication between Sport Australia and the PMO to the inquiry through its responses to questions on notice;
- The final report also states that “Sport Australia failed to provide the minister with a list of recommended applicants for Rounds 2 and 3” but Sport Australia *did* provide a list of our recommended applicants to the Minister for Round 3; and
- In the Timeline of key events, it states that on 2 October 2018 “Sport Australia provides a spreadsheet colour-coded to identify electorates by party.” This is incorrect, Sport Australia never colour-coded a spreadsheet to identify electorates by party.

I would like to table this statement for the Community Affairs Legislation Committee’s record.