

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF INTENT

2007/08

This Statement of Intent for 2007/08 responds to the Statement of Expectation 2007/08 from the Minister for the Arts and Sport. The Statement of Intent is a formal commitment by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to meet the expectations of Government. It is intended to clarify roles and responsibilities between the Minister, the ASC and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (“the Department”). This Statement draws on the Commission’s current Annual Operational Plan which presents our priorities, specific performance measures and budget outcomes against our key objectives.

It is the ASC’s intent:

General

- to be responsive to Government and to the Parliament while fulfilling the functions outlined in the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*;
- to work cooperatively with the Department and other Government agencies to effectively undertake programs and activities that give effect to the Government’s sport policy; and
- to develop and maintain effective relationships with the Australian Government and non Government stakeholders.

Communication

- to fully inform and alert the Minister and the Department of Commission activities and significant events;
- to respond to requests from the Minister’s office and the Department in a timely manner; and
- to develop and maintain effective relationships with key stakeholders, in both the public and private sectors.

Financial Management

- to comply with all applicable financial legislation including: *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, *Public Account and Audit Committee Act 1951* (covers the Joint Committee on Public Accountants and Audit - JCPAA), *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*, *Appropriation Acts*, and *Auditor-General Act 1997*; and
- to secure revenue from sources other than Government, in order to increase the Commission’s revenue.

Corporate Governance

- to manage the affairs of the Commission with diligence and in compliance with all relevant legislative requirements and applicable Government policies; including the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*, the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Commission has an Audit Committee which ensures that the Commission and its Directors comply with the obligations set out under those Acts;
- to effectively implement and maintain the highest standards of corporate governance, including the development of effective strategic planning documents containing relevant and measurable performance indicators, risk management strategies and a performance monitoring framework;
- to ensure board members are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are participating in ongoing development and self-assessment; and
- to provide the Minister with a governance report for discussion at formal biannual governance meetings.

Our Priorities

The Australian Sports Commission plays a central leadership role in the development and operation of the Australian sport system, administering and funding innovative sport programs under the Australian Government's sport policy and providing advice and services to national sporting organisations and other key sector members. Since its establishment, the Commission has earned a national and international reputation for its innovative, quality programs and for the delivery of those programs. The world-renowned Australian Institute of Sport, a key division of the Commission, is a world-leading centre of excellence for the training and development of elite athletes and coaches.

As an organisation, the Commission unashamedly demonstrates a commitment to excellence and quality. The impact of this commitment falls across all areas of the Australian sports sector, including in athlete performance, participation opportunities, coaches and officials' development, and the governance and management of sporting organisations. Commission funding is carefully structured and applied to develop sport from grass roots to the elite level. The notion of both social and elite pathways for athletes, coaches, officials and administrators lies at the heart of a sport's effective planning processes. The Commission directs its funding to ensure these pathways are in place and are effective in delivering increased participation and continued international sporting success.

The Government envisages a national sports system that is robust and backed by a dynamic sports industry that plays a vital role in the development of sport in Australia at all levels. On behalf of the Government, the Australian Sports Commission will continue to work with sports delivery agencies, including grassroots sporting clubs, to enhance their ability to offer improved participation in quality sport for Australians. At the same time the Commission will ensure that Australia's elite teams are provided with the optimal opportunity to excel in competition on the world stage, in particular leading into the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As identified in the Commission's Strategic Plan 2006-09 and Annual Operational Plan, the ASC will continue to work with its key stakeholders to:

- support national sporting organisations in establishing and operating high performance programs that provide athlete pathways through to international level competition;
- strengthen the Australian Institute of Sport by improving training, sport science/medicine services, facilities and accommodation for athletes and coaches;
- enhance high performance coaching and officiating, improve talent identification and provide more sophisticated support services;
- facilitate and encourage best practice in the management of Australia's national sporting organisations by providing leadership, funding, support, consultancy services, information, education and training, and business tools that promote improved efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes;
- provide enjoyable and affordable participation opportunities and improve levels of safety and respect for those involved in sport as players, coaches, officials and administrators;
- deliver the structured physical activity program *Active After-school Communities*, which is an after school hours program delivered as part of the Government's *Healthy Active Australia* package;
- increase club membership and participation, including by juniors, women, Indigenous Australians and people with a disability, through services that reach into rural and regional areas;
- provide more opportunities to support and develop coaches and officials;
- work in partnership with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and the Department in the fight against doping in sport;

- work in conjunction with Australian University Sport to facilitate opportunities for regional university students to participate in sporting activities; and
- assist community development through sport in other countries.

In relation to specific programs and initiatives, the Commission will continue to:

- implement the Australian Institute of Sport Integrated Sport System initiative which directly assists the preparation of Australian athletes for the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games (and beyond) through the areas of high performance athlete development, coaching, sports science and sports excellence at the Australian Institute of Sport;
- provide targeted assistance through the Australian Government Sport Training Grant Scheme for high performance athletes in sports preparing for Olympic, Commonwealth and Paralympic Games, as well as in other selected sports for world championships;
- work with the Department regarding the delivery of the Indigenous Sport Program, including the development of a communication plan to improve awareness of the Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program and related activities.
- facilitate the implementation of the national and related plans for sport for people with a disability that will provide for a more robust infrastructure for disability sport, and an enhanced framework for funding national sporting organisations for athletes with a disability into the future; and
- work with the Department to implement the recommendations from the review of the Commission's governance arrangements and the legislative review of the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*.

Conclusion

We will continue to strive to enrich the lives of all Australians through sport while incorporating our values in all our activities. These will be reflected in our relationships with our stakeholders, where we will:

- be responsive to their needs;
- consult and endeavour to reach common understandings;
- be open and transparent;
- listen and communicate openly; and
- accept full responsibility for our decisions and actions.