

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001341

OUTCOME: 10 – Sport and Recreation

Topic: Status of Australian Football League/National Rugby League Investigation

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Peris, Nova

Question:

What is the status of the AFL/NRL investigations?

- a. How many players across the two codes received Show Cause Notices?
- b. How many players have received suspensions or other sanctions?
- c. How do these investigations compare historically in size and scope to other ASADA investigations?

Answer:

The investigation phase of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority's (ASADA) Operation Cobia has been concluded. ASADA is now conducting results management steps and any subsequent litigation in relation to those cases where the ASADA Chief Executive Officer believed there was a possible non-presence anti-doping rule violation that warranted action.

- a) ASADA has issued 34 show cause notices to players in the Australian Football League (AFL) and 17 show cause notices to players in the National Rugby League (NRL). In addition, ASADA has issued show cause notices to an athlete support person involved in both the AFL and NRL and another support person involved in the NRL.
- b) To date, 12 NRL players have been sanctioned for anti-doping rule violations arising out of ASADA's Cobia investigation. The other matters involving players all remain on-going.
- c) Operation Cobia investigation is the largest investigation that ASADA has conducted.