

MEDIA RELEASE

Senator Kate Lundy

Shadow Minister Sport and Recreation

Labor Senator for the ACT

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Kids still sitting on the sideline

There are up to 28,000 children still missing out on the Australian Sports Commissions Active After School Communities Program (AASC) the Environment, Communication, IT and the Arts Committee heard this morning.

The committee heard that the program is failing to meet genuine interest from 575 schools around the country.

This has so far been the Government's only answer to addressing childhood obesity. The Government needs to make a real commitment to this program to ensure that all Aussie kids get the opportunity to participate.

Lack of physical activity is a major contributing factor to obesity and ill health among Australians. An Access Economics report released earlier this month suggests that by 2025, 7.2 million Australians will be obese. The report suggests that the direct cost of obesity last year was \$21 billion.

31/10/2006

Tabled by
Minister
31/10/06
Supplementary
estimates

Full and proper commitment to the AASC program is a small price for this Government to pay to address an issue that is costing Australians billions.

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