

ENHANCING AUSTRALIA'S ANTI-DOPING CAPABILITY

The Review of Australia's Sports Integrity Arrangements recommends a range of reforms aimed at enhancing Australia's anti-doping capability to address contemporary, and foreseeable doping threats.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Review found that doping is more prevalent and widespread than ever among athletes at all levels. This is facilitated by the increasing availability of highly sophisticated techniques that make it harder to detect. The Review also noted the common and increasing involvement of serious and organised crime in the supply of performance and image enhancing drugs.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH – ADDRESSING DOPING FROM THE GROUND UP

The Review recommends increased investment in anti-doping education and outreach initiatives through the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) in collaboration with the sports sector, particularly targeting those in subelite and junior pathways. This is intended to ensure younger athletes benefit from greater protection as they progress to elite level participation.

STREAMLINING INVESTIGATION, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The Review recommends legislative amendments, principally to the ASADA Act, to allow ASADA's existing regulatory functions to be carried out more effectively. The Review suggests this include:

- Improved information and intelligence sharing arrangements
- Establishing whistle-blower protection arrangements
- Strengthening the disclosure notice regime
- Enforcing penalties for regulatory non-compliance
- Improving engagement with sub-elite sport by empowering the ASADA CEO to apply more flexible anti-doping rules at lower levels.

INVESTING IN THE NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING CAPABILITY

The Review recommends that the Government ensure that ASADA is adequately resourced and financially sustainable, enhancing its capacity to engage with sports and be an effective and responsive regulator and National Anti-Doping Organisation. The Review proposes that in part, this be achieved through the resolution of longstanding cost and sustainability issues regarding Australia's sample analysis system to ensure that the ASADA is commercially competitive in the user-pays sports drug testing market.

EFFICIENT ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION PATHWAY

The Review recommends minor amendments to the National Anti-Doping Scheme that will reduce regulatory burden by streamlining the process for dealing with suspected anti-doping rule violations, while ensuring that athletes continue to be afforded natural justice.

* This fact sheet represents a summary of the Review's Key Findings and Recommendations, and does not reflect a Commonwealth Government position at this time.