

**Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry:** Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

**Topic:** Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex project

**Proof Hansard Page:** 26 (22 July 2020)

**Senator Janet Rice asked:**

**Senator RICE:** Okay. I want to talk about the funding for the Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex and Grandstand Project because that does seem to be an instance of that. It's funded through the Community Development Grants program, isn't it?

**Dr Bacon:** Because we've got over 1,400 projects in the CDG program, we don't carry with us lists of every project that we have. Sorry, we're going to have to go back through our records, take that on notice and find out information for you on that specific project. We don't have the details of that one particular project here with us today.

**Senator RICE:** My understanding is that it was announced on 24 April and that we've got correspondence from the ANAO indicating that the Prime Minister's office shifted a \$3 million project in the Kennedy electorate out of the community sports infrastructure program on the basis it was being funded from another program, so I want to know whether that was the same project. Was it this project?

**Dr Bacon:** I'm sorry but we don't have the details in front of us. As I said, there are over 1,400 different projects in this particular program. I'm afraid we will have to take that on notice and search through our records to get you that information.

**Answer:**

The Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex project is funded through the Community Development Grants (CDG) Programme.

The \$3 million funding for the Tully Multi-Use Sporting Complex project was included in CDG as part of the 2019-20 Budget process.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry:** Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

**Topic:** Transfer of projects from Health to Infrastructure

**Proof Hansard Page:** 26 (22 July 2020)

**Senator Janet Rice asked:**

**Senator RICE:** And, as you said previously, you're not aware of other projects that have moved from the community sports initiative to the Community Development Grants program?

**Dr Bacon:** That's right.

**Senator RICE:** That is in contrast to other evidence that we have received in this inquiry.

**Dr Bacon:** We will just double check that. It's not something we focused on in preparation for today. We will just double check and make sure that that's correct.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is not aware of any projects from the community sports initiative that have been moved from the Department of Health to the Community Development Grants Programme, managed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

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**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry:** Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

**Topic:** CDG and Better Regions Program differences

**Proof Hansard Page:** 29 (22 July 2020)

**Senator Eric Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** The programs to which we've just referred, between 2007 and 2013, how do they, if they do, differ to the current operation of these programs?

**Dr Bacon:** We don't have examples of the program guidelines for that previous program. I do have in front of me a copy of the ANAO's audit of that program, but we're less familiar with that program because it's not the one that we currently administer. But we'd be happy to take on notice any details about the program guidelines or how it was administered, if that would be helpful?

**Senator ABETZ:** If you could—if it doesn't occasion too much work for officials.

**Answer:**

The Community Development Grants Programme (CDG) (2013–2026) and the Better Regions Program (BRP) (2007–2013) were established by incoming Australian Governments to fund election commitments.

CDG and BRP were both subject to performance audits by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and the audits acknowledged that each program was effectively designed and administered to deliver the government's election commitments.

The table in **Attachment A** provides a comparison of the purpose for CDG (2013–2026) and its predecessor BRP (2007–2013) summarised by the ANAO.

**Attachment**

- A: Comparison table of the Community Development Grant Programme (2013–2026) and its predecessor the Better Regions Program (2007–2013) summarised by the ANAO

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	<b>Community Development Grants Programme <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Better Regions Program <sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The Community Development Grants Programme (CDG) originated from commitments made by the then Opposition in the lead-up to the 2013 Federal election. Its coverage has been extended over time so that it now includes commitments from the 2016 election as well as uncontracted projects from programs that were abolished following the 2013 election and other commitments.	The Better Regions Program (BRP) was announced by the then opposition during the 2007 Federal election campaign as a vehicle for funding various election commitments. The commitments allocated to the Better Regions Program related to projects such as the revitalisation of main streets in towns, construction of multi-purpose community and resource centres, major sport and recreational venues and community transport infrastructure.

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<sup>1</sup> [Auditor-General Report No.3 2017–18 Performance Audit - Award of Funding under the Community Development Grants Program](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Auditor-General Audit Report No.24 2010-11 Performance Audit - The Design and Administration of the Better Regions Program](#)

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**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry:** Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

**Topic:** Sport projects \$2 million or less remaining in CDG

**Proof Hansard Page:** 29 (22 July 2020)

**Senator Eric Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** Alright. That is understood. With the 124 projects that were shifted from ITRD&C—from you guys—through to Health, was that the totality of the projects? None were left behind?

Dr Bacon: They were all the projects, as I think Ms Purvis-Smith outlined, that were valued at \$2 million or less, that related to—

**Senator ABETZ:** Sorry, I should have clarified that, yes. In that category, none below the \$2 million threshold were left behind to be administered or run by your department? Is that correct?

Ms Purvis-Smith: Sorry, we're just making sure that we've got the right answer for you.

**Senator ABETZ:** Look, take it on notice.

**Ms Purvis-Smith:** We can take that on notice to make sure that we give you the correct answer. We're aware that there were 124 which, at the time, we believe was the totality, and we will check whether there are any further in relation to time periods as well.

**Senator ABETZ:** Alright, thank you very much.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications can confirm that the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream was transferred to the Department of Health on 21 August 2019. A list of these projects was tabled at the hearing.

The Department has identified three (3) Community Development Grants projects valued at under \$2 million that appear to be sport related that remain in the Community Development Grants programme. A list of these is provided at Attachment A.

**Attachment**

- A: 2019 CDG projects under \$2 million related to sporting infrastructure.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Attachment A 2019 CDG projects under \$2 million related to sporting infrastructure

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Project recipient</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Rye Primary School upgrade of basketball courts	\$100,000	Rye Primary School	The project will upgrade the two existing basketball courts at Rye Primary School. This will include replacing the existing asphalt playing surface with 19mm synthetic grass surface, replace existing mesh fencing, remove blockages and upgrade draining soaker pits.
Camberwell Petanque – Lighting Upgrade	\$49,500	Camberwell Petanque Club Inc.	The project will upgrade petanque playing grounds at the Lynden Park Recreation Facility with competition level lighting.
Construction of Secure Equipment Shed and Pergola	\$30,000	Clarendon Netball Club	The project will construct a new shed including a designated umpire change room and a new pergola.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry:** Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

**Topic:** Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream first date of announcement of funding

**Proof Hansard Page:** 30 (22 July 2020)

**Chair Senator Anthony Chisholm asked:**

**CHAIR:** In relation to the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream, which was initially managed by your department, on what date was the first announcement of funding made for a project that is being provided for under this stream?

**Dr Bacon:** We were actually trying to look up this morning and yesterday to see if we can get more precise information about when project announcements were made I think, as Ms Purvis-Smith has outlined when the decision was made to fund the program, which was in the budget papers for our portfolio, there were no projects announced at the same time that the program itself was announced, as far as we can see. So we would just have to double-check when the actual projects were announced and the timing of that. Given that the Department of Health administers that program and all the projects under it, they would have that detail, but we just haven't been able to lay our hands on it quickly.

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 7 - Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream announcements.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry:** Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

**Topic:** Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream announcements (Q6)

**Proof Hansard Page:** 30 (22 July 2020)

**Chair Senator Anthony Chisholm asked:**

**CHAIR:** How many announcements of funding for projects now being provided for under that stream were made before the 2019 election?

**Dr Bacon:** I'm not aware of any, but we probably better double-check that on notice for you.

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 7 - Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream announcements.



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**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry: Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**Topic: Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream announcements (Q7)**

**Proof Hansard Page: 30 (22 July 2020)**

**Chair Senator Anthony Chisholm asked:**

**CHAIR:** Okay. Do you know how much of the money had been spent before the program was moved to Health?

**Dr Bacon:** None of the funding had been spent at that point, because it was prior to the development of the guidelines.

**CHAIR:** I'll rephrase that: do you know how many announcements had been made about funding?

**Dr Bacon:** I think that is something that we do need to take on notice, because we haven't been able to quickly get our hands on that information.

**Answer:**

The Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream (FFWSS) program was transferred to the Department of Health and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications did not administer this program and does not have records relating to the administration of this program.

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**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry: Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**Topic: Contact from Sporting Organisations**

**Proof Hansard Page: 30 (22 July 2020)**

**Chair Senator Anthony Chisholm asked:**

**CHAIR:** And are you aware if any sporting organisations reached out to the minister's office with regard to this program, before the election, about the guidelines?

**Ms Hibbert:** No I'm not aware.

**CHAIR:** Okay. So no one sought assurance from the department, that you're aware of, that the female facilities program wouldn't be used before the election?

**Dr Bacon:** We might just double check on notice for you – just to make sure that we haven't missed anything – around whether we did give any correspondence before the program actually commenced. To make sure that we've got the comprehensive information for you, we'll double check that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is unable to locate any correspondence from sporting organisations prior to the election about the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream.

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**Division: Regional Development, Local Government and COVID Regional Recovery**

**Inquiry: Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**Topic: Community Sports Infrastructure applications**

**Proof Hansard Page: 30-31 (22 July 2020)**

**Senator Nita Green asked:**

**Senator GREEN:** I apologise in advance, as I did miss the start of your evidence, so if I am going over things for the second time, I will try to be as brief as possible. First, in preparing the audit, the ANAO referred to sources of evidence including email records held by both the Department of Health and the department of infrastructure, including advisers from the minister's office involved in deciding the projects. I'm just going to go through a list of those documents, because I want to know whether you have copies of those documents. If you do have copies, can you take on notice to table those? The first set of documents I am interested in is the details of all the applications made under the Community Sports Infrastructure Program, and a summary of the applicants if that's available?

**Dr Bacon:** We're very happy to take that on notice and double check that. I'm not aware that we do, but I would like to double check that on notice, if that's okay.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications did not administer the Community Sports Infrastructure Program and does not have records relating to the administration of this program.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Division: People, Governance, Parliamentary and Communication**

**Inquiry: Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants**

**Topic: Email account**

**Proof Hansard Page: 31 (22 July 2020)**

**Senator Nita Green asked:**

**Senator GREEN:** I'll move on to another issue. We do know that, through responses that have been given to this committee—and I'm sorry; it was a little while ago now because of the break that we've taken—there was an individual from within the Prime Minister's office who was referred to as a senior adviser, infrastructure, transport, regional development, cities and sport. We understand that the Minister for Sport's office used an email account provided by your department. So can I just double-check: did an adviser within the PMO use an email account provided by your department for communications in relation to the program?

**Dr Bacon:** I don't think so. From a corporate services perspective, the way that ministerial offices are usually supported is: relevant portfolio departments will provide administrative back-office type support to ministers' offices. Currently we have nine ministers in our portfolio. Some of those ministers are cross-sworn to other portfolios. There would be a variety of different arrangements within our portfolio as to which department provides their back-office email systems. We at no point would've provided those back-office systems for the Prime Minister's office.

**Senator GREEN:** Can you just double-check that though? Can you take that on notice? I think there has been some evidence about that email account being provided by your department. If you can just double-check, that would be helpful.

**Dr Bacon:** If it were an email account held by someone in the Prime Minister's office, we would not have provided it. If it were about the former sports minister's emails, my recollection is that that back-office support was provided by the Department of Health, but we can check that point for you.

**Senator GREEN:** Thank you. And if there are emails related to that account, I just want to check who those emails came from, but we can put that question on notice to you.

**Answer:**

Neither the then Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities nor the then Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development provided email accounts for staff of the Minister for Sport.