



Department of Education & Training

Office of the Secretary
SEC 17478



22 AUG 2006

Dr Ian Holland
Environment, Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts
Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Dr Holland

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Inquiry into women in sport and recreation in Australia.

The Department of Education and Training offers the Committee the following information:

Question 1 *What physical education classes are required and what are available (but not compulsory), in each year of school?*

- From prep to Year 3, Victorian Government schools must provide from 20 to 30 mins of physical education classes per day;
- From Years 4 to 6, Victorian Government schools must provide three hours of physical education and organised sport per week with a minimum of 90 minutes of physical education;
- From Years 7 to 10, Victorian Government schools must provide 100 minutes of physical education and 100 minutes of sport.

In addition to this, schools are required to develop teaching programs which will enable students meet the Health and Physical Education standards of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards for Prep – Year 10. Further information about these standards can be accessed at

<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential/personal/health/index.html>

Question 2 *What proportion of physical education classes are required to involve exercise activity?*

- All physical education classes at all year levels must involve exercise activity.

Question 3 *What school sport during regular school hours is required, and what is available (but not compulsory), in each year of school?*

- The required and available school sport time in regular school hours in Victorian Government schools from Years 4-6 is 90 minutes and from Years 7-10, 100 minutes.

In addition, the Department of Education and Training administers two sporting associations that come under the umbrella of School Sport Victoria—namely the Victorian Primary Schools' Sports Association (VSPPA) and the Victorian Secondary Schools' Sports Association (VSSSA). These organisations conduct school sport from Year 4 to Year 12 in government and non government schools.

These sporting associations also organise and host on a rotational basis, interstate exchanges. There are twenty organised sports available for primary students and thirty for secondary students. The associations organise seventeen primary exchanges and twenty secondary per year. There are approximately 500,000 school students actively involved in the work of these associations. The associations work closely, and under the auspice of, School Sport Australia.

Question 4 *What other obligations are there to participate in school-organised sporting activity outside regular school hours?*

- There are no obligations to participate in school organised sporting activity outside regular school hours.

Question 5 *In each of the above cases, what is included in the meaning of sport, physical activity or exercise?*

- The term sport means all activity that has as its ethos physical activity or is an organised or modified sporting event.

Question 6 *In each of the above cases, who determines whether schools and students are complying with the relevant policy?*

- The Department of Education and Training determines whether Victorian Government schools and their students are complying with the regulations concerning sport and physical education.

Question 7 *Does the regulation of any of the above matters vary according to the type of school (for example, public, Catholic or other private)?*

- The regulations apply only to Victorian Government schools although they are adopted by the non government school sectors.

I look forward to hearing of the results of the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Dawkins
Secretary