



**NSW Sports Federation**  
*The Voice of Sport*

The Hon. Kevin Greene MP  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Level 36  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

11<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Dear Minister,

**Re: Sports Development Program**

I write this letter on behalf of the NSW Sports Industry, to seek confirmation regarding the timing and extent of funding for sport through the Sports Development Program (SDP).

There is currently a feeling of uncertainty and anxiety amongst NSW state sporting organisations. As you know, many of these organisations have very limited resources and very limited income. These sports are already planning for the 2009/2010 year but are unsure of their SDP funding amount despite being only 2½ weeks away from the period's commencement.

It is within this context that you will understand the NSW Sports Federation's concern at the ongoing delays and uncertainty with respect to the Department confirming the level of funding assistance that will be provided to sport through the SDP.

I appreciate that you have been juggling the NSW Sport and Recreation Review and the repositioning of the Department, but it is crucially important that NSW state sporting organisations receive urgent communication on this matter.

To update you on the information we have received thus far and shared with our members... Following my letter to you on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009, and subsequent meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, Ian Harkness and I met with Carol Mills, who provided us with an update on the review, and agreed to update NSW Sports Federation Members.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Carol gave an informative presentation to our Members which was greatly appreciated by all in attendance. She gave a thorough overview of the repositioning of the Department, and the implications of the review for other stakeholders.

Carol explained that approximately \$16M in NSW Sports and Recreation Grants would be distributed for the development of facilities, sports and athletes, and that in the future NSW state sporting organisations would have 3 year SDP contracts with a developmental focus to build industry capacity. Carol indicated that improved processes were a priority, and that for the upcoming financial year (2009/2010) sports would likely receive a roll-over of their current funding.

Would you please confirm the above?

Additionally, I take this opportunity to highlight the need for the SDP to increase in monetary terms. As you may know, the NSW Sports Federation has lobbied for an increase in funding assistance for sport through the SDP for a number of years. It is currently at an unacceptably low level particularly in relation to the funding received in other states from their respective Departments. Funding assistance is important to the sustainability of most, if not all, sports in NSW. Funding in monetary terms has not increased in at least 20 years, and therefore, in real terms, has decreased.

NSW state sporting organisations are likely to play a strong role in the achievement of the NSW State Plan Priority E8 target: a ten per cent increase in the number of people participating in sporting activities and physical exercise by 2016. However, many sports are not resourced enough to effectively service and support their current memberships, let alone ten per cent more. Furthermore, sports are facing increasing challenges through Government processes such as Award Modernisation and Tax Reform.

Having stated our position in clear terms, the question is: what happens now? In line with the significance of the SDP to sport in NSW, and to remedy the ongoing damage that ongoing uncertainty will cause the NSW sporting community, it is critical that the Department, as a matter of priority, confirm the SDP funding for the next four years.

Accordingly if the Department is unable to confirm the level of funding for the next four years we seek confirmation of funding for the 2009/2010 period and confirmation of a timeline for when the Department will confirm the funding for the subsequent years.

The NSW Sports Federation believes that this level of communication with sports is necessary in light of the adverse effect that uncertainty and insufficient funding is causing within the NSW sporting community.

I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely,



Debbie Kemp  
Chief Executive Officer  
NSW Sports Federation