

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA

CONTEXT

The approach to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is an unprecedented opportunity to drive positive, meaningful change and shape the future of sport in Australia.

The National Sport Strategy 2024–2034, *Sport Horizon*, seeks to align efforts and resources to promote inclusion through safe and welcoming environments, inspire and motivate participation, support our athletes to compete with integrity and perform at their best, grow our presence internationally, and achieve positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.

The Australian Government is committed to developing and implementing systems that protect the integrity of sport and provide confidence that Australian sport is fair, safe and inclusive.

ROLE OF SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA

Sport Integrity Australia was established in 2020 to draw together and develop sport integrity capabilities, knowledge and expertise and to coordinate the national sport integrity threat response.

The Australian Government recognises the role and functions of the agency as set out in the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020*, the *Sport Integrity Australia Regulations 2020* and the National Anti-Doping Scheme.

The government supports your strategic objectives to:

- achieve fair and honest sporting performances and outcomes,
- promote positive conduct by athletes, administrators, officials, supporters and other stakeholders, on and off the sporting arena,
- achieve a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment at all levels, and
- enhance the reputation and standing of sporting contests and of sport overall.

I expect Sport Integrity Australia to provide a single point of contact for athletes, sporting organisations, law enforcement bodies and other stakeholders for matters relating to sport integrity. In undertaking this function, collaboration and partnership with the sport sector and sport portfolio, particularly the Australian Sports Commission, is paramount.

I expect you to progress a program of work with the sport sector and key stakeholders to protect Australian sport from threats including:

- the use of prohibited substances and methods in sport,
- the abuse of children and other people in a sporting environment,
- the manipulation of sporting competitions, and
- bullying, abuse, intimidation, discrimination or harassment in a sporting environment.

REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

As the Minister for Sport, I recognise and respect the independence of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appointed under the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020* (the Act), and your responsibility for the regulation of the National Anti-Doping Scheme, as set out in the Act and the *Sport Integrity Australia Regulations 2020*.

I expect you to incorporate regulator performance reporting into the entity's reporting processes, as required under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*.

The Regulatory Reform Agenda is a key component of the Government's plan to boost productivity through reducing unnecessary or duplicative regulatory costs. You can identify opportunities to improve the quality of regulation by cooperating with the states, territories, and other Commonwealth agencies and working with international partners. I expect you to contribute to this Regulatory Reform Agenda and strive towards continuous improvement.

PRINCIPLES OF REGULATOR BEST PRACTICE

In performing its functions as the regulator of the National Anti-Doping Scheme, I expect Sport Integrity Australia to observe the principles of regulatory best practice including continuous improvement and building public trust; being risk based and data driven; and collaborating and engaging with stakeholders in relation to regulatory practices.

I expect Sport Integrity Australia to embed and act in accordance with the government's principles of regulatory best practice when conducting its operations, as well as to strive for continuous improvement against these principles.

As Minister for Sport, I will provide an enabling environment for Sport Integrity Australia to consistently implement best practice through regular meetings with the CEO, supporting accountability processes, encouraging evidence-based policy and collaboration across the sport portfolio and broader sector, inclusive of my duties on World Anti-Doping Agency governance groups.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY PRIORITIES

National Sport Strategy 2024-2034, Sport Horizon

Sport Integrity Australia is well placed to contribute to Sport Horizon's vision of healthy, active, connected communities and a thriving sport system. Sport Horizon has six priority areas: Inclusion, Participation, Safety, High Performance, International Engagement, and Economy and Environment. The delivery of programs and policies by Sport Integrity Australia can support success across these priorities. I expect Sport Integrity Australia to contribute to the strategy's governance arrangements, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Anti-doping

As Australia's national anti-doping organisation, I note Sport Integrity Australia is engaged in the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards Update Process, due to come into force on 1 January 2027.

I expect Sport Integrity Australia to action the seven recommendations agreed to in the Auditor-General Report No.27 2024–25, to strengthen Sport Integrity Australia’s management of the National Anti-Doping Scheme. I expect Sport Integrity Australia to continue building trust in global anti-doping frameworks and protecting the health and welfare of Australian athletes.

Safe and inclusive sport

Sport has an important role in Australian society to promote and uphold inclusion, equality and fairness. I expect Sport Integrity Australia to implement initiatives to ensure sport is safe for participants and supporters, particularly children and other vulnerable population groups. I welcome regular updates and reporting on initiatives including those provided through the Safety in Sport Division and Safe Sport hotline.

Australian sports gambling and competition manipulation

I note the threats posed by competition manipulation and betting-related corruption in sport, including unregulated wagering. I will support Sport Integrity Australia’s work to establish National Sport Integrity Offences in legislation, ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention), and develop a streamlined national operating framework for sports wagering.

National Integrity Framework

I acknowledge Sport Integrity Australia’s partnership with National Sporting Organisations and National Sporting Organisations for People with a Disability to administer the National Integrity Framework. Behaviours such as racism, bullying, harassment and abuse have no place in sport. I expect Sport Integrity Australia to continue helping eligible organisations to adopt and embed the Framework in their sport. I welcome your focus on complaints about child safeguarding and discrimination in sport, and your advice on opportunities to enhance the National Integrity Manager Network.

International and regional engagement

I recognise Sport Integrity Australia’s international standing, and I support you to drive continuous improvement to protect sports. I expect the agency to continue in its international and regional engagement responsibilities as they relate to anti-doping, child safeguarding and international fora on competition manipulation.

I also ask you to continue working with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA), and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to advance Australia’s achievement of Australia’s Sport Diplomacy Strategy 2032+ objectives. I expect you to prioritise strengthening integrity frameworks in international sport by leading efforts to build global capability to address sport integrity threats, particularly in the Pacific region, leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Australian Government has responsibility for a number of Guarantees and Commitments in relation to integrity in sport for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Matters relating to sport integrity will require oversight and expertise from Sport Integrity Australia to ensure the Commonwealth fulfils its commitments to the International Olympic Committee and delivers a successful event.

ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE

I value your leadership of Sport Integrity Australia in performing the CEO functions set out in the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020* and the National Anti-Doping Scheme. I recognise the important role of the Sport Integrity Australia Advisory Council and the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee in delivering their legislated functions, including provision of strategic and expert advice.

The government expects Sport Integrity Australia to be a responsible employer with a positive work culture, in accordance with the Public Service Code of Conduct and the *Public Service Act 1999*. I ask that you continue to engage in the government's Australian Public Service Reform agenda to build a stronger Australian Public Service that delivers better outcomes for the community, acts as a model employer and contributes to a fairer and more inclusive Australia.

The Australian Government appropriated \$63.54 million to Sport Integrity Australia in the 2025–26 Budget¹. The government expects you to exercise prudence in financial management in the context of your legislative framework and the requirements of the PGPA Act. I expect you to work collaboratively with the DITRDCA on proposals for Budget processes which address government priorities.

ADVICE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

I expect Sport Integrity Australia, along with other agencies, to work collaboratively to leverage effort and resources, problem solve and provide proactive, strategic and coordinated advice to government. I expect you to have processes for addressing critical issues in a timely, responsive and integrated manner.

As a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, I expect Sport Integrity Australia to work closely with the Secretary of DITRDCA and the executive team to provide the government with sport integrity policy advice. This will be valuable in contributing to the implementation of Sport Horizon, and event planning for major sporting events including the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I also value your agency's contribution to policy reforms and initiatives in the Communications portfolio relating to online safety and online gambling.

I look forward to your response in the form of a Statement of Intent as to how Sport Integrity Australia will meet the government's expectations. This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of your organisation's governance framework. As such I expect both documents be published. I ask for this Statement of Expectation to be incorporated into PGPA Act processes including the Sport integrity Australia corporate plan and annual report.

Finally, I look forward to meetings with your leadership and other sport entities to discuss and drive strategic direction in this defining period for Australian sport.

Issued by:

The Hon Anika Wells MP

Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport

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¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/budget-2025-26-portfolio-budget-statements>