

**Australian Sports Commission  
Statement of Intent  
December 2023**

This Statement of Intent outlines how the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) proposes to meet the expectations outlined by the Minister for Sport, the Hon Anika Wells MP in the Ministerial Statement of Expectations for the ASC.

**Vision**

As the Government's lead sports agency, the ASC shares the Government's vision for sport to drive socio-economic benefits across Australia. In line with its specific roles and functions, the ASC will contribute to this through its vision to make "Sport has a place for everyone and deliver results that make Australia proud".

**Role of the ASC and Organisational Governance**

The ASC exists because sport matters. This drives everything the ASC does. The ASC stands for respect, integrity, teamwork and excellence, and these values underpin the ASC's culture, the expectations of ASC staff, how the ASC interacts with its partners, and how the ASC delivers for sport.

The ASC is firmly committed to the principles of accountability and transparency and acknowledges the Government's expectation of prudent financial management and compliance with the PGPA Act. The ASC values the Government's APS reform agenda and is committed to building a stronger workforce through its policies, protocols, and workplace culture. The ASC also notes and welcomes the current review of the ASC Act.

As a Corporate Commonwealth Entity with its own enabling legislation, the ASC seeks to fulfil and balance its roles as an independent body working closely with sports, a responsible public institution, and a valued adviser to Government on sporting matters.

The ASC is proud of its leadership role within the sports sector and is committed to working with its sector partners to engage with and address emerging issues that impact Australian sport.

That is why the ASC has worked so closely with partners and stakeholders across the sector in leading the co-design of Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy, Win Well, and the National Sport Participation Strategy, Play Well.

These national strategies represent significant progress in aligning our sector and working together. These strategies also position the ASC to continue providing advice to Government that is informed by the ASC's close and productive relationships across the Australian sport sector and represents a collective sense of the sector's priorities.

For example, two priority areas within Play Well are 'Equitable Access' and 'Transforming Culture' – to ensure all Australians can access sport in environments which are inclusive, welcoming and fun. This aligns directly with the Government's expectations that the ASC will work with the sport sector to embrace diversity, improve access, embed disability inclusion, support First Nations peoples and cultures and accelerate opportunities for women in the sporting workforce.

## **Priorities**

Building on the Win Well and Play Well national strategies, the ASC's own strategic vision and corporate plan indicate how the ASC will deliver programs and initiatives which align with the Government's Statement of Expectations.

### *Involve more Australians with sport at all levels*

The ASC agrees that sport provides participants with many physical and mental benefits and brings communities together.

The ASC is committed to working with National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and National Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (NSODs) and the Department of Health and Aged care (the Department) to maximise the Government's investment in major sporting events. Specifically, the ASC is working with Basketball Australia, AusCycling, Football Australia and Cricket Australia through 2023-24 to ensure the major sporting event legacy programs led by each of those organisations enhance opportunities for women and girls in each of those sports.

The ASC looks forward to working closely with the Australian Government to shape how smart public investment can support the priorities of Play Well, including enhancing the ASC's investment model for sport participation.

Central to the ASC helping get more Australians involved in sport at all levels, including those who are less active, will be the delivery of national programs and initiatives. This includes Sporting Schools, Participation Grants, Women Leaders in Sport, Sport4All, Sport Volunteer Coalition Action Plan, the Community Coaching and Officiating online education programs, Local Sporting Champions and Local Para Champions as well as a raft of wellbeing and safety initiatives which focus on the holistic athlete journey.

Another example is the Play Well Participation Grants Program which the ASC launched in November 2023. This program will fund \$10.3 million in grants to a range of partners across the next two years to deliver innovative sport participation projects that build welcoming environments for all Australians and drive a lifelong involvement in sport.

### *Lead and enable a cohesive and effective sport system*

The ASC will continue providing expertise, tools, and guidance to sporting organisations across a range of critical areas, including the Australian Sport Learning Centre, the Athlete Management System and Game Plan.

The ASC is committed to working with its portfolio agency partners – the Australian Sports Foundation, Sport Integrity Australia, the National Sports Tribunal and the Department of Health and Aged Care – to enhance the connection between NSOs and NSODs and these Commonwealth agencies. This includes supporting work focused on protecting sports participants from discrimination and harassment, protecting sports from integrity threats as well as delivering major sporting events.

Engagement with the other Commonwealth sport portfolio agencies occurs via a range of regular meetings, including between heads of agencies, inter-departmental committees, Ministerial and Parliamentary functions, and ongoing engagement on specific projects and steering committees such as the National Sport Plan and major event legacy programs.

*Grow elite success and representation*

The ASC, through its high performance arm the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), prides itself on leading and enabling a united and collaborative high performance system. 2024 will see the eyes of the sporting world turn to Paris for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Building on Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy, the ASC is focused on providing the support and investment required to ensure Australia's athletes have the best chances of success in Paris.

The ASC is grateful for the additional financial support provided by the Australian Government through the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Preparation Fund, providing \$20 million in grants to assist athletes and teams travel to and compete at critical qualification events and deliver key high performance initiatives that will significantly enhance their medal potential and help improve performance at the Paris Games.

*Budget Measures*

The ASC is committed to delivering the Budget Measures which have been allocated directly to the ASC in FY2023-24. This includes completing the safety upgrades to the AIS Arena, working with Get Skilled Access to expand the Sport4All pilot project to a nationwide program focusing on First Nations people with disability, providing funding to AFLNT to deliver AFL activities for women and girls across the Northern Territory, and continuing the delivering of the Local Sporting Champions and Local Para Champions programs.

In addition, the ASC continues to successfully deliver all allocated Budget Measures including the Women Leaders in Sport program, Sporting Schools, critical Athlete Wellbeing initiatives, Performance Pathways programs that support emerging elite athletes and coaches, and the Direct Athletes Grant (d'AIS) program that is helping take some of the financial pressure off Australian athletes and their families as they prepare for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Existing planning and reporting**

The ASC intends to report against the Ministerial Statement of Expectations via its legislated Annual Reporting requirements.

Under its legislation, the ASC plans and reports on a financial year basis. Consideration could be given to issuing future Statements of Expectations at the beginning of a financial year, to align the ASC's Statements of Intent with its corporate planning and annual reporting to the Parliament.