



Minute

Ms Jane Halton, PSM
Secretary
Department of Health and Ageing

Through: David Learmonth - Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing

CC: Natasha Cole – Assistant Secretary, Sport Branch

MEETING WITH ROBERT DE CASTELLA REGARDING INDIGENOUS MARATHON RUNNING PROGRAM (IMRP)

Purpose

You agreed to speak to Robert de Castella later this week on the Indigenous Marathon Running Program (IMRP).

Background

The Indigenous Marathon Running Program (IMRP) program is an initiative of SmartStart. The program is about providing the opportunity, support and encouragement to establish an endurance sporting culture in indigenous communities. The program is seeking an additional \$500,000 to support the program.

The initiative aims to motivate and support levels of participation in physical activity and promote a healthy active lifestyle to address the endemic problems of obesity, diabetes, kidney problems, CVD, stroke and other lifestyle related health problems.

Twelve indigenous youths have been pre-selected to take part in a project – 'Running to America' – which will see six of the twelve Indigenous youth participate in the 2010 New York Marathon. The Australian Institute of Sport is also working with Robert de Castella on this project. Project organisers have sought assistance from NT Police in sourcing local talent from remote communities and have requested that where possible, Police assist with mentoring and encouragement of local youth throughout their development program. Additional information on the press clips are at Attachment A.

Issues

Binge Drinking Program

Under the second round of community level initiative (CLI) grants funding for the Anti Binge Drinking Strategy, Mr de Castella applied for funding of \$250 000 for a project titled 'SmartStart for Kids and Athletics Australia'.

On 25 February 2010, Mr de Castella was advised that his application was unsuccessful as it did not meet the eligibility criteria for CLI grants. On 25 February 2010, Mr de Castella was advised that his application was unsuccessful as it did not meet the eligibility criteria for CLI grants. He requested by e-mail additional information and on 5 March 2010 was advised as follows:

The reason that your application was unsuccessful was because, as detailed in the objectives described in your application, six Indigenous youth leaders would be chosen to undertake a binge drinking and fitness program, with one or more of them competing in the 2010 New York marathon.

The focus of the Community Level Initiative is sustainable, community partnerships which have the potential to impact positively on the wider community, and this focus on six youths was felt to be outside this focus.

Following the passage of the 'alcopops' legislation in August 2009, the Australian Government will be investing a further \$50 million in a range of measures designed to tackle binge drinking. This will include funding for further rounds of community level initiatives to confront the culture of binge drinking. You may wish to apply for funding in these future rounds, which will be advertised in the national press.

Additional background information on the National Binge Drinking Strategy is at

Attachment B.

An article in the *Sun Herald* of 7 March 2010, reported on Mr de Castella's wish to raise \$500 000 to educate and promote healthy living in remote Indigenous communities, and noted that his application for funding to fund this project via a community grant under the Government's National Binge Drinking Strategy was unsuccessful. A copy of the *Sun Herald* article is at Attachment C

Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program (ISRP)

An application was received from SmartStart for \$327,300 under the 2010-11 ISRP. The advertising of funding rounds, assessment and announceables under the ISRP are required to meet the deadlines associated with the common funding round to support the Whole of Government's Indigenous social policy priorities. Mr de Castella's application is to promote distance running and healthier lifestyles to up to 10 Indigenous youth in Australia under the IMRP.

Assessment of applications for the 2010-2011 ISRP annual funding round is currently being undertaken by officers within the Department of Health and Ageing. Minister Ellis is expected to announce the outcome of the funding round in June 2010 to coincide with the Whole of Government's Indigenous social policy priorities timetable.

Organisations which applied for funding under the 2010-2011 ISRP annual funding round will be notified early in the 2010-2011 financial year regarding Minister Ellis' decision on the success or otherwise of the applications. Additional information on the ISRP is at Attachment D

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)

SmartStart has also applied for \$149,650 under a recent call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) funding as managed by the Attorney-General's Department. The intention of this call for EOIs was to establish a register from which selected applicants will be invited to submit full funding proposals as funds became available. We understand that Mr de Castella's application under this program also sought funding for the IMRP. Additional information on the POCA EOI is at Attachment E

National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health

The Australian Government has committed \$872.1 million over six years from 2009-10 for the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. The Partnership has been established to address the rising prevalence of lifestyle related chronic diseases. It will fund healthy lifestyle programs in workplaces, communities and childhood settings to help individuals modify their lifestyles in order to reduce their risk of chronic disease.

Departmental representatives (^{s 47F}) met with Mr De Castella on 4 March 2010 regarding linkages and potential funding opportunities of his programs to the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (Healthy Workers, Healthy Communities and Healthy Kids initiatives).

In particular, the Healthy Children initiative under the Partnership will provide \$325.5 million over four years from 2011-2012 to 2014-2015 through funding states and territories to implement programs for children aged between 0 and 16 years that promote greater levels of better nutrition and physical activities in different settings, such as childcare centres, preschools, schools, multi-disciplinary service sites and family centres.

As the design and administration of the programs under Healthy Children initiative will largely fall to states and territories, (^{s 47F}) undertook to discuss with states and territories and how initiatives such as Mr De Castella's programs could be brought to the attention of states and territories developing activities under these initiatives.

The organisation recently received funding from the ACT Department of Health for the continuation of the HELP in primary schools in the ACT.

Australian Better Health Initiative (ABHI)

The ABHI Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants (HAACSG) Program provides one-off grants of between \$10,000 to \$200,000 to schools and communities across Australia to promote physical activity and healthy eating in their local communities. Funding of \$55.5 million has been provided to 500 schools and community organisations to run local projects promoting healthy and active lifestyles under the HAACSG Program.

Robert De Castella's SmartStart for *Kids Healthy Exercise and Living Project (HELP)* received \$212,990.80 to screen approximately 3,000 primary school aged children from primary schools in low socioeconomic areas in the Australian Capital Territory. The project identified and delivered HELP to 300 students at high risk of becoming overweight adults.

Funding to the organisation under the Program ceased on 12 February 2010. Funding for the Program ceases on 30 June 2010. There is no other funding available to support the continuation of the Program.

Recommendation

That you note the information provided in this brief.

NOTED / COMMENTS

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Secretary
/ /2010



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Bill Rowe
General Manager
Sport and Physical Activity
23 March 2010

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