

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Sports Commission

Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 155

Topic: Drugs in Sport

Asked By: Senator EDWARDS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 2

1. Given the drugs investigation into Essendon and Cronulla. Does the ASC feel performance enhancing drugs could be prevalent at local sporting levels?
2. Given there are more people playing sport at local and club level than at the elite level. What is ASC doing to stop this happening at a local level?
3. Given that performance enhancing drugs are not policed as heavily at local level as they are at the elite level should parents be concerned these drugs could infiltrate local clubs?
4. Should the ASC be funding programs to educate young athletes about the dangers of performance enhancing drugs?
5. If not, why not?
6. Has the ASC considered offering players an amnesty to encourage players to admit to drug use? If yes, why? If not, why not?
7. Has the ASC offered advice to any other body to encourage them to offer players an amnesty to admit to drug use? If yes who and what was their response? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. The ASC does not have a role in assessing the level of use of performance enhancing drugs at local sporting levels and therefore cannot provide any information on the prevalence of such practices .
2. For ASC recognition, National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) must have in place an ASADA approved World Anti-Doping Code compliant Anti-Doping Policy.
Each NSO is responsible for the governance of its sport nationally, including ensuring anti-doping policies are implemented at the local level.

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3. As noted above, NSOs are ultimately responsible for the governance of sports at the local level. The level of enforcement that occurs is a matter for each sport. The ASC assists NSOs in working with ASADA to establish testing and education programs tailored to all areas of sport including the club level.
4. The ASC facilitates anti-doping education to AIS Scholarship holders only; the content used in the presentations is approved by ASADA.

It is the responsibility of ASADA and NSOs to educate members of the Australian sporting community on matters of anti-doping.

ASADA has a range of broader programs that help to educate Australians about anti-doping issues. Details of these programs are available on ASADA's website:

www.asada.gov.au/education/index.html

5. See response above.
6. The ASC does not have any authority to offer an amnesty to participants in any sports. This is a matter for ASADA and NSOs.
7. No. Refer to previous response.