



**The Hon Kate Ellis MP**  
Minister for Early Childhood Education,  
Child Care and Youth  
Minister for Sport

Dear NSO/NSOD President and CEO

It is with great pleasure that I announce *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* the Australian Governments new direction for Australian sport.

Accompanying our new vision for sport, I am also pleased to announce \$324.8 million in ongoing funding including the injection of \$195.2 million in new funding for Australian sport, the biggest funding increase for sport in our nation's history. This brings the Rudd Government's total investment in sport to a record \$1.2 billion over the next four years.

*Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* focuses on supporting the whole of sport pathway to boost the number of Australians participating in sport and drive Australia's continued sporting success. For the first time, it also delivers a significant investment to the all-important development pathway - the vital link connecting grassroots and high performance sport. It will provide critical support to all levels of the Australian sports system and will provide increased capacity for national sporting organisations to expand their reach into local communities.

A copy of the *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* can be found at [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/50B0733DF3FB5AE4CA25771F0022CB93/\\$File/Australian%20Sport.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/50B0733DF3FB5AE4CA25771F0022CB93/$File/Australian%20Sport.pdf)

Key initiatives included in the Australian Governments new approach include:

**NSO will deliver participation plans** in partnership with their state/territory associations and will be provided with the opportunities to access funding to grow grassroots participation through direct grants to community clubs.

**Delivering a National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework** that will for the first time enable a co-ordinated, whole-of-sport approach to sport from Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments.

**Additional coaching and officiating training opportunities** for up to 45,000 community coaches and officials, and subsidies for the costs associated with training for 5,000 new community coaches and officials.

**Investing in the development pathway** by doubling the Local Sporting Champion program to support 8,000 junior athletes to participate in competition; and boosting opportunities for up and coming athletes to compete in domestic competition.

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**Doubling our talent identification program** to support 10,000 aspiring Australian athletes and employ more talent scouts.

**Boosting funding to identify, attract, develop and retain our high performance coaches** including support for incentive packages and professional development.

**Expanding funding support to our high performance athletes** to support their training and participation in international competition.

**Re-aligning our high performances institutions and academies** in a landmark partnership with State and Territories that will deliver a more cohesive system for sporting excellence.

I am also pleased to confirm the Australian Government will roll the \$324.8 investment into the Australian Sports Commission (the Commission) funding base to create a secure platform to plan beyond Budget cycles.

The Commission will be tasked with implementing *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* and distributing funding.

As part of the implementation of the new vision I would like to invite you to attend a forum in Melbourne to discuss *Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* and to outline the processes which the Commission will be undertaking going forward.

Additional detail concerning the forum logistics is provided below:

Date: Wednesday 19 May 2010  
Time: 12.00 -3.00pm  
Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre  
1 Convention Centre Place  
South Wharf, Melbourne

If you wish to attend the forum please confirm your attendance by contacting Julia Cowen on email [julia.cowen@ausport.gov.au](mailto:julia.cowen@ausport.gov.au) (preferred) or phone 02 6214 1903 by **midday Monday 17 May**. When replying, please also indicate if you have any special dietary requirements

I am aware that whilst the funding package represents a major funding injection to Australian sport, national sporting organisations are understandably keen to see what this means for them. I can confirm that the Commission will be writing to you soon about future funding arrangements.

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*Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success* delivers on the Rudd Government's commitment to boost funding to both community and elite sport and I look forward to working with you to bring a new strategic focus to Australian sport – and strengthen our sporting future

Yours sincerely



**KATE ELLIS**

