Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

875

865

680

579

427

287

154

67

7,744

11,145

11

12

14

15

16

17

TOTAL

All records

142.6

150.0

154.0

157.7

169.6

174.3

179.7

178.0

90.0

105.0

120.0

130.0

100.0

150.0

150.0

117.0

193.0

185.0

200.0

195.0

260.0

195.0

207.0

194.0

I would like to take the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry on the Future of Rugby Union in Australia. My submission covers;

c. the role of national and state-based bodies in encouraging greater national participation in rugby union;

Specifically addressing impact weight and size differentials in discouraging junior participation in rugby, given my involvement.

The tables below were provided at an all clubs meeting of the SJRU (Sydney Junior Rugby Union) on the 24th July 2017. They provide height and weight information from both the Sydney and ACT Junior Rugby Unions.

They provide some amazing statistics, in the U12 age group you could potentially have a 24kg player coming up against a 158kg player. There are similar discrepancies amongst other age groups.

	Ine Rugby Cohort - SJRU esults from self-reported SJRU are similar RU HEIGHT AND WEIGHT DATA BY AGE											
		EIGHT DATA	BY AGE									
As at 12 July												
Age Turning	Number	Mean Height	Shortest	Tallest		Variance		Mean Weight	Lightest	Heaviest		Variance
5	171	107.8	80.0	194.0		114.0		21.3	14.0	85.0		71.0
6	474	114.9	80.0	193.0		113.0		22.8	13.0	45.0		32.0
7	604	120.4	5.0	173.0		168.0		25.7	15.0	0.08		65.0
8	799	127.2	81.0	170.0		89.0		28.7	17.0	100.0		83.0
9	830	132.5	85.0	188.0		103.0		32.4	17.0	120.0		103.0
10	932	138.1	25.0	180.0		155.0		36.4	20.0	100.0		80.0

103.0

80.0

80.0

65.0

160.0

45.0

57.0

77.0

24.0

24.0

30.0

33.0

35.0

30.0

46.3

48.0

125.0

158.0

105.0

115.0

133.0

120.0

110.0

190.0

101.0

134.0

75.0

82.0

98.0

90.0

63.7

142.0

40.7

46.2

52.1

58.8

66.9

74.4

79.0

81.6

The Rugby Cohort

There is considerable variation in the Rugby cohort by age:

CTJRU HEK	GHT AND	WEIGHT DA	TA BY AC	E					
of 7 April 2	2017								
ge Turning	Number	Mean Height	Shortest	Tallest	Variance	Mean Weight	Lightest	Heaviest	Variance
5	9	113.9	109.0	120.0	11.0	20.9	15.0	25.0	10.0
6	40	116.6	100.0	180.0	80.0	22.7	14.0	70.0	56.0
7	60	123.8	105.0	150.0	45.0	27.6	20.0	50.0	30.0
8	51	124.4	90.0	141.0	51.0	26.9	20.0	41.0	21.0
9	84	134.7	42.0	160.0	118.0	38.1	18.0	62.0	44.0
10	89	136.4	25.0	188.0	163.0	42.0	22.0	120.0	98.0
11	109	146.3	110.0	180.0	70.0	43.9	25.0	110.0	85.0
12	134	150.6	115.0	193.0	78.0	48.3	30.0	105.0	75.0
13	128	158.1	135.0	180.0	45.0	53.7	35.0	90.0	55.0
14	125	166.1	51.0	187.0	136.0	61.0	34.0	108.0	74.0
15	118	171.9	65.0	198.0	133.0	71.2	45.0	144.0	99.0
16	117	175.5	63.0	200.0	137.0	74.4	45.0	110.0	65.0
17	80	175.4	85.0	195.0	110.0	76.4	45.0	115.0	70.0
18	49	181.0	152.0	203.0	51.0	80.3	58.0	145.0	87.0

Key Points

- What are the relevant state and national bodies doing in relation to this weight disparity and the discouraging impact it has on participation?
- How does the weight differential impact on the issues of concussion and injury?
- Would allowing these weight differentials to continue receive endorsement from the Australian Medical Association, if not are the relevant national and state rugby bodies happy to continue without this endorsement?
- How does allowing these weight differentials impact on insurance costs of relevant bodies and do insurers endorse a continuation of these differentials?
- How does allowing these weight differentials impact on the personal liability of Directors and Officials involved in Junior Rugby and do they consider they have fulfilled their duty of due care?
- Have they considered mirroring the weight grading's and policies that are followed in junior rugby New Zealand, which allow a focus on skill development, which has had spectacular flow on effect to its senior rugby performance? An example of which is provide below;

http://www.harbourrugby.co.nz/media/files/2015%20Junior%20Club%20Rugby%20Rules.pdf

- Will mirroring New Zealand junior rugby weight and participation strategies allow for a quick time frame to roll out changes with limited cost?
- What are their time frames for implementing any changes?

Future of rugby union in Australia Submission 14

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry and I look forward to outcomes that will increase participation in junior rugby.