

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment Bill 2013

Australian Sports Commission Submission

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is committed to a high performance system that is about winning with integrity and recognises our leadership role in this regard.

In releasing a new set of Investment Principles to support its High Performance Strategy – *Australia's Winning Edge* – the ASC noted that:

ASC investment is dependent on sports, athletes, coaches and support personnel demonstrating the highest possible standards of integrity in sport, including anti-doping, that will enhance the reputation of Australia internationally and provide a positive example to all Australians

The ASC also recognises the extremely important role of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) in providing a significant deterrence to doping in Australian sport through its testing regimes, intelligence and investigations. The ASC also understands the challenges anti-doping agencies face internationally and locally, with the ongoing development and ever increasing sophistication of new methods and drugs that create unfair advantage in athletic performances, and that simply do not comply with the principles of the World Anti Doping Code. We therefore fully support any activities that improve our country's capacity to combat doping in Australian sport.

The ASC fully supports the Amendment Bill that builds ASADA's investigative powers through compelling individuals to attend interviews and to provide information, which is relevant to the investigation. The ASC also supports the extension of information sharing and believes cooperation between organisations enabling the sharing of information is a positive step to control the importation of prohibited substances into Australia.

The ASC has policies in place that require athletes, staff and support personnel to report any suspected dealings or activities that could lead to Anti-doping Rule Violations. The ASC's Search and Discovery Program, which was implemented in 2005, provides the ASC additional protection against people who may look to dope on AIS facilities. The ASC believes that these approaches minimise the risk of doping within its programs but alone they are not a guarantee.

The ASC is in the process of introducing a Declarations Policy for all prospective and existing employees, athletes and high performance support personnel. The Declarations Policy will seek assurances that staff and others have not previously engaged in anti-doping activity that would have constituted an anti-doping rule violation under any applicable anti-doping policy. The ASC expects partner National Sporting Organisations to introduce similar policies, noting the Australian Olympic Committee has already announced its intention to do so for Olympic athletes. Similar to the proposed Amendment Bill for ASADA, this new Declarations Policy seeks to develop new approaches to deal with the reality that urine and blood testing does not always catch doping cheats.

If required the ASC is available as a witness should the Committee decide to hold a public hearing.