



THE HON KATE ELLIS MP
Minister for Sport

MEDIA RELEASE

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Statement on the centenary of Sir Donald Bradman

Sir Donald Bradman was, and I suspect always will be, regarded as one of the greatest exponents of any sport, of any era, anywhere in the world.

Born on 27 August 1908, in Cootamundra, New South Wales, Don Bradman developed into a young cricketer of great skill and determination. He made his first class debut at the age of 19 and, not long after, became the youngest player to score a test century for Australia.

With each match his skill and prowess as a batsman grew. But it was the 1930 Ashes tour of England that firmly established 'the Don' as a cricketer of exceptional genius and talent.

In the era of the Great Depression, Don Bradman was regarded at home as a hero and a great source of national pride.

He also inspired cricket fans in the post-World War II period, leading Australia on its unbeaten 1948 tour of England with a team that came to be known as 'The Invincibles'.

It is a mark of Don Bradman's skill and legacy that today – 100 years since his birth – he remains a potent symbol of Australian sporting daring, skill and achievement.

Earlier this year, I confirmed a grant of \$6.5 million to the Bradman Foundation, in recognition of Sir Donald's centenary year.

As Paul Kelly famously sang in his tribute to the Don, Bradman was *'more than just a batsman; he was something like a tide'*.

Bradman was humble in the face of many achievements at the batting crease, and was never at ease with the adulation he received from his many fans and admirers.

Ever the perfectionist, Bradman continually looked for improvement even after his most impressive of performances.

He was a consummate professional dedicated to his sport, and its values, and he will continue to inspire both current and future generations of Australian sports men and women.

Media contact: Greg Doolan – 0433 345 323