



Australian Government

Department of Health
and Aged Care

***Inquiry into the adequacy of Australia's
preparedness to host the 2026
Commonwealth Games in Victoria and the
2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in
Brisbane***

Submission from the Department of Health and Aged Care
to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee



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Introduction

The Department of Health and Aged Care (department) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the *Inquiry into the adequacy of Australia's preparedness to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane*.

Several entities in the Health and Aged Care portfolio play an important role in the Australian Government sports ecosystem including:

- the Office for Sport (OfS) within the department
- the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), a corporate Commonwealth entity with its own enabling legislation (the *Australians Sports Commission Act 1989*) and an accountable board
- Sport Integrity Australia, a separate non-corporate Commonwealth entity which operates under the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020*
- the Australian Sports Foundation, a not-for-profit Commonwealth company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*
- the National Sports Tribunal within the department, established by the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019* and administered by a statutory officer

The OfS is responsible for providing support and policy advice to the Minister for Sport, including new policy development and implementation, appointments, international engagement and sports diplomacy, delivery of Australian Government sports grants, portfolio agency support, and coordinating Australian Government support for the staging of major international sporting events.

The OfS coordinates the Australian Government's support for the bidding for and delivery of one-off major international sporting events hosted in Australia. The OfS works across Government and in partnership with event owners, event organisers and host jurisdictions to support the safe and successful delivery of events that leave a long-last legacy and deliver a range of socio-economic outcomes for the Australian community.

A key responsibility of the OfS is to provide a central point of contact to facilitate engagement to support major sporting events between Australian Government agencies and external stakeholders including state and territory governments, foreign governments, international sporting bodies, national sporting organisations and event organisers.



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Australian Government support for major international sporting events in Australia can include:

- *Financial support*: funding provided directly to national sporting organisations or event organisers to contribute to the development of the bid or delivery of an event in Australia
- *Operational and policy support*: in-kind and cost recovery services that sit within the Commonwealth's remit and are required to support the delivery of an event in Australia, such as national security arrangements, taxation support, intellectual property rights protection and anti-doping arrangements
- *Leveraging and legacy support*: funding and in-kind support for additional activities to leverage the hosting of an event in Australia to maximise benefits for the Australian community

The OfS facilitates regular engagement with relevant Australian Government agencies to progress matters related to the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games (Victoria 2026) and Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032). This includes sharing information across government, including funding requests and budget considerations, to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach across Australian Government agencies.

The Government is investing in a range of major international sporting events across 'the green and gold decade' and working to ensure the maximum community benefit from that investment can be realised. Through collaboration with Government agencies, the OfS is developing a legacy framework to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the coming decade of major events in the lead up to Brisbane 2032.

Beyond the OfS, the department has oversight of the *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030*, which outlines several policy achievements for sport and physical activity in Australia by 2030. One of the key priorities of the strategy is to position the Australian sport sector to play a greater role in preventive health action, to increase physical activity and improve mental health within the community. Leveraging major sporting events will be a key mechanism to enable the sport sector to support this.

This submission outlines the department's involvement to date in managing the Government's interest in Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032, to ensure Australia is adequately prepared to successfully host these events and, in doing so, benefit the Australian community in numerous ways.



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Response to the inquiry Terms of Reference

Preparedness to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria

The Australian Government through the OfS has had preliminary discussions with the Victorian Government on planning for the hosting of Victoria 2026, following its successful bid to the Commonwealth Games Federation.

The department acknowledges that Australian Government involvement in the preparedness for Victoria 2026 will increase as the Victorian Government's plans are further developed given the shorter timeframe in the lead in to event delivery.

Preparedness to host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The OfS worked closely with the Queensland Government throughout the candidature phase to host Brisbane 2032. Support provided by the Australian Government, including a contribution of up to \$10 million to support preparation of the candidature, demonstrated to the International Olympic Committee a united whole-of-government approach with the knowledge that Australia has a strong reputation of delivering world class sporting events. It is however important to note that while the Australian Government is providing vital support to host Brisbane 2032, and is a critical partner, the signatories on the Olympic Host Contract with responsibility to deliver the event are the Queensland Government, the Brisbane City Council and the Australian Olympic Committee.

The OfS has maintained regular engagement with Games partners through the Olympic Candidature Executive Group (OCEG). The OCEG comprised an Australian Government official from the department, the Queensland Government, the Brisbane City Council, the Gold Coast Council, the Sunshine Coast Council, the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia. The OCEG was established as an information sharing mechanism for Games partners to discuss and progress matters including the Future Host Questionnaire for the candidature itself, governance structures, legacy initiatives, the realisation of benefits of hosting the Games, communications strategies and understanding the obligations imposed by the International Olympic Committee on hosting Brisbane 2032.

The OfS led the Australian Government's contribution to the development of the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) and was involved in the establishment of the Queensland Government legislation, the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021*. The Act allows the OCOG to plan, organise and deliver Brisbane 2032 in accordance with the Olympic Host Contract. The Act permits the Prime Minister to nominate four positions on the OCOG Board, in addition to the ability to object to the nomination of any of the five independent Directors that may be proposed for nomination by the Minister for the Olympics and Paralympics. The department has been involved in the



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appointments to the OCOG Board since it was established in December 2021. The OfS supports the Minister for Sport who currently holds a position on the OCOG Board as one of the four Australian Government nominations and one of the five Vice Presidents.

The OfS is a member of the 2032 Brisbane Games Legacy Working Group. Membership of this group allows the Australian Government to be closely engaged with 2032 legacy planning processes with a view to ensuring a national and regional (Oceanic) focus is considered in 2032 legacy planning, in line with the priorities of Government.

Matters relating to Infrastructure

Australian Government investment decisions in relation to venues and transport infrastructure for Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032 is a matter for the infrastructure portfolio.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The International Olympic Committee's New Norm reforms policy provides greater flexibility for countries hosting the Games to deliver an event which is more affordable, beneficial and sustainable. The Brisbane 2032 candidature was based on more than 80% of venues to be either existing or temporary solutions, and for any new facilities to be developed where there is a long-term sport and community benefit.

The Prime Minister and Queensland Premier jointly announced on 17 February 2023 that an Inter-Governmental Agreement had been reached between the Australian and Queensland governments in relation to Brisbane 2032. The Commonwealth will contribute \$3.435 billion for venue infrastructure projects - including \$2.5 billion to fully fund the Brisbane indoor arena, and \$935 million to co-fund 16 new or upgraded venues. Responsibility for the construction or upgrade of this infrastructure belongs to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Economic and tourism benefits

Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games

The Victorian Government has estimated Victoria 2026 will contribute:

- \$3 billion to the state's economy;
- 600 jobs before the games;
- 3,900 jobs during the games; and
- 3,000 after the games



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Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Queensland Government engaged the services of KPMG in 2021 who estimated Brisbane 2032 will deliver:

- in quantifiable economic and social benefits, a total benefit of \$8.1 billion for Queensland and \$17.61 billion for Australia; and
- approximately 91,600 Full Time Equivalent job years for Queensland and 122,900 nationally

Australian Sports Commission

The ASC is the Government agency responsible for supporting and investing in sport at all levels. The ASC works closely with sports to grow participation and generate a competitive advantage for Australian athlete success at the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. The ASC also manages the Australian Institute of Sport campus in Canberra, one of the world's best high performance training facilities and the only place in Australia where elite athletes have access to uniquely integrated accommodation alongside multi-disciplinary performance support teams, including specialised medical, sport science and engineering.

Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032 are an opportunity to inspire and unite all Australian communities. Data captured by the ASC showed 82% of Australians watched the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 58% were inspired and proud of the efforts and outcomes of Australian athletes, and over 20% used this inspiration as momentum to be more involved in sport, from participation to engaging or volunteering with their local community and sporting club.

Sport delivers a workforce that is boosted by the largest volunteer-base of any industry in the country with around 3 million passionate Australians giving their time without financial gain because they believe in the power of sport. Volunteering is at the heart of sport, and through the ASC's national *Sport Volunteer Action Plan*, work is underway to better celebrate our volunteers, reimagine ways to support more people to volunteer and harness the social and economic value that volunteering brings. This Action Plan will help more Australians get involved in volunteering for elite and community sport and ensure that upcoming major sporting events, like the Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games are adequately resourced with a strong and capable workforce.

The ASC is also leading the development of Australia's first co-designed *National Sport Participation Strategy*. The Strategy aims to transform the way sport participation is connected, delivered, and supported in Australia, helping to align stakeholders that support the delivery of sport participation and ensure the faces of sport reflects contemporary Australia. The launch of the Strategy is expected in late 2023.



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Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy (HP2023+ Strategy) was launched in December 2022 to harness the collective strengths, talent, and resources in high performance sport to get the best outcomes possible for Australia over the Green and Gold decade to the Brisbane 2032 Games. The HP2023+ Strategy has a strong focus on collaboration, alignment, clarity, and accountability. The HP2023+ Strategy includes a united commitment to *Win Well* - highlighting the wellbeing of our Australian athletes, coaches, and staff as the foundation of sustainable success at the elite level, and the commitment to enhance meaningful connection with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, histories, communities and culture to learn and enhance our sporting culture.

The Australian public expects Australia's athletes to perform well and achieve results which make the nation proud. The results of Australian athlete's stem from the investment and support provided on their pathway to podium success. The Australian Government is a major supporter of Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes, providing \$150 million to 35 high performance sport programs each year, including \$14.6 million in direct grants to athletes through the ASC. The Government, through the ASC, also invests \$21 million directly into sports and their athlete development pathways to assist sports to have the right people, resources, and strategies to identify, develop and support our most talented young athletes.

The value of Australians' involvement in sport contributes to improved physical and mental health, relieving pressure on the health system, alongside many personal and community benefits.

Sport Integrity Australia

Sport Integrity Australia is the Government agency responsible for supporting a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment through policy development, education, intelligence, investigations and capability building.

Sport Integrity Australia works closely with the sport sector and other Government agencies. As such, it is a key enabler of the *Australian Sports Commission's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy*, maintaining an increased focus on integrity, ethical and safe sport education, as well as mechanisms to support all areas of high-performance sport.

Sport Integrity Australia provides (subject to funding) anti-doping and integrity programs for major sporting events which form an integral component of pre-Games planning, at least 12 months prior, and throughout Games-time delivery. For example, including but not limited to, the coordination of an anti-doping taskforce to plan the delivery of an effective testing program. These programs coordinated by Sport Integrity Australia contribute to Australia



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being adequately prepared to successfully host the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane.