



Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON**

Reference:EB11/562

26 August 2011

Ms Lyn Beverley
Committee Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

Further to the Office for Sport's submission of 5 July 2011 to the Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Interactive and Online Gambling and Gambling Advertising and the Inquiry into the Interactive Gambling and Broadcasting Amendment Bill 2011, I am writing to update you on progress in regard to the National Policy on Match-Fixing in Sport (the National Policy) which may be of interest to the Committee's deliberations.

Criminal offences in regard to match-fixing

Under the National Policy, a commitment was made by all Australian governments to pursue, through Attorneys-General, a consistent approach to criminal offences, including legislation by relevant jurisdictions, in relation to match-fixing that provides an effective deterrent and sufficient penalties to reflect the seriousness of offences.

The Standing Council on Law and Justice (SCLJ), comprising all Commonwealth, state and territory attorneys-general, met on 21-22 July 2011 and agreed to establish a SCLJ Working Group to develop a proposal and timetable for a nationally consistent approach to criminal offences relating to match-fixing. A Working Group has now been established with representatives from all Commonwealth and state and territory attorney-general's or justice departments and will report back to all sports ministers and SCLJ later this year. The SCLJ communiqué can be found at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/page/MediaReleases_2011_ThirdQuarter_21-22July-Communique-StandingCommitteeofAttorneys-General

International engagement - International Olympic Committee (IOC) Expert Groups

An important part of the National Policy is the commitment to participate in international debate on initiatives to protect the integrity of sport globally. To this end, the Australian Government has been working closely with the IOC Working Group on the Fight Against Irregular and Illegal Sports Betting. At the IOC Working Group meeting on 15 June 2011, it was agreed that three expert groups would be established to progress international cooperation. These are:

- *Awareness raising and prevention*: to evaluate existing programmes and determine joint programmes to be implemented, and study a basis for a code of conduct;
- *Monitoring, intelligence and analysis*: to evaluate ways to improve consistency in monitoring, intelligence exchange, and analysis;
- *Legislation and regulations*: to study the possibilities of creating common principles and strengthening judicial and police cooperation.

The Australian Government has nominated a representative of the Australian Crime Commission to participate in the Monitoring, Intelligence and Analysis Expert Group and I will be participating in the Legislation and Regulations Expert Group.

The Office for Sport would be happy to provide any further information on the two matters outlined above or any other general information required by the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Richard Eccles
Deputy Secretary

29 August 2011