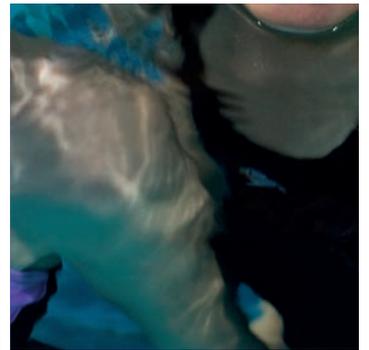
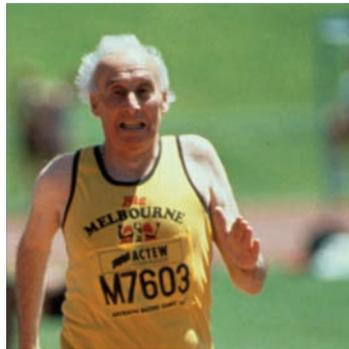
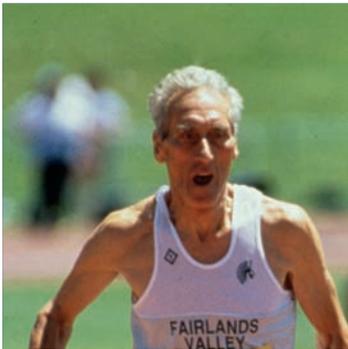




Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN SPORT

the pathway to success



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Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success

1. Sport in Australia

1.1 The need for change

Australian sport is at a critical junction.

Our sporting structures, traditionally focused on delivering high performance success on the international stage through a 'top down' approach to sport, have served us well, but new challenges confronting our nation both on and off the sporting field highlight the need for urgent change.

Over the past decade there has been too much talk and little action. Report after report has been left on the shelf gathering dust, and we are in danger of losing the momentum created in the lead up to and during the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the international sporting arena Australia's innovative systems and practices that have previously enabled us to 'punch above our weight', are not keeping pace with competing nations' efforts and we are rapidly losing our highly coveted competitive edge.

And the active lifestyle that has played a significant role in establishing our nation's identity, culture and international sporting reputation is being challenged by the demands of modern life and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, particularly amongst our children.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Australia has the fifth highest rate of adult obesity in the developed world. The 2007–08 National Health Survey found that 68% of adult Australian men and 55% of adult women were overweight or obese.¹ Further, 17% of Australian children (5–17 years) were overweight and nearly 8% were obese.

In order to reinvigorate engagement in sport amongst our community and to regain our competitive edge, we need to do things differently. We need to place a strategic focus on collaboration, reform and investment across the entire sporting pathway – from the grassroots up.

A new whole-of-sport approach is essential to boost sporting participation and enhance sporting pathways for the benefit of health and productivity while also contributing to and sustaining our international success.

Fundamental to this new approach is moving away from the divisive community versus elite sport debates of the past and developing a collaborative, efficient and integrated national sports system focused both on growing participation for the benefit of our community as well as the high performance system.

1.2 The pathway to success

Today, the Australian Government announces a new way forward: one that is focused on boosting the participation of Australians for the benefit of our community and sporting success.

A way forward that not only delivers on the Australian Government's commitment to boost funding to both community and high performance sport, but also for the first time, one that delivers a significant investment to the development pathway, the vital link that connects grassroots and high performance sport.

And a way forward that gives our champion athletes the support they need to represent Australia in the international arena and maintain our proud record of Olympic and Paralympic success.

Central to the new way forward is undertaking long overdue reform of our sporting system and putting in place the foundations to deliver a strategic, whole-of-sport approach to sports policy.

¹ ABS National Health Survey: Summary of Results, May 2009, Cat. No. 4364

It has become clear that there is an emerging need and indeed opportunity to strengthen partnerships between states and territories to improve access to sporting pathways and better leverage the power of sport to achieve goals both on and off the sporting field.

In a landmark agreement, the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council (SRMC) has agreed to establish the first National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework to help guide the development of sports policy across Australia.

To further strengthen Australia's sporting system, SRMC has also agreed for the first time to undertake reform that will improve the alignment of Australia's institutes and academies of sport, breathing new life and strength into what is the backbone of our high performance system – the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the state and territory institutes and academies of sport (SIS/SAS).

This reform will be backed by a record \$1.2 billion in Australian Government funding over the next four years for Australian sport.

This includes a \$324.8 million ongoing boost to the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) which incorporates \$195.2 million in new funding from the Australian Government – the biggest single funding injection to Australian sport in our nation's history.

In recognition of the significant leadership role played by the ASC Australia's peak national sport agency will be tasked with progressing *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* and distributing funding to maximise the Australian Government's whole-of-sport reform agenda.

This agenda includes:

- A Sport and Education Strategy – to increase the role and effectiveness of sport in schools and to boost the number of our children participating in our sporting base
- Requiring National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) to have an increased focus on participation outcomes as part of their funding agreements with the ASC and boosting funding opportunities for NSOs to grow grassroots participation through direct grants to community clubs
- Introducing new funding and measures to address the particular issues affecting women's participation, advancement and leadership in sport
- Recognising the importance of quality coaching right across the sporting spectrum and introducing new funding, training, support and mentoring to assist our coaches
- Providing additional coaching and officiating training opportunities for up to 45,000 community coaches and officials and subsidised costs associated with training for 5,000 new community coaches and officials
- Doubling our talent identification program – ensuring that our future champions are both discovered and assisted to reach their full potential
- Increasing funding for the development pathway, doubling the Local Sporting Champions program to provide financial support to 4,000 more young Australians and expanding the number of domestic competitions available for Australian athletes to compete in
- Introducing a new program to enable our current and retired athletes to use their position as sporting role models to give back to the community or assist the development of aspiring sports men and women
- Recognising the critical role of volunteers to our entire sports system and introducing measures to support, subsidise and reward their efforts
- Boosting funding support for our high performance athletes and the retention of our high performance coaches
- Assisting our high performance athletes to attend and compete strongly in international competition.

2. Increasing the number of Australians participating in sport

2.1 Boosting the number of Australian children participating in sport through education

Fundamental to increasing the number of Australians that participate in sport is building more opportunities for our children to participate in sport and physical activity.

Participation in sport has stalled over the last decade amongst Australian children.

During the 12 months to April 2009, 1 million children aged 5 to 14 did not participate in any organised sport outside of school hours, with a higher proportion of girls (44%) not participating in organised sports than boys (30%).²

Despite there being an obvious partnership between sport and education when it comes to achieving health and educational outcomes in our children, we have seen a decline in the quality of sport and physical education being delivered in our primary and secondary schools.

As early as 1992 the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts found that:

... physical education is being dramatically reduced throughout schools in Australia ... Ironically there is no dispute about the importance of physical education, yet there is a serious problem with its delivery.³

Whilst there has previously been a national requirement for schools to provide a minimum weekly allocation of 2 hours of physical activity, the requirement did not specify the level or intensity of activity required in line with health guidelines, and did not provide any detailed information as to how 'physical activity' was to be delivered or met.

The Australian Government will deliver a National Sport and Education Strategy that firmly embeds quality sport and physical education in our schools and will:

- Prioritise sport and physical education in our National School Curriculum in partnership with state and territory governments. Education Ministers have agreed that the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) prioritise physical education in the development of phase three of the National Curriculum, and that the number of hours committed to physical activity in the school curriculum be maximised
- Boost teachers' skills under the *Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership* to ensure high quality sport and physical education is delivered in our schools. The Australian Government will work with the states and territories and ACARA to achieve national professional standards for teachers in this area
- Provide communities with places to play on school grounds and working with schools to ensure communities can access multipurpose halls and covered learning areas funded under the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution.

2.2 Supporting our sporting organisations to enhance community participation and social inclusion

The Australian Government recognises the essential role that national and state sporting organisations can play in leading and growing their sports for the benefit of all community members.

Further, the Government recognises that sport can assist to build communities through social inclusion for those people who are vulnerable to social and structural disconnection.

Although national and state sporting organisations are a natural conduit for reaching out to local communities and bolstering participation in sport, a lack of resources and capacity to build pathways from the grassroots up has hampered their ability to broaden participation for the benefit of their own sport and the community.

² *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*, ABS, 2009

³ *Physical and Sport Education*, Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, December 1992, p. xiii

A key task for sports policy makers and administrators is to address the factors, and in some cases the barriers, that prevent sports participation by people from diverse backgrounds.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring sporting opportunities are safe, fun and inclusive for all of our community members and to supporting sport to ensure that our nation's diversity is reflected in participation.

We will support national sporting organisations (NSOs) to expand participation at a community level by:

- Providing NSOs with additional funding to grow participation at a community level and require them to deliver improved participation outcomes as part of their funding agreements with the ASC
- Requiring NSOs to develop participation plans in partnership with their state/territory associations to support their local clubs to broaden participation
- Funding NSOs to deliver direct financial assistance to support community clubs to implement participation initiatives in line with participation plans.

The ASC will also work closely with relevant portfolio areas across Government to deliver a Social Inclusion and Sport Strategy to support the development of pathways to increase opportunities for all Australians in sport, particularly those who may be marginalised or disadvantaged.

The Strategy will focus on supporting activities and initiatives that maximise the participation of all Australians in sport regardless of their ethnicity, religion, sexuality or gender.

2.3 Supporting people with disability and athletes with disability

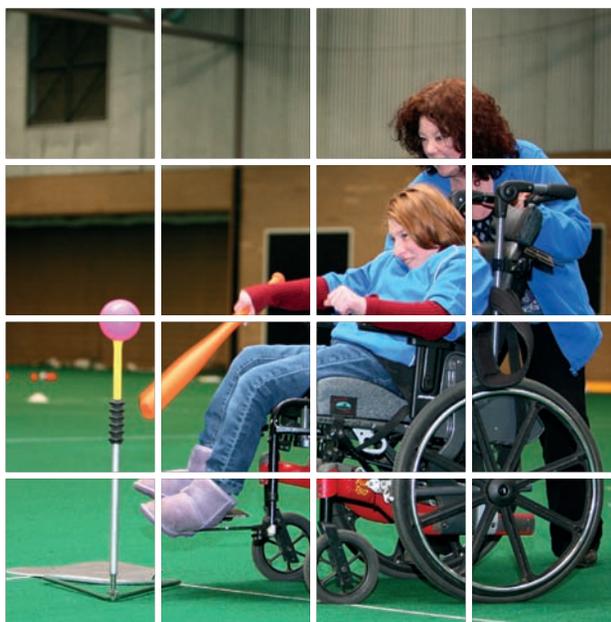
The achievements of Australia's athletes with disability are something that all Australians are, and should be, proud of. However, we as a nation can do more to ensure that people with disability and our high performance athletes with disability have opportunities to participate in sport at all levels.

The Australian Government will work in partnership with community and national sporting organisations to improve opportunities for people with disability, irrespective of the disability, to participate in sport at the grassroots and high performance levels.

A proud partner of the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) the Government is committed to supporting our high performance programs to prepare Australian athletes with disability for success at an international level, including the Paralympics.

The Australian Government will expand opportunities for people with disability to participate in sport and support our high performance athletes with disability by:

- Increasing funding and resources for talent identification for people with disability as part of our initiative to double the national talent identification network to provide talent identification and development opportunities for up to 5,000 additional young aspiring athletes
- Increasing funding for high performance programs to prepare our athletes with disability for future international competition
- Providing funding support for the broadcast of the London 2012 Paralympic Games
- Providing additional funding to NSOs and our sporting institutes to offer our top coaches packages which will make it viable to continue coaching in Australia
- Exploring measures to enhance the opportunities for people with disability in rehabilitation or treatment to access sports pathways.



2.4 Breaking down the barriers to women's and girls' participation in sport

Women have a vital role to play in the development of sport in Australia as participants, volunteers, athletes, and sports leaders as coaches and administrators. Yet we still see women facing barriers to participating in sport across their lifetime and an unwarranted lack of profile generally, when it comes to high performance sport.

Recent research conducted for the Australian Government found that just 9% of sports news reporting is related to women's sport, while men's sport makes up 81% of coverage.⁴ Figures also show that women's representation on national sporting organisation boards is very poor, with just 25% of board memberships filled by women.⁵

In relation to participation of Australian girls in sport we know that almost half of girls aged 5 to 14 do not participate in sport outside of school hours.⁶

The Australian Government's National Body Image Advisory Group has also highlighted the barriers for women's and girls' participation in sport, specifically calling on the ASC to engage in the development and dissemination of body image messages to sporting organisations.

About Time! Women in Sport and Active Recreation in Australia, the report produced by the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Reference Committee, outlined a range of recommendations aimed at broadening participation of women in sport.

In response to this inquiry we have invested in a range of important initiatives that have supported women in sport since coming to government. However, we recognise that more must be done to bring women's sport to its rightful place in this country. The Australian Government will further support women's sport by:

- Providing additional funding and resources to improve the media coverage of Australian women's sport
- Establishing a new 'women in sport register' to connect sport with potential female board and administration candidates, grow the number of women on Australia's sporting boards and to help promote inclusive cultures that support women in sport
- Establishing Women in Sport Awards to recognise exemplary initiatives which provide special support for women's and girls' participation in sport, whether as players, coaches, administrators or officials
- Requesting the ASC work with national sporting organisations and other key bodies such as the Butterfly Foundation to develop strategies to tackle body image issues which affect women's participation in sport, especially amongst girls.

2.5 Breaking down the barriers to Indigenous participation in sport

Research indicates that between 2001 and 2005 there has been a shift towards lower levels of physical activity by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There has also been an increase in the proportion of sedentary behaviour amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years and over during this period from 37% to 47%.⁷

Yet we know that sport and active recreation can help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians' life expectancy by providing a practical tool for Indigenous communities to achieve positive outcomes in areas such as physical wellbeing and mental health, education and social participation.

The Australian Government recognises the power of sport in achieving positive results for Indigenous Australians both on and off the sporting field. We will:

- Include specific measures aimed at identifying talented Indigenous Australians, as part of the initiative to double the national talent identification network to provide talent identification and development opportunities for up to 5,000 additional young aspiring athletes
- Fund the expansion of talent scouts and talent identification programs particularly in regional Australia, which will boost the numbers of Indigenous juniors entering the development pathway.

⁴ *Towards a Level Playing Field: sport and gender in Australian media*, Australian Sports Commission, 2009, p.21

⁵ Data reported on www.womenonboards.org.au, from administrative data supplied by the Australian Sports Commission, and supplemented by Women on Boards.

⁶ *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*, ABS, 2009, p. 8

⁷ *Sport and Recreation: A Statistical Overview*, ABS, 2009

2.6 Building places to play

In 2007-08, the Australian Government invested almost \$167 million to deliver 140 sport and recreation infrastructure projects across Australia. This funding provided much needed local facility redevelopment to sporting grounds, including projects such as new change rooms, bike paths and field lighting.

In addition, the Government provided over \$1 billion through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP), from which over \$300 million was provided to support community sport and local clubs, the biggest single investment in sporting infrastructure in this nation's history.

Under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) the Government is providing \$16.2 billion to provide world-class educational facilities, through new infrastructure and refurbishments, to Australian schools including sport facilities.

The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) provides for tax-deductible corporate and community donations towards specific community sporting projects when they are registered with the Foundation, and encourages donations from individuals in the community. The effectiveness of the ASF will be reviewed to determine the best structure, governance and strategy required to deliver consistent and better coordinated funds to the sporting sector.

3. Strengthening sporting pathways

3.1 Supporting our volunteers and community coaches and officials

According to the ABS report on Volunteers in Sport (2006), over 1.7 million adult Australians volunteered their time to enable community sport to operate⁸ at an estimated input value to our economy of around \$4 billion.⁹

Our volunteers support almost every part of the sporting pathway in roles as diverse as coaches, officials, team managers, administrators, and board and committee members, with many filling multiple roles.

Coaches and officials are also critical to ensuring a strong development pathway, one that supports our future champions' progress from the grassroots through to high performance sport with the skills and confidence they need to achieve success.

The Australian Government will support sport volunteers and our community coaches and officials by:

- Providing additional coaching and officiating training opportunities for up to 45,000 community coaches and officials and subsidising the costs associated with training for 5,000 new community coaches and officials
- Providing funding support to NSOs to deliver coaching and officiating education programs, especially in regional areas
- Providing funding and resources to support mentoring to community coaches and officials
- Introducing a National Sports Volunteer award program – to reward volunteers and promote their contribution to sport and the wider community
- Providing additional funding to targeted national sporting organisations to enable them to employ development staff where required to drive volunteer programs and initiatives through their sport at a grassroots level
- Delivering a National Sport Volunteer Strategy to better engage, support, train and recognise our sport volunteers. The Strategy will support and contribute to the Government's National Volunteering Strategy currently being developed in the leadup to 2011, the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteering.

⁸ *Volunteers in Sport, Australia, 2006*, ABS

⁹ *The economic contribution of sport to Australia*, Frontier Economics, Nov 2009

3.2 Maximising the contribution of our athletes to community sport and participation

The Australian Government believes that athletes not only have the potential to make valuable contributions on the international sporting stage, but also to local sporting communities.

In recognition of the unique and inspirational role that athletes play in our community, especially with our kids, the Government will implement two new initiatives:

- Require AIS scholarship-holders to volunteer at local community sporting clubs or junior sport programs in the capacity of coach, official or administrator to support grassroots sport development
- Establish resources within the ASC to connect retired and current athletes with charity, government or non-government organisations delivering a range of initiatives that aim to strengthen our community. Under the initiative the ASC will provide a mechanism for athletes to register their interest and provide a matchmaking service with relevant programs.

3.3 Talent identification

Talent identification is the starting point for the development, case management and fast tracking of athletes towards success in sports in which they are suited. It is the all important bridge that fills the gap between grassroots sport and the development pathway.

Australia has a relatively small population of around 20 million people, when compared with the USA which has approximately 300 million people, and China which has almost 1,300 million people. In raw numbers this means that the odds are against us, with our high performance talent pool estimated at 200,000 people, compared with the United States' 2 million and China's 20 million.

In a world where high performance sport is becoming increasingly competitive, Australia needs to be doing more to unearth talented individuals with the potential to represent Australia and succeed on the world stage. The Australian Government will support talent identification by:

- Doubling the national talent identification network, to provide talent identification and development opportunities for up to 5,000 additional young aspiring athletes
- Funding the expansion of talent scouts and talent identification programs, particularly in regional Australia
- Funding resources to support NSOs to bridge gaps in their talent development pathways and form links with local sporting clubs and schools to find talent and strengthen their links with key system partners, including institutes and academies of sport and universities.

3.4 Boosting the development pathway

Opportunities for our high performance athletes to compete are critical in the development of athletes, and also in sustaining and improving the form of our world champions.

Strengthening the quality and frequency of domestic competitions in Australia is crucial to bridging the widening gap between grassroots and high performance sport.

The Australian Government values the role that competition plays in ensuring a strong development pathway for our aspiring and current world-class athletes. We will:

- Increase funding for the development pathway, through the expansion of the number of domestic competitions open to Australian athletes
- Double the Local Sporting Champions program to provide financial support to 4,000 more young Australians and their families to help our junior athletes attend competitions across Australia.

4. Striving for success

4.1 Supporting and retaining our high performance coaches and officials

It is unquestionable that the quality of coaching and officiating in Australia's high performance programs over the last 20 years has been central to our international success. Our ability to identify, attract, develop, retain and recognise our coaches and officials has been a significant weapon in our sporting arsenal when we have fronted up to nations with larger population bases and sporting budgets.

In recent years however, we have seen a decline in our retention of high performance coaches.

The Australian Government is committed to working with sport to support coaches and officials along the grassroots and development pathways. We will provide:

- A funding boost to enable the retention and support of national head coaches and senior coaches within the Australian sport system
- Additional funding to NSOs to offer our top coaches packages which will make it viable to continue coaching in Australia
- Additional funding to NSOs to support coaching and officiating initiatives which enable more volunteer coaches and officials to access training and education programs
- Funding to support the establishment of clear pathways for the development of coaches and officials, as well as emerging coaches and our top officials.

4.2 Boosting support for international competition

Australian athletes can often be geographically disadvantaged when it comes to international competition – making it harder for our athletes to access high-level competition hubs in Europe and the United States.

Add to this the growing investment in high performance sport by our competitors and the emergence of sophisticated sports systems abroad means the need for international competition experience is intensifying.

The Australian Government values the role that competition plays in ensuring a strong development pathway for our aspiring and current world class athletes. We will:

- Provide funding to support athletes to attend and participate in more international competitions, with a particular focus on emerging athletes and national junior development
- Continue to work with the ASC to build the capacity of the European Training Centre, in line with the Government's \$11 million investment in 2009/10.

4.3 Investing in our high performance athletes

Without financial support to assist athletes to focus on their daily training environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Australian athletes to maintain the training regime and the commitment required for success, particularly at the international level.

The Australian Government recognises the critical importance of investing in our current and future champions so that they can focus on training full-time, preparing for competition and representing the green and gold. We will:

- Expand support for our targeted elite athletes ranked in the top 3 in the world, as well as extending support to those ranked in the top 10 in the world
- Provide funding to increase payments to our top athletes to ensure they can focus on their daily training and are competition ready.

4.4 Innovation, research and enhancing the athlete training environment

Australia's international reputation for applying innovation and technology to sport is well known, celebrated and coveted. However, in the last 20 years we have seen our international competitors adopt our systems and approaches, diluting our technological edge.

Innovation, research, science and technology will continue to be the drivers of Australian sporting excellence in the coming decades. The Australian Government is committed to investment in sport science by:

- Expanding funding support for applied research projects that contribute to improved performance by Australian athletes and teams
- Expanding the availability of sports science support for athletes.

4.5 Reforming our high performance institutions and academies

Despite having one of the most envied high performance systems in the world over the last 20 years, Australia's institutes and academies of sport have been increasingly hampered and undermined by duplication, lack of co-ordination and lack of strategic direction.

Although the states and territories have shared the goal of maximising the success of Australian athletes on the international stage with the Australian Government, actions have often been determined on the basis of jurisdictional priorities without reference to a broader, national strategic plan.

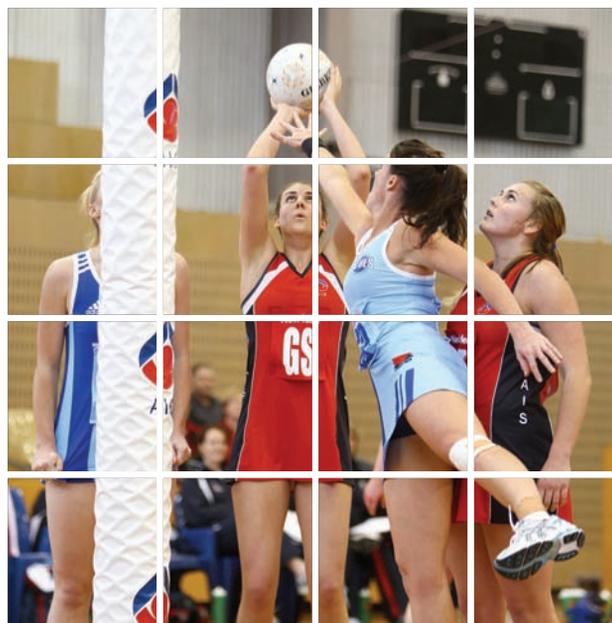
While this system has served Australia well over the past 20 years it is clear that reform and re-alignment are critical if we are to breathe new life and strength into what is the backbone of our high performance system – the AIS and the state and territory institutes and academies of sport (SIS/SAS).

In a landmark agreement the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council (SRMC) has agreed for the first time to a new national approach that will deliver a more aligned, co-ordinated, and effective sport system.

The new national operational model for the institutes and academies of sport will improve alignment across the agencies, providing clarity on roles and responsibilities and development of a co-ordinated, national high performance strategy.

The agreement is based on the following principles:

- Whole-of-pathway focus
- Commonwealth, state/territory government partnership, shared investment, influence and accountability
- National outcomes in the context of the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework
- Local flexibility and integrated decentralised delivery options catering for individual athlete and local needs
- NSO high performance plans developed collaboratively, with the involvement of all key stakeholders and delivery partners
- Institutes and academies as partners, not just service providers
- Economic efficiency gains at all levels.



4.6 Continue the fight against drugs in sport

The Australian Government is committed to providing athletes with an even playing field by targeting drugs in sport.

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) is the key implementation agency for Australia's anti-doping effort, supporting the Australian Government in coordinating and harmonising anti-doping initiatives with states and territories and with our national sporting organisations.

The Australian Government's \$20.1 million Illicit Drugs in Sport – National Education and Prevention Action Plan, developed in consultation with experts in the field and endorsed by the Australian National Council on Drugs, provides a comprehensive approach that recognises the importance of education, prevention, detection and rehabilitation in successfully tackling illicit drug use in sport and the broader community.

Conclusion

The Australian Government understands the importance of sport to our communities and to our nation.

We have made the single biggest investment in community sporting infrastructure that this nation has ever seen, delivering \$300 million to sport under the \$1 billion Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP).

With the release of *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* we are backing this up with an injection of \$195 million in new funding to sport, the biggest increase in sports funding in Australia's history, as well as a comprehensive plan of reform to benefit the health of our community and of our sports sector.

Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success takes a holistic approach to our sporting system that is aimed at strengthening sport as a whole.

Through renewed focus and strategy, enhanced partnerships across tiers of government, a close co-operative approach with our sporting organisations and the biggest increase to sports funding in Australia's history, *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* maps the course for increased opportunities for Australians to participate in sport and activity – and Australia's continued sporting excellence.

Response to the Recommendations of the Independent Sport Panel

Chapter 1.1: Defining Our National Sports Vision

1.1 The Australian Government, advised by the Australian Sports Commission and in consultation with state and territory governments, should develop a costed national sports policy framework and submit the framework to the Council of Australian Governments for endorsement.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

In a landmark agreement, the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council (SRMC) will establish the first National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework. The need for Council of Australian Government's involvement will be considered by SRMC.

The Framework sets out key priorities in sport and recreation that will guide the development of sport policy, strategy and programs across Australia.

The Australian Government and state and territory governments will align and fund their sport policy, strategy and programs with the Framework.

1.2 The national sport policy framework should include the following:

a) Measurable national objectives and priorities for public funding, including success for high performance and participation with domestic and/or international significance, and capacity to contribute to the Australian Government's objectives for social inclusion and preventative health.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

This recommendation will be addressed by the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council as part of the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework.

b) Financial and non-financial strategies to achieve those objectives, including strategies that provide for greater participation.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach and notes that Australian governments will align and fund their sport policy, strategy and programs with the Framework.

c) The roles and responsibilities of various levels of government and their agencies in delivering those strategies; including the sport and recreation, health, education, Indigenous and youth portfolios.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

Each jurisdiction will work with their relevant portfolios in implementing the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework.

1.3 The national sport policy framework should be supported by availability of robust data:

a) To ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency, the Australian Government, in consultation with state and territory governments, should design and fund collections of statistics and other data to inform policy development generally and to assist ongoing evaluation of national sport policy framework strategies.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

A significant body of research is currently commissioned and conducted by government agencies and educational institutions, yet there is no overarching set of priorities to guide research activity. The National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework will address the need for research, data collection and evaluation.

The Australian Government will work to ensure that the Framework establishes a national research agenda, engaging the sport and active recreation sector to identify priorities.

b) The Australian Sports Commission should develop a system for collection of participation data from national sporting organisations that is reliable, valid, repeatable and comparable across sports.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

1.4 The Australian Government should ensure that Australia remains at the forefront of the global fight against doping in sport and that Australia's domestic anti-doping regime reflects world best practice in deterrence, detection and enforcement and incorporates the recommendations of the Panel into the structural and governance arrangements of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government will continue to implement a tough but fair anti-doping program that integrates deterrence, detection and enforcement to best practice standards, primarily through the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA). The Australian Government has recently reformed the governance arrangements for ASADA to enhance its response to doping issues.

Chapter 1.2: Reforming the Australian Sports Commission to Lead the Sports System

2.1 Recognising the complex nature of the Australian sports system, a single point of focus is required to provide leadership. That point of focus should be the Australian Sports Commission.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

In recognition of the significant leadership role played by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Government will reinforce this role, and task the ASC with overseeing the development and implementation of the Government's integrated and whole-of-sports vision going forward.

2.2 Consistent with the Australian Sports Commission’s leadership role, it should not be involved in service delivery. Those activities that give the Australian Sports Commission a ‘conflict’ with the other organisations it is supposed to deal with and support should be taken away from it. Specifically, the Australian Institute of Sport should be separated from the Australian Sports Commission (we discuss this further in the next chapter) and the Active After-school Communities program should be contracted out to appropriate providers at agreed performance standards.

Government Response

NOT SUPPORTED.

Following consultation with Australian sport the Australian Government has received strong feedback from national and peak sporting organisations that they do not support the separation of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

In line with this feedback the Australian Government will focus on delivering stronger alignment between the AIS and the state and territory institutes and academies of sport in partnership with state and territory governments to support better co-ordination and reduce duplication, rather than supporting separation at this time.

The Australian Government considers that the Australian Sports Commission is best placed at this stage to ensure an effective and consistent national delivery of the Active After-school Communities program.

2.3 The Australian Sports Commission should be responsible for developing the overarching strategy framework in light of Australian Government policy: proposing and measuring national outcomes, contributing to policy proposals, solving problems, allocating Australian Government money to elite and community organisations and strengthening and evaluating the national sporting organisations. And, very importantly, it should be building collaboration across the sports system.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

In recognition of the significant leadership role played by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Government will reinforce this role, and task the ASC with overseeing the development and implementation of the Government’s integrated and whole-of-sports vision going forward, including the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework.

2.4 The Australian Sports Commission board and executive leadership should be reconstituted to ensure that the right skills are in place to meet the Australian Sports Commission’s new objectives. The Australian Sports Commission board should be reconstituted with no more than eight non-executive directors plus the chief executive officer as a board member. Board members should be chosen on a skills basis but with relevant and diverse experience and a truly national perspective. A chair and chief executive officer who can best bring the skills and vision appropriate to the new challenge should be appointed.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN-PRINCIPLE.

In recognition of the significant leadership role played by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Government will reinforce this role, and task the ASC with overseeing the development and implementation of the Government’s integrated and whole-of-sports vision going forward, including the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework.

The Australian Government has confidence in the skills and experience of the ASC Board and senior executive staff and will make further appointments, including that of ASC Chair, and assess board structure to ensure alignment with the Government’s new integrated whole-of-sport approach.

Chapter 1.3: Merging Our Institutes of Sport

3.1 The Australian Institute of Sport should be removed from the Australian Sports Commission and amalgamated with state and territory institutes and academies of sport, into a single Australian Institutes of Sport (AIS), funded by the Australian Government, and with the existing combined funding levels.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PART.

In a landmark agreement the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council has agreed for the first time to a new national approach that will deliver a more aligned, co-ordinated and effective sport system.

The new national operational model for the sports institutes will improve alignment across institutes, providing clarity on roles and responsibilities and development of a co-ordinated, national high performance strategy.

The agreement is based on the following principles:

- Whole-of-pathway focus
- Federal, state/territory government partnership, shared investment, influence and accountability
- National outcomes in the context of the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework
- Local flexibility and integrated decentralised delivery options catering for individual athlete and local needs
- National sporting organisation (NSO) high performance plans developed collaboratively, with the involvement of all key stakeholders and delivery partners
- Institutes and academies as partners not just service providers
- Economic efficiency gains at all levels.

3.2 For elite sport, the Australian Government should be responsible for support of national level programs, state and territory governments for state and territory level programs and in association with local governments for developmental programs.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach which will be considered and addressed by the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council and as part of collaborative development of the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework.

3.3 State and territory based programs should be funded and managed by the states and territories (even if with Australian Government contributions) with the objective of identifying and preparing athletes for progression into national programs.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach which will be considered and addressed under the new national operational model for the sports institutes and academies which will improve alignment across the organisations, providing clarity on roles and responsibilities and development of a co-ordinated, national high performance strategy.

3.4 Where appropriate the Australian Government and state and territory governments should negotiate appropriate arrangements for use and control of existing facilities used by state and territory institutes and academies of sport.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach which will be considered and addressed under the new national operational model for the sports institutes and academies which will improve alignment across the organisations, providing clarity on roles and responsibilities and development of a co-ordinated, national high performance strategy.

3.5 Australia's high performance sport system should be based on the principle that elite programs be delivered at optimal locations – and the system must facilitate the engagement of other providers such as universities and private organisations where appropriate.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach which will be considered and addressed under the new national operational model for the sports institutes and academies which will improve alignment across the organisations, providing clarity on roles and responsibilities and development of a co-ordinated, national high performance strategy.

Chapter 1.4: Building the Capacity of Our National Sports Organisations

4.1 National sporting organisations should have primary responsibility for development of their own high performance programs with assistance from the Australian Sports Commission as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

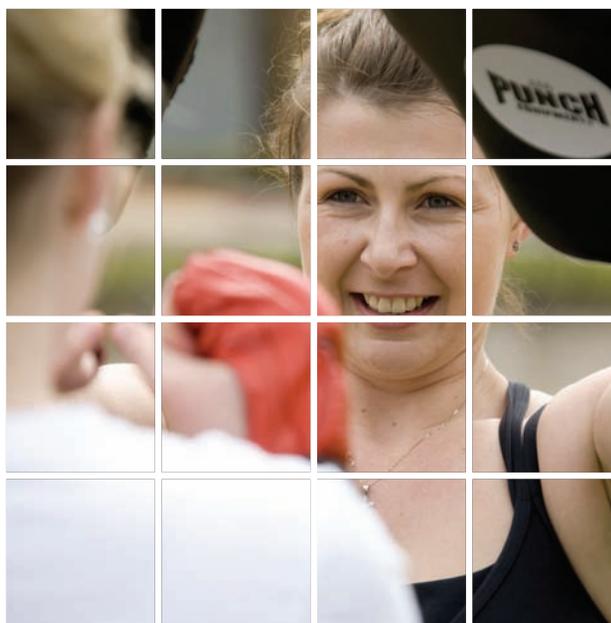
The Australian Government supports this approach which will be addressed by the Australian Sports Commission through funding agreements which include support for the enhancement of national sporting organisations' capacity, governance and planning, and the prioritising of participation outcomes.

4.2 The Australian Sports Commission should make the adoption of appropriate and national skills-based governance structures that reflect the diversity of membership a funding condition for national sporting organisations.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach which will be addressed by the Australian Sports Commission through funding agreements which include support for enhancement of national sporting organisations' capacity, governance and planning, and the prioritising of participation outcomes.



4.3 National sporting organisations' boards and managements should place engagement of recreational participation as a key priority and this focus should be backed by government policy at all levels.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach and will provide national sporting organisations with additional funding to grow participation at a community level and require them to deliver participation outcomes as part of their funding agreements with the Australian Sports Commission.

4.4 All national sporting organisations that are highly dependent on public funding should have rolling five-year national plans that set the targets and measures by which the national sporting organisations should be judged.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach which will be addressed by the Australian Sports Commission through funding agreements which include support for enhancement of national sporting organisations' capacity, governance and planning, and the prioritising of participation outcomes.

4.5 To address duplications of functions, the Australian Sports Commission should encourage ventures that provide 'shared functions' to sporting clubs and bodies and should make 'sharing' a condition of financial support to identified national sporting organisations.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach and will encourage the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to work with smaller national sporting organisations to identify suitable arrangements for shared functions and services. The ASC will encourage relevant agencies in other jurisdictions as well as local governments and sporting organisations to adopt a similar approach.

4.6 National sporting organisations that are engaged in the Olympics should explore events that raise profile outside the Olympics.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this approach and acknowledges the importance of national sporting organisations (NSOs) creating revenue streams to decrease their reliance on public funding. The Australian Sports Commission will work with NSOs to identify suitable options.

Chapter 1.5: Putting Sport and Physical Activity Back into Education

5.1 The Australian Government and state and territory governments should make sport in schools an ongoing priority and should agree that physical education be a stand-alone key learning area in the national curriculum.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

The Australian Government will deliver a National Sport and Education Strategy that firmly embeds quality sport and physical education in our schools and will:

Prioritise sport and physical education in our National School Curriculum in partnership with state and territory governments. Education Ministers have agreed that the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) prioritise physical education in the development of phase three of the National Curriculum, and that the number of hours committed to physical activity in the school curriculum be maximised.

5.2 Relevant Australian Government agencies, including the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, should ensure that the national curriculum for sport and physical education be considered as soon as possible and no later than the second phase of the national curriculum, to be developed in 2011 and implemented in 2012.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PART.

Prioritise sport and physical education in our National School Curriculum in partnership with state and territory governments who have agreed that the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) prioritise physical education in the development of phase three of the National Curriculum, and that the number of hours committed to physical activity in the school curriculum be maximised.

5.3 The Australian Government should consider the repair, upgrade and development of sport and recreation facilities in schools as an integral part of its 'education revolution' initiative on the basis that public access to school sporting facilities is maximised.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government has already embarked on a significant infrastructure upgrade including sport and recreation as part of its Building the Education Revolution (BER) initiative. Under this initiative the Australian Government is providing \$16.2 billion for world-class educational facilities, through new infrastructure and refurbishments, to Australian schools. BER is a key element of the Australian Government's \$42 billion Nation Building—Economic Stimulus Plan, which is providing economic stimulus and employment through local infrastructure projects. Funding from both the \$14.1 billion Primary Schools for the 21st Century and \$1.28 billion National School Pride elements of the program is supporting the construction and refurbishment of multi-purpose halls, sporting grounds and facilities to increase participation in physical and recreational activities.

5.4 The Australian Government and state and territory governments should take action to allow greater access to school (primary and secondary) sporting facilities outside of school hours.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this recommendation which will be addressed as part of a National Sport and Education Strategy mentioned in the response to Recommendation 5.1.

Further, we are committed to working with schools to ensure communities have access to the multi-purpose halls and covered learning areas funded under the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution.

5.5 Greater community access should be provided to tertiary education and other institutional sporting facilities.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports this recommendation which will be addressed as part of a National Sport and Education Strategy mentioned in the response to Recommendation 5.1.

5.6 The Active After-school Communities program should be reviewed and, if continued beyond its currently funded term, should be contracted out to other service providers at appropriate service standards.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PART.

The Australian Government supports the closer alignment of the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program with community sport, national sporting organisations and other education-based programs. The Australian Government considers that the Australian Sports Commission is best placed at this stage to ensure an effective and consistent national delivery of the AASC program.



Chapter 1.6: Building Community Sport with People and Places

6.1 The Australian Government should develop and fund a national volunteer program for sporting and physical activity organisations that aims to attract and retain volunteers to sport through education, accreditation and recognition, and in particular takes account of the potential offered by the growing number of older Australians to become volunteers.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government will implement a National Sport Volunteer Plan to better strategically engage, support, train and recognise our sport volunteers. This Plan will support and contribute to the Government's National Volunteering Strategy currently being developed in the lead-up to 2011, the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteering.

6.2 The Australian Government should establish and fund a national scheme that encourages past high-performance scholarship holders (Australian Institute of Sport and state and territory institutes and academies of sport) to volunteer within community sport organisations as coaches, managers, administrators and mentors.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

In recognition of the unique role that athletes play in our community in inspiring our nation, especially our kids, the Government will implement two new initiatives:

- Require AIS scholarship-holders to volunteer at local community sporting clubs or junior sport programs in the capacity of coach, official or administrator to support grassroots sport development
- Establish resources within the ASC to connect retired and current athletes with charity, government or non-government organisations delivering a range of initiatives that aim to strengthen our community. Under the initiative the ASC will provide a mechanism for athletes to register their interest and provide a matchmaking service with relevant programs.

6.3 The Australian Government, in consultation with the state and territory governments, should develop a strategic national facilities initiative for the funding and development of Australia's community sport and recreation facilities over the next decade.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

The Australian Government will work with the states and territories to assemble data on the sport and recreation facility needs and priorities of communities and regions to better inform planning and funding decisions.

6.4 The Australian Government should establish a national sport facilities fund with an initial allocation of \$250 million each year for four years, to begin the implementation of the strategic national facilities initiative in partnership with state, territory and local governments and the private sector, where appropriate.

Government Response

NOT SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government has already made significant investments in community infrastructure since coming to Government, which will continue to make a significant contribution to sport in this country, both at the community and high performance levels. This support ranges from funding to assist projects to develop small community facilities in regional and urban areas, to projects to develop major sporting venues.

The Government has provided over \$1 billion under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP), under which over \$300 million was provided to support community sport and local clubs, the biggest single investment in sporting infrastructure in this nation's history.

Under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) the Government is providing \$16.2 billion to provide world-class educational facilities, through new infrastructure and refurbishments, to Australian schools including sport facilities.

The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) provides for tax-deductible corporate and community donations towards specific community sporting projects when they are registered with the Foundation, and encourages donations from individuals in the community. The effectiveness of the ASF will be reviewed to determine the best structure, governance and strategy required to deliver consistent and better coordinated funds to the sporting sector.

6.5 The national sport facilities fund should have an initial focus on drought-proofing assets that are determined to be of 'high priority'.

Government Response

NOT SUPPORTED.

See response to Recommendation 6.4.

6.6 In any infrastructure program, preference should be given to projects that have the potential to engage wide sections of the community, such as multi-sport facilities in proximity to other community infrastructure, to help with sustainability and to increase social capital.

Government Response

NOTED.

The Australian Government notes this recommendation in the context of its response to Recommendation 6.4.

Chapter 1.7: Ensuring Australia's Sport System is Open to All

7.1 The Australian Sports Commission, in consultation with the Australian Government, state and territory and local governments and agencies and appropriate experts, should develop strategies as a matter of priority in the nine key areas identified by the Panel. In each category, the Panel has made specific comment on the key issues to be addressed and these should provide the context in which strategies and recommendations are designed and communicated across the sporting system. In some instances, this would involve the setting of targets, the undertaking of new research and analysis, and significant community consultation.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

The Australian Government notes this recommendation and will take it into account in developing key strategies mentioned in its response to the Panel's report. The Australian Sports Commission will also take this recommendation into account when developing sport-related strategies in the future.

7.2 The Australian Government should choose several geographic areas across Australia where many or most of the nine issues exist and contribute to significant social disadvantage, and design projects which place sport, recreation and volunteering at the centre of plans to improve community outcomes. This would involve collaboration with the state, territory and local governments and agencies responsible for indicators of disadvantage in partnership with national sporting organisations, non-government organisations and communities.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

The Australian Government notes this recommendation and will consider the appropriateness of choosing geographic areas to establish sport, recreation and volunteering programs. The Australian Sports Commission will also take this recommendation into account when developing sport-related strategies in the future.

Chapter 1.8: Sustaining the Funding Base for Sport

8.1 The Australian Government should maintain sport funding at current levels and should consider supplementing this funding on the basis of the agreed targets for high performance and participation outlined in the national sports policy framework.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government has not only maintained current funding levels but has provided an additional \$195 million over four years to address the urgent issues facing sport in the current environment.

This will be complemented by the Australian Sports Commission adopting a whole-of-sport approach with a focus on enhancing sporting participation and pathways for the benefit of health, productivity, social inclusion as well as maintaining Australia's international success.

This approach not only delivers on the Australian Government's commitment to boost funding to both community and elite sport, but also – for the first time – delivers a significant investment in the development pathway, the vital missing link that connects grassroots and high performance sport, and provides further opportunities to grow participation.

8.2 The Australian Government should provide to the new Australian Institutes of Sport (AIsS) at least the existing level of funding allocated to the Australian Institute of Sport by the Australian Sports Commission and the combined allocation of state and territory governments to the state and territory institutes and academies of sport.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PART.

The Australian Government notes that this recommendation was made in the context of Recommendation 3.1.

Noting this, the Government is committed to working with state and territory governments to ensure close collaboration for the benefit of sport, that doesn't encourage cost shifting in jurisdictions.

8.3 The Australian Government should not introduce a HECS-style contribution scheme for graduates of the existing Australian Institute of Sport, state and territory institutes and academies of sport or the new Australian Institutes of Sport (AIsS), but rather it should introduce a scheme that requires graduates from these institutions to donate time and/or expertise to the Australian sport system.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

In recognition of the unique role that athletes play in our community in inspiring our nation, especially our kids, the Government will implement two new initiatives:

- Require AIS scholarship holders to volunteer at local community sporting clubs or junior sport programs in the capacity of coach, official or administrator to support grassroots sport development
- In recognition of the unique role that sports people play in Australia, the Australian Government will, for the first time, establish resources within the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to connect retired and current athletes with charity, government or non-government organisations delivering a range of initiatives that aim to strengthen our community. Under the initiative the ASC will provide a mechanism for athletes to register their interest and provide a matchmaking service with relevant programs.

8.4 The Australian Government should not introduce a national sports lottery at this stage, but should negotiate with state and territory governments to provide a share of existing lottery revenue for sport and recreation facilities and programs.

Government Response

SUPPORTED IN PART.

The Australian Government agrees that a national sports lottery is not warranted at this stage.

8.5 The Australian Government should review the governance and structural and operational arrangements of the Australian Sports Foundation, to raise awareness within the community of the opportunity offered by the Australian Sports Foundation for fundraising and to provide easy access to the Australian Sports Foundation by community groups.

Government Response

SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government supports a review of the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) with a view to improving awareness of, simplifying access to, and enhancing the services of the ASF for all sporting organisations and individuals.

8.6 The Australian Sports Commission in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing should explore the viability of tax rebates, vouchers or another system designed to reduce the cost of participation, and the likely contribution of such schemes to increasing participation levels.

Government Response

NOT SUPPORTED.

The Australian Government does not support this recommendation and considers that direct support through specific purpose programs is a preferable approach at this time.

However, we note that Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success will contribute to the reduction of the cost of participation for Australian families through:

- Funding to national sporting organisations (NSOs) to deliver direct financial assistance to support community clubs to implement participation initiatives
- Doubling the Local Sporting Champions program to provide financial support to 4,000 more young Australians and their families to help our junior athletes attend competitions across Australia.

