

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

VISION

Sport and physical activity are important to Australians because it brings people together to build stronger communities and healthier citizens.

The Australian Government is investing in sport, from the grassroots through to the elite level, to help build a healthier nation and economy. The Government is committed to driving structural change in the sport sector to support gender equity and increase opportunities for girls and women to participate, lead and excel in sport.

Sport has the power and the platform to promote and help achieve a wide range of Government policy priorities including community sport participation, preventive health, social inclusion, high performance success, international and regional engagement (particularly in the Pacific), economic recovery, trade and tourism.

During the 'green and gold decade' Australia will host a series of top-tier international sporting events leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This provides a great opportunity to deliver impactful growth in sport participation, enable our top athletes to achieve podium success and create broader socio-economic benefits.

ROLE OF THE ASC

The ASC will continue to play a vital role in supporting the Government's agenda for sport. Consistent with its enabling legislation, the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*, the ASC is responsible for developing a cohesive and effective sport sector, providing targeted financial support and operating the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

The Government shares the ASC's strategic vision for the organisation to build on its current standing and capabilities to ensure that sport has a place for everyone and delivers results that make Australia proud. In fulfilling these core roles, the ASC should continue to engage in and address emerging issues, invest in research and innovation, and lead cross-sector collaboration for the benefit of the broader sporting ecosystem.

I expect the ASC to work with the sport sector to embrace diversity and improve access so all Australians can have the opportunity to participate in sport and feel safe to do so. The ASC is well positioned to drive partnerships which embed disability inclusion in sport and support First Nations peoples and culture.

The ASC should continue to lead and collaborate on initiatives which empower women in the sporting workforce to improve access, develop strategic pathways and support retention.

PRIORITIES

Involve more Australians with sport at all levels

The Government recognises the preventive health benefits of sport and physical activity in improving the physical health and mental wellbeing of Australians. Sport and physical activity also provide social benefits for individuals and communities, fostering inclusion and social cohesion.

As part of the green and gold decade, Australia will showcase women's sport through the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup, the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, the 2027 Netball World Cup and the 2029 Women's Rugby World Cup. I ask that the ASC continues working with the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) and sporting organisations to maximise the Government's investment in event support and legacy initiatives to enhance pathways and participation opportunities for women and girls.

With the development of a National Sport Participation Strategy, I will be looking for your advice on how Government investment can best be used to drive participation growth for participants, volunteers, clubs and sports. It is important that the ASC funding model is transparent and incorporates accountability for performance, and flexibility to consider support for emerging sports or opportunities.

The ASC's programs should reflect the Government's commitment to address barriers to participation for Australians who are less active including older populations, people from regional and remote areas, First Nations peoples, low socio-economic individuals, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, and people with disability.

Lead and enable a cohesive and effective sport system

The administration of sport in Australia has many layers. Responsibility for sport and recreation is shared across all levels of government and the sport ecosystem includes independent sporting bodies, national sporting organisations, state sporting organisations and local clubs.

The Government acknowledges the ASC's role in investing in National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and National Sporting Organisations for people with a Disability (NSODs) to support the sector to be connected, innovative and grow the capability of the sport workforce.

The ASC should continue to provide expertise, tools and guidance to sporting organisations and share knowledge in areas of governance, participation, coaching, volunteers, insights and market research, digital tools, online learning and education.

In the context of a challenging economic environment and pressures on government funding, the 'green and gold decade' brings an opportunity to attract greater philanthropic donations for sport. I expect the ASC to work with the Australian Sports Foundation and assist NSOs and NSODs to diversify their sources of revenue to provide greater sustainability and strategic flexibility.

The Government is committed to protecting sporting participants from discrimination based on race, culture, sexual and gender identity as well as abuse and mistreatment across all levels of Australian sport. I expect the ASC to work closely with Sports Integrity Australia, the National Sports Tribunal (NST) and the Department to ensure a coordinated portfolio approach to protect against sport integrity threats and communicate with the sector.

The Department is leading the development of an overarching sports strategy to replace the outdated *Sport 2030* plan, along with a strategic framework for Australian Government involvement in staging major sporting events. I ask the ASC to collaborate on these policy projects and ensure alignment with work on sports participation and high performance.

I expect the ASC to work closely with the Department on communication with NSOs and NSODs in relation to major sporting events. The ASC is well placed to provide insights on the capacity and capability of NSOs and NSODs to bid, host and deliver successful major sporting events.

Grow elite success and representation

Australia's high performance system is recognised as world leading and prioritising wellbeing, with athletes helping to build national pride, inspiring and positively influencing the Australian community.

Through the operation of the AIS, the ASC is responsible for leading and enabling a united and collaborative high performance system. The ASC contributes to building sustainable winning systems for Australian athletes through targeted high performance investment, an emphasis on athlete health and wellbeing, and support for coach development, performance pathways and sport science and medicine.

I will be looking for your advice on the best use of Government investment to support the high performance system. It is important that the ASC funding is transparent, incorporates accountability for performance and has flexibility for review and change.

I recognise the co-design of Australia's *High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy* and its focus on optimising outcomes and sustainable success for Summer and Winter Olympic and Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sports.

I expect the ASC to continue assisting sports, partners in the national institute network, the Australian Olympic Committee, Paralympics Australia and Commonwealth Games Australia to achieve success at pinnacle international sporting events.

Budget measures

In the October 2022-23 Federal Budget, the Government appropriated a total of \$348.204 million to the ASC in 2022-23 through the Department.

Within the October 2022-23 Federal Budget, the ASC is responsible for delivery of the following specific measures:

- \$15.1 million to ensure the AIS Arena is safe to host major sporting and cultural events;
- \$10.3 million to expand the Sport4All pilot project into a nationwide program focussing on First Nations people living with a disability; and
- \$2.2 million for AFL in the Northern Territory.

In the May 2023-24 Federal Budget, the Government appropriated a total of \$353.963 million to the ASC in 2023-24 through the Department. The ASC is responsible for delivering the investment of \$8.3 million through the Local Sporting Champions and Local Para Champions programs which provide financial assistance to thousands of junior competitors, coaches and officials to attend state, national and international sporting competitions.

In July 2023, the Government provided an additional \$20 million to the ASC to support athlete preparation across 32 sports ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I expect the ASC to work collaboratively with the Department to develop proposals for future Budgets which address Government priorities.

ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE

I value the role of the ASC Board of Commissioners. As the Accountable Authority, I expect the ASC Board to deliver its legislated functions, determine the ASC's overall direction, and decide on allocation of resources and policy for delegated decisions.

The Secretary of the Department has an important role on the ASC Board, facilitating an effective working relationship with the Health and Aged Care portfolio. I encourage the ASC to continue leveraging the Secretary's knowledge of government and the portfolio.

The Government expects the ASC to exercise prudence in financial management in the context of its legislative framework and the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). I expect the ASC to be a responsible employer with a positive work culture in accordance with the ASC Code of Conduct and ASC Values.

I ask that the ASC continues to engage in the Government's Australian Public Service (APS) Reform agenda, to build a stronger APS that delivers better outcomes for the community, acts as a model employer and contributes to a fairer and more inclusive Australia.

In accordance with good practice, I have asked the Department to manage a review of the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*, which will incorporate elements of corporate governance. The review will ensure the Act is contemporary, fit for purpose and enables the ASC to deliver on its objectives.

ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT

I expect the ASC, along with other agencies, to work collaboratively to leverage effort and scarce resources, problem solve and provide proactive, strategic and coordinated advice to Government. I expect the ASC to have processes for addressing critical issues in a timely, responsive and integrated manner.

Finally, I look forward to meeting with the ASC leadership and other sport entities to discuss strategic direction in what is a defining period for Australian sport.

Issued by:

The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Sport
November 2023