

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 – 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000755

**OUTCOME:** 3 - Sport and Recreation

**Topic:** Testing Program Funding

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 137, 19 October 2016

**Senator:** Farrell, Don

**Question:**

Senator FARRELL: Are you able to say how your testing program—particularly in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games—and the funding and the staffing that you have compare with other countries? Mr McDevitt: With other Commonwealth Games? Senator FARRELL: No, with other countries who would be conducting Commonwealth Games. Mr McDevitt: I would have to take that on notice to be able to give you detailed figures. It is a little difficult, say, if you are comparing what we are envisaging for the Brisbane games as opposed to the Glasgow games. For example, there are some critical differences, such as our costings will involve keeping the samples that we collect at least seven years, whereas after Glasgow they were not kept, so there are some costs associated with that. There is also a new anti-doping code in force with additional offences that we will have to put energy and effort into and that sort of thing. And, we will be producing quite an extensive education program that we would like to be able to promulgate to other Commonwealth countries—advice to athletes on how this will work— Senator FARRELL: In the lead-up to the games? Mr McDevitt: In the lead-up to the games—yes.

**Answer:**

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority's (ASADA) pre-event anti-doping program for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is in the early stages of implementation.

Each country competing in the Commonwealth Games is responsible for rolling out its own testing program as part of its business as usual national anti-doping programs. Australia will undertake an intelligence and risk lead based targeted testing program, similar to that undertaken for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games from its existing resources, but will also supplement this testing program with funding through 'top up/surge' testing of Australian athletes and targeted international athletes.

Additional funding of \$1.494 million announced in the 2016-17 budget allows ASADA to conduct a further 750 tests comprising; 375 additional tests on Australian Athletes likely to complete in the Games and a further 375 tests on non-Australian Athletes likely to complete in the Games.

In conjunction with the Commonwealth Games Federation and the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA), ASADA is also currently looking to establish an international Pre-Games Anti-Doping Taskforce that would seek to engage with other Commonwealth Anti-Doping Organisations and International Federations for the purpose of coordinating targeted testing programs in the lead up to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Through ASADA's leadership the Pre-Games Taskforce will ensure appropriate and adequate testing of high risk sporting disciplines countries athletes.