

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 3.1 - Sport and Recreation
Topic: Input to Australian Defence Force drugs policy

Senator: Kroger

Question reference number: 83

Type of question: Hansard, p 98, 24 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator KROGER: ... I have been advised by the Department of Defence that they are working either through the Australian Sports Commission or the Australian Drug Foundation will both in developing a drugs policy for the Defence Force. Have you been asked to provide any input into that?

Mr Eccles: I am not aware of that.

Senator KROGER: It might be the Drug Foundation. The policy that they were looking at developing was the one that is developed for sporting codes, which is why I thought that the Australian Sports Commission might well have had some input.

Mr Eccles: It could well have been ASADA, the Sports Anti-Doping Authority, that they had discussions with. ASADA oversight the regulation of drug testing, the drug-testing regime in sport and the monitoring of athletes. There would be quite a few lessons, I imagine, that could be learnt.

Senator Arbib: There was an article about the use of steroids or performance-enhancing drugs on a military installation. So they may have had discussions with ASADA, given that is one of the areas they deal with. We can check for you.

Senator KROGER: Yes, that would be interesting because I think it is a bit broader than that. It is in relation to the use of alcohol. There was a parallel drawn between the abuse of alcohol in football by a small number and the Defence Force. They were seeking to develop a code that was similar.

Mr Eccles: We could get you some information.

Answer:

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority has had no discussions with the Australian Defence Force on developing a drugs policy.

The Australian Sports Commission has not been requested to provide input into the development of a drugs policy for the Australian Defence Force.