

Strasbourg, 29 April 2003

T-DO (2003) 11

## **Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)**

**17th meeting of the Monitoring Group**  
Strasbourg, 29-30 April 2003

### **Follow up report**

*Evaluation visit to Australia on anti-doping policy*

#### **Background:**

A Council of Europe Examining group visited Australia 11-13 July 2001 to determine Australia's level of compliance with commitments to the anti-doping convention (T-DO). The group consisted of Mr George Walker (Chair), Dr Luis Horta, Prof Dr Dirk Clasing and Mr Graeme Steel.

This report follows a verbal report provided to the Monitoring Group at the May 2002 meeting. It focuses on the response to the major recommendations of the Examining Group's report and additional enhancements to Australia's anti-doping program since the compliance assessment visit.

#### Major Recommendations:

1. The creation of a representative body consisting of the governmental bodies and other agencies involved in the anti-doping effort.

Since the compliance visit, the responsible department at the Commonwealth Government level has changed. Sport now lies within the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA).

DCITA have demonstrated a greater leadership in the anti-doping area. With the conclusion of the first four year arrangements of the *Tough in Drugs in Sport Strategy* in June 2003, DCITA have provided chairmanship of the next phase *Tough on Drugs in Sport Strategy* Taskforce. They have also initiated consultation and collaboration between the major stakeholders in Australia's anti-doping framework.

The next phase of the *Tough on Drugs in Sport Strategy* recommends a package of 16 new initiatives in the Australian anti-doping program, many of which will create synergy and integration in the work of:

- The Arts and Sport section of DCITA
- The Australian Sports Drug Agency
- The Australian Sports Commission
- The Australian Sports Drug Testing Laboratory
- The Australian Olympic Committee

One of these initiatives is the development and implementation of a Commonwealth Anti-Doping Policy which will clearly articulate the roles of responsibilities of all stakeholders in the Australian anti-doping effort.

1. Australia's anti doping work should encompass sports and people involved in sport at lower levels than is currently the case

Attention has been given to working with State and Territory Departments of Sport to enable testing and education of state-level athletes in each of the 6 states and 2 territories of Australia. Most state and territory governments are progressing or have completed the passing of complementary legislation to ensure that ASDA can test state-level athletes. This means that club-level athletes competing at state championships may be subjected to testing. Arrangements with the State Institutes of Sport enable a significant number of athletes at the state level to receive education and information.

ASDA and the Australian Olympic Committee have collaborated on an education program entitled "Live Clean, Play Clean". The program is targeted at young athletes and uses current and former Australian Olympic athletes as role models and presenters.

2. All professional sports should be persuaded to become ASDA's clients.

Since the compliance visit, additional professional sports have contracted ASDA to provide testing and education services and others have increased their spending to ensure more comprehensive programs. Currently all major professional sports contract ASDA to conduct an anti doping program at the national level. These include:

- Australian Football League
- National Rugby League
- Australian Rugby Union

- National Soccer League
- Australian Cricket Board
- National Basketball League

In addition, several state-level professional sporting organizations such as the New South Wales Rugby League, and the South Australian National Football League have commenced testing and education of their players, using ASDA as the supplier of services.

### **Additional Enhancements:**

#### **Article 3 – Domestic Cooperation**

ASDA has maintained ISO certification and is currently making a transition to certification under ISO 9001:2000.

The Australian public interest out of competition test program has increased in quantity and quality. A higher proportion of noadvance noting testing and a weighted (rather than random) approach to selection of athletes has increased the deterrent effect of the program. The program focuses increasingly on the selection of athletes most eligible for testing, taking into account the risk of doping in each sport and discipline, the ranking of the athlete, recency of last test, frequency of tests over the last 12 months etc. In addition to the weighting factors, attention has been given to ensuring the timing of testing is relevant to the training and competition timetable of each athlete. For example, cyclists are planned to be tested for EPO about 2 to 3 weeks before a major race.

An Anti-Doping Research Panel has been established to determine the allocation of Australian government funding for research. The panel met in December 2002 to determine the priority of 13 research proposals.

#### **Article 4 – Restriction of Availability of Substances**

The arrangements between the Australians Customs Service and ASDA continue to ensure the restriction of banned substances.

#### **Article 5 – Laboratories**

The Sydney laboratory retains accreditation with the IOC and ISO 17025 and continues to invest significantly in research into greater detection capabilities.

#### **Article 7 – Cooperation with Sports Organisations**

Two activities have been undertaken to ensure that Australian National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) take increasing ownership and responsibility for their anti-doping programs. The ultimate aim of work with NSOs is to move them along the spectrum from compliance to commitment so that they are active players in the anti-doping effort rather than passive recipients of services.

i) An NSO assessment process has been initiated and implemented. As part of this process, NSOs are required to conduct a six monthly self audit of their compliance with anti-doping responsibilities under the government funding agreement.

ii) Sport-specific deterrence plans have been developed for each sport. Plans focus on the particular risk factors and characteristics of each sport and contain elements of system development, education and testing.

### **Article 8 - International Cooperation**

Australian continues to maintain involvement in the following international organizations:

- IICGADS – co chair with Canada
- IADA – member of the Steering Group
- IADA/WADA Taskforce on Quality Projects
- DFSC – consortium partner

Australia played a significant role in the development of the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport.

Australia supports the establishment of the Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations (ANADO) and has committed to playing an active role in the early phase of the association's development.