



**Exercise & Sports Science Australia Response to  
the  
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment  
(Sport Integrity Australia)  
Bill 2019**

Leanne Evans  
Policy and Relations Advisor  
Exercise & Sports Science Australia

Anita Hobson-Powell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Exercise & Sports Science Australia

## Introduction

Exercise & Sport Science Australia (ESSA) is recognised by the Australian Institute of Sport and Sport Australia as the peak accrediting body for athlete support personnel working in Australian sports science. ESSA accredits over 7,000 university trained exercise professionals:

- 300 of whom work as Accredited Sports Scientists (AESSs) specialising in applying scientific principles and techniques to assist coaches and athletes to improve their performance, either at an individual level or within the context of a team environment and
- 50 who work as Accredited High Performance (Sports Science/Sports Medicine) Managers (AHPMs) who have advanced knowledge and skills in leading and managing a team of sports scientists and sports medicine professionals.

ESSA's other 6,000 plus members are Accredited Exercise Physiologists (who design and deliver effective programs for people with chronic conditions, injuries or disabilities) and Accredited Exercise Scientists (who work to improve the health, fitness and well-being of the general population).

ESSA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on several aspects of the Bill and gives permission for this submission to be published.

ESSA also would welcome the opportunity to address the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee in person should that opportunity be available.

## Recommendations

**Recommendation 1: ESSA supports extending the list of threats to include the use of unethical training protocols.**

**Recommendation 2: ESSA supports the inclusion of accrediting/registering bodies as per the following wording:**

“(e) to coordinate and strengthen relationships among governments of the States and Territories, regulators, sporting organisations, **accrediting/registering bodies** and law enforcement and other agencies in relation to matters relating to sports integrity, including threats to sports integrity;”

**Recommendation 3: ESSA supports the definition/s for a sporting administration body and/or a sporting administrator be expanded to ensure the role of accrediting/registering bodies for sports support persons is recognised.**

## Issues

### 1. Threats to Sports Integrity (at item 12 of Schedule 1 - Main Amendments to the Bill)

The Bill proposes inserting a non-exhaustive list of threats to sports integrity. In the light of the unorthodox and unsafe treatment methods which resulted in Essendon Football Club players being found guilty of having used banned substances, ESSA suggests adding an additional threat to cover this scenario.

**Recommendation 1: ESSA supports extending the list of threats to include the use of unethical training protocols.**

### 2. Inclusion of Accrediting/Registering Bodies (at item 24 and 44 of Schedule 1 - Main Amendments to the Bill)

The Bill lists stakeholders involved in sports integrity in Paragraph Item 21(1)(e) but fails to make reference to accrediting/registering bodies for support personnel. Along with ESSA as an accrediting body for athlete support personnel, bodies like the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) who register and accredit other support personnel like general practitioners and pharmacists should also be recognised.

**Recommendation 2: ESSA supports the inclusion of accrediting/registering bodies as per the following wording in Paragraph Item 21(1)(e):**

“(e) to coordinate and strengthen relationships among governments of the States and Territories, regulators, sporting organisations, **accrediting/registering bodies** and law enforcement and other agencies in relation to matters relating to sports integrity, including threats to sports integrity;”

The Bill lists stakeholders involved in match fixing and fraud in sports-betting in Paragraph Item 21(1)(f) but fails to make reference to accrediting/registering bodies for support personnel.

**Recommendation 2: ESSA supports the inclusion of accrediting/registering bodies as per the following wording in Paragraph Item 21(1)(f):**

“(f) to work with domestic and overseas regulators, sporting organisations, **accrediting/registering bodies** and operators of betting services in relation to matters connected with match-fixing in sport or fraud in sports-betting”.

ESSA notes there is no definition for the term ‘sporting administrators’ in the *Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Act 2006 (ASADA Act)*.

Provided there is an expansion of the definition of a sporting administration body to ensure the role of **accrediting/registering bodies for sports support persons** as per Recommendation 6 in ESSA’s *Response to the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment (Enhancing Australia’s Anti-Doping Capability) Bill 2019*, then ESSA is supports the wording in Paragraph Item 21(1)(h) “to work with and provide assistance and advice to **sporting administrators** to identify potential threats to sports integrity for particular sports and to develop a robust integrity framework for those sports;”.

If Recommendation 6 in ESSA’s *Response to the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment (Enhancing Australia’s Anti-Doping Capability) Bill 2019* is not accepted, then ESSA supports the inclusion of a definition of a sporting administrator within the *ASADA Act* that includes reference to accrediting/registering body administrators.

Similar to the previous discussion, the Bill includes provision in Paragraph 68B(3)(f) for the insertion of (fa) “a sporting administration body” without reference to any accrediting/registering body for sports support persons.

**Recommendation 3: ESSA supports the definition/s for a sporting administration body and/or a sporting administrator in Paragraph 68B(3)(f) be expanded to ensure the role of accrediting/registering bodies for sports support persons is recognised.**