

Dear Committee

I make the following submission on behalf of the membership of Sports Medicine Australia (SMA). Sports Medicine Australia is the peak body in Australia for Sports Medicine and Science. Its membership is made up of a wide range of sports medicine professionals from varying disciplines and the organisation's charter is to encourage participation in sport and physical activity safely.

Sports Medicine Australia supports the tightening of the powers of ASADA to engage in investigating athletes of doping violations whilst respecting the legal and human rights of athletes and others that may be investigated in relation to potential athlete doping violations.

Whilst the bill refers specifically to the need to empower ASADA with greater rights to investigate and share information, SMA members indicated a desire to see the introduction of a centralised hearing body for doping violations for athletes from sporting organisations that do not have the financial resources to fund properly constituted hearing bodies in Australia. Whilst this sits outside the scope of this bill it is a consideration for any such hearing body must have appropriate medical and scientific experts attached either as expert advisors or panel members alongside legal practitioners. Consideration should also be given to the provision of legal support for athletes facing such a hearing body when the athlete does not have adequate financial resources to for support in such a hearing.

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide comment. Sports Medicine Australia may be willing to participate as a witness based on the availability of a suitably credentialed member to participate.

Yours Sincerely

Nello Marino  
Chief Executive Officer