

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
References Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

The subject of your Inquiry is in an area of which I have both a personal and professional interest. I have conducted research on issues related to women in sport and recreation for over 20 years now and while there have been some changes for girls and women in the accessibility of sport and recreation opportunities, these have been very limited and restricted to certain social and cultural groups.

The health benefits of female participation in sport and recreation is well documented both here and overseas (both physical and psychological health). Yet report after report continues to point out that there is inequitable access for women/girls to sport and recreation opportunities – as participants, as paid staff members, as volunteers, as Board members). Much of my research has concentrated on the issues faced by women and girls from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD). I have attached a few papers and reports for your information.

The attached and other research into these important issues is less than expansive. Part of the issue is related to the lack of targeted research projects on women in sport. I (along with Dr K Toohey) were fortunate to gain one of the last social science grants offered by the Australian Sports Commission in 1996 to research women from CALD and sport. This funding source no longer provides access to grants to undertake research into matters such as those identified by your Inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further clarification or information.

Tracy Taylor
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University of Technology, Sydney

President – Sport Management Association of Australia and New Zealand
<http://www.gu.edu.au/school/gbs/tlhs/smaanz/home.html>

Attached:

Taylor, T., & Toohey, K. (1998) Identifying best practices in sport and recreation for women from non-English speaking backgrounds in rural and metropolitan New South Wales, NSW Department of Sport and Recreation: Sydney.