



Australian Government Sports Ecosystem Rapid Review

Status report on recommendations

December 2023

In late 2022, the Australian Government commissioned a rapid review to:

- ensure Government entities in the sport portfolio are well-placed as we move into the 'green and gold decade' of major sporting events, culminating in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- clarify roles and responsibilities following a very challenging period for sport through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The review involved:

- the Office for Sport within the Department of Health and Aged Care
- the Australian Sports Commission
- Sport Integrity Australia
- the National Sports Tribunal
- the Australian Sports Foundation.

This status report outlines the progress made to address the review's 6 recommendations, which enhance the coordination and delivery of strategic policy advice to achieve Government priorities.

In relation to **Recommendation 1**, the Minister for Sport has issued Ministerial Statements of Expectations to the Australian Sports Commission, Sport Integrity Australia and the National Sports Tribunal outlining the:

- Government's policy priorities
- Minister's expectations of performance.

Recommendation 2 outlined that greater engagement and collaboration was needed across Australian Government entities and with the sport sector. In response, this has been an area of focus during 2023.

The Government acknowledges:

- the significant engagement on the co-designed National High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy and the National Sport Participation Strategy, both led by the Australian Sports Commission
- the work led by Sport Integrity Australia in collaboration with the sport sector on the National Integrity Framework.

There are regular meetings between Chief Executive Officers and senior leaders of each sport entity. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care supports the governance and strategic direction of the Australian Sports Commission as a member of its Board.

In relation to major sporting events, the Office for Sport coordinates across Government agencies to support delivery of Australian Government commitments towards hosting major sporting events in Australia.

This role includes supporting:

- delivery of events such as the recent FIFA Women's World Cup 2023,
- governance and planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A Major Sporting Events Inter-Departmental Committee meets regularly to provide advice and direction for the Government's support in the bidding, planning, delivery and leveraging of major sporting events.

The Office for Sport has also established mechanisms for engaging with the sport sector, and with state and territory governments, on the Australian Government's major sporting events model.

The Australian Government Minister for Sport has also met with Ministers for Sport from all jurisdictions during 2023 to discuss shared priorities in sport and collaboration on policy and initiatives.

Recommendation 3 proposed that the Sport 2030 plan be replaced with a new more unified approach. In response, the Government announced the development of a new National Sport Plan in the 2023–24 Budget.

Recommendation 4 related to streams of work to support Australian Government involvement in staging major sporting events and capturing longer term economic and social benefits.

In response, the Government announced in the 2023–24 Budget that it would implement a Major Sporting Events Legacy Framework to ensure major international sporting events held in Australia deliver lasting social, economic and sporting benefits for all Australians.

In conjunction with the framework, a revised strategic and coordinated event delivery model is being developed to create a more transparent and responsive approach to supporting major sporting events.

The revised model will better quantify the broader social and economic impacts of major sporting events hosted in Australia and ensure that the Government's return on investment is maximised and aligned with the priorities of the Australian public.

The model will focus on:

- increased engagement with sporting organisations
- the development of improved resources and support for sports wishing to bid for or host major events.

Ultimately the model will provide clearer and more transparent processes for seeking and obtaining Government investment in major international sporting events.

The Office for Sport also has a Program Management Office to oversee a consistent project management approach to Government involvement in major sporting events.

Recommendation 5 outlined that issues management required standardising among the various sport entities to ensure clear communication.

In response, the Department of Health and Aged Care and sport entities have worked together to improve communication and coordination in the portfolio, including through submissions to Senate Inquiries and engagement on international sport policy.

Recommendation 6 outlined an opportunity to consider reporting lines and placement of the Office for Sport within the Department of Health and Aged Care.

In response, changes have taken effect, with the Office for Sport moving to the Health Strategy, First Nations and Sport Group. See the [department's organisational chart](#).