



12 October 2023

Mr Matt Newington
Committee Manager
Select Committee on the 2023 Commonwealth Games Bid
Legislative Council
Parliament of Victoria

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Newington,

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID

I refer to your email from 5 October 2023 advising that Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) has been identified as a key stakeholder for the Victorian Legislative Council Select Committee's Inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid (the Inquiry).

As per the Committee's request, CGA has confirmed that I will be attending the public hearing on Monday, 23 October 2023 to give evidence in my capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of CGA.

Ahead of my attendance on 23 October 2023, on behalf of CGA, CGA highlights the following important matters for the Committee's consideration:

- CGA is legally unable to and will make no further comment on the settlement of its dispute with the Victorian Government in beyond those set out in relation the cancellation of the 2026 Commonwealth Games beyond that information set out in the Joint Statement on Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games dated 19 August 2023 – see **Annexure: A**.
- CGA does not propose to lodge a dedicated submission to the Inquiry, but with respect refers the Committee to the following material lodged by CGA with the concurrent Inquiry being conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee into *Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games* (the Senate Inquiry):
 - CGA's original submission to the Senate Committee dated 9 June 2023 – see **Annexure: B** (copy attached);
 - CGA's supplementary submission to the Senate Committee dated 25 August 2023 – see **Annexure: C** (copy attached);
 - Hansard of the testimony provided to the Senate Committee during the public hearings held in Melbourne on 28 August 2023, by the following representatives from CGA:
 - Mr Ben Houston, President, CGA
 - Mr Craig Phillips AM, CEO, CGA;

- Ms Ellie Cole OAM, Trinbago 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, CGA; and
- Mr Petria Thomas OAM, Chef de Mission, 2026 Commonwealth Games Team, CGA.

The Hansard record from the public hearings held on 28 August 2023 can be accessed at:

- https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/commsen/27036/toc_pdf/Rural%20and%20Regional%20Affairs%20and%20Transport%20References%20Committee_2023_08_28.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22Rural%22
- o Hansard of the testimony provided to the Senate Committee during the public hearings held in Bendigo on 29 August 2023, by Mr Stephen Moneghetti AM in his capacity as a Board Director of Athletics Australia.

The Hansard record from the public hearings held on 29 August 2023 can be accessed at:

- https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/commsen/27037/toc_pdf/Rural%20and%20Regional%20Affairs%20and%20Transport%20References%20Committee_2023_08_29.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22Olympics%22
- o Hansard of the testimony provided to the Senate Committee during the public hearings held in Canberra on 8 September 2023, by the following representatives from CGA:

- Mr Ben Houston, President, CGA
- Mr Craig Phillips AM, CEO, CGA; and
- Mr Petria Thomas OAM, Chef de Mission, 2026 Commonwealth Games Team, CGA.

The Hansard record from the public hearings held on 8 September 2023 can be accessed at:

- https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/commsen/27346/toc_pdf/Rural%20and%20Regional%20Affairs%20and%20Transport%20References%20Committee_2023_09_08.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22Inquiry%20into%20Australia's%20preparedness%20to%20host%20Commonwealth,%20Olympic%20and%20Paralympic%20Games%22

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact CGA's Manager, Government Relations Mr John Lamont on E: [REDACTED] or M: [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



CRAIG PHILLIPS AM
Chief Executive Officer

Statement



Saturday, 19 August 2023

JOINT STATEMENT ON VICTORIA 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Commonwealth Games Federation Partnerships (CGFP), Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) and the State of Victoria have settled all their disputes regarding the cancellation of the multi-hub regional Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games.

In July 2023 the Victorian Government announced its decision to withdraw from hosting the 2026 Games.

Following that decision, the affected parties have been involved in confidential good faith negotiations.

The parties subsequently agreed to refer the dispute to Mediation and appointed former New Zealand Judge, the Honourable Kit Toogood KC and the former Chief Justice of the WA Supreme Court, the Honourable Wayne Martin AC KC as joint mediators.

All parties engaged respectfully and made appropriate concessions in order to reach an agreement.

The State of Victoria has agreed to pay the Commonwealth Games parties (CGF CGFP and CGA) AUD \$380 million.

The parties also agreed that the multi-hub regional model was more expensive to host than the traditional models.

The settlement was supported by the mediators.

The terms of the settlement will otherwise remain confidential.

The settlement finalises all matters between the parties.

The parties are legally bound not to speak further regarding the details of the settlement.

ANNEXURE B



Pursuing sporting excellence | Connecting with communities

Submission of Commonwealth Games Australia to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Inquiry into Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games

9 June 2023

Commonwealth Games Australia consents to this Submission being made public, either in whole or part.

For further information or questions about this submission, please contact:

Craig Phillips AM
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Games Australia

E: [REDACTED]

Contents

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA.....	3
THE SUBMISSION	3
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Sport: Powering Australia’s Future - 10 + 10.....	5
3. Victoria 2026 – A unique and critical opportunity.....	8
4. Funding of Commonwealth Games, Olympic and Paralympic Sports in Crisis	11
5. The “preparedness” of Australian Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic sports and the Australian Teams for Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032 – Inquiry reference clause (m).....	13
<i>Recommendations – Team “preparedness”.....</i>	14
<i>Immediate action – to be delivered no later than MYEFO.....</i>	14
i. Immediate uplift of \$18.3M for Program sports for Paris 2024 who receive funding from the ASC/AIS and who are required to send athletes to qualification events for those Games.....	14
ii. Immediate confirmation of funding certainty for the remaining 18 Commonwealth sports on the Victoria 2026 Program through to December 2026 - a period of two years.....	15
iii. Immediate allocation of \$10M per annum to successfully prepare the Australian Commonwealth Games Team for Victoria 2026 - \$30M.....	16
<i>Medium/longer-term action – delivery to commence in the Forward Estimates detailed in the FY24/25 Federal Budget.....</i>	16
iv. Develop an appropriately funded Federal Government Sport Investment Plan.....	16
v. Redefine the Federal Sport Investment Framework.....	16
6. Victoria 2026 Cross Partner Governance Framework - Inquiry reference clause (d).....	18
7. Sporting Infrastructure – Inquiry reference clauses (a, b, c, d, h, I and k).....	20
8. Conclusion	21
COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA MEMBER SPORTS	22
ANNEXURE A.....	23

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA

Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) is a member-based organisation – our members are the National Sporting Organisations (Member Sports) representing the sports participating in the next Commonwealth Games, those eligible to be included in future Commonwealth Games and our State Divisions.

CGA receives no Federal Government funding to support our teams or programs.

Our community is broad and diverse and includes our Team athletes, coaches, support staff and volunteers, the CGA Board, committees and staff, member sporting organisations and different levels of government within Australia and overseas, as well as the sporting high-performance system, commercial and media partners.

We work in collaboration with other peak bodies and high-performance system partners such as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), Paralympics Australia (PA), our Member NSOs, the National Institute Network, universities and schools, and of course, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the 71 Commonwealth Games Associations of other nations and territories from across the Commonwealth.

We introduce more people in more communities to the power of the Commonwealth Games and show a new generation how to get involved in the Commonwealth Sport Movement.

Australia's Commonwealth Games Team is the only national team with able bodied and para-athletes wholly integrated in its' membership. Our athletes wear the same uniform, compete in the same venues, live in the Games Village together and parade in the Opening Ceremony as Australia's Commonwealth Games Team.

The Team for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (Birmingham 2022) was comprised of 429 athletes: 230 female athletes (54% of the team); 71 para-athletes (16.5% of the team); and a record 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes. Our oldest athlete was 63 and our youngest just 14. The Team won the gold medal tally and the overall medal tally, but more importantly our athletes united our nation still struggling with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic exemplifying our vision of pursuing sporting excellence and connecting with communities.

THE SUBMISSION

1. Introduction.

CGA welcomes the opportunity to provide a Submission (the Submission) to the Inquiry being conducted by the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport into *Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games* (the Inquiry).

CGA acknowledges that this Submission is being made outside the original due date and is grateful to the Committee Secretariat for granting an extension of time. The extension has provided CGA with the opportunity to address specific questions posed by specific Committee Senators regarding funding shortfalls for Member Sports seeking to qualify athletes for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Paris 2024), as well as the impact of the lack of funding certainty and fiscal cliff looming for 18 sports (which are Commonwealth and Olympic

sports) post December 2024 competing at the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games (Victoria 2026).

In this Submission, while CGA will primarily focus on Australia’s preparedness to host Victoria 2026, we do acknowledge the critical importance of government policy and strategy embracing all three Games (i.e., Victoria 2026 and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games – Brisbane 2032) and the more than 30 other international sporting events on the “Green and Gold Runway” to 2032. For Australia to gain all the benefits and opportunities of this decade, it is essential that all levels of government take a holistic view of investment and strategy.

CGA notes that the primary focus of the Inquiry is on the planning and delivery of Games related infrastructure – venues, accommodation, and transport, both Games specific and legacy. We also note reference to infrastructure investment meeting the needs of communities and sports and the opportunity for impact and legacy outcomes. These focus areas are captured in reference clauses (a, b, c, d, h, l and k).

As at the date of lodging this Submission, matters relating to infrastructure funding arrangements for the Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Victoria in 2026 are, to our understanding, still the subject of ongoing discussions between the Federal Government and the Victorian Government. As such, these discussions will not form part of this Submission.

Notwithstanding these ongoing negotiations between the Federal Government and the Victorian Government, CGA is of the view that the Committee would benefit from an overview of the governance arrangements for Victoria 2026 as prescribed by the Host Contract. Accordingly, a summary of the governance arrangements for Victoria 2026 has been provided in section 6 of this Submission insofar as it relates to reference clause (d).

More importantly, the key focus of this Submission is how to ensure “the preparedness” of Australian sport, in particular the Australian Commonwealth Games Team and the Australian Olympic and Paralympic Teams, and their capacity to “encourage more Australians to participate in elite and community sports and live active lifestyles.”

This submission addresses these critical matters under reference clause (m).

While CGA notes the Inquiry’s focus on sports infrastructure and international sporting events, these investments will come to naught if there is no investment in the capacity and capability of our Member Sports to grow and deliver. In this context, prior to finalising this Submission, CGA has had the opportunity to review the AOC’s submission to the Inquiry and agrees with all of the recommendations detailed in that submission.

The AOC’s recommendations, along with those made by CGA in this Submission, address the systemic underfunding of Commonwealth, Paralympic and Olympic sports in Australia. This reality is a symptom of an outdated approach of how government invests in sport, with Commonwealth, Paralympic and Olympic sports being largely seen by policymakers as having a once every four-year window of relevance attached to their signature events.

The logic of this redundant policy outlook cannot be upheld when considered against the fact that CGA and the AOC combined, have 49 Member Sports with a collective membership representing more than 13 million participants and millions more volunteers across Australia. This is a culturally diverse and inclusive membership that is committed to the development of sport for all; for physical and mental health, community building and cohesion, and education. Further, this membership develops and fosters elite athletes to represent Australia on the world stage providing inspiration and pride to many Australians.¹

¹ CGA and AOC, *Sport: Powering Australia’s Future - 10+10*, <https://commonwealthgames.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Sport-Empowering-Australias-Future-1010.pdf>, p. i.

On 24 January 2023, the ASC announced that work would commence on the development of Australia's first National Sport Participation Strategy. Reportedly, this strategy aims to transform the way participation is connected, delivered, and supported in Australia and follows the launch of its' high-performance strategy - 2032+.

Given that there has been no increase in Federal Government participation funding for six years and no increase in pathway funding for seven years, this is a welcome announcement. CGA has acknowledged the collective vision of the 'Win Well' pledge set out in 2032+ as a foundation of the strategy, as well as a new national commitment to balancing ambitious sporting goals with cultures that are safe, fair, and supportive. But, without a significant uplift in the Federal Government's investment in the sport industry sector, 2032+ is in danger of suffering the same fate as its' policy predecessor, *Sport 2030*, in being a plan without means.

In this context, CGA notes that during the development of 2032+, the ASC Investment Modelling Working Group met four times prior to its' launch. More recently in 2023, work has commenced on the development of the investment model that will underpin 2032+. Without a costed implementation plan and definitive monetary allocations across the forward estimates period through to 2032, the goals set out in 2032+ can be best described as 'aspirational'.

Indeed, the Government's own research has found that the Sport Industry provides direct economic, productivity and volunteering benefits and a total economic value to the national economy of approximately \$83B annually, returning to Australian communities at least \$7 for every \$1 invested.² It should be noted that this analysis of the beneficial economic multiplier of sport is now more than six years out-of-date and does not account for the economic benefits delivered by the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, nor does it map any of the economic benefits to be delivered by the more than 30 international sporting events coming to Australia as part of the much lauded Green and Gold runway through to Brisbane 2032.

2. Sport: Powering Australia's Future - 10 + 10

In anticipation of a positive decision from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in respect of the Brisbane 2032 candidature and the real possibility that Australia may be chosen to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games, CGA and the AOC recognised an urgent need to reframe the relationship with government and deliberately positioned sport as an economic portfolio and industry sector. This urgency was further heightened when CGA, in partnership with the Victorian Government, was awarded the hosting rights for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (Victoria 2026) by the CGF on 11 April 2022.

Accordingly, in May 2021, CGA and the AOC, on behalf of their respective Member Sports, submitted ***Sport: Powering Australia's Future - 10+10*** (the 10+10 Submission) to the then Federal Government in support of the 2021 Intergenerational Report (IGR). The 10+10 Submission marks the first-time sport has provided a submission to the Federal Government's IGR process.

The 10+10 Submission advocates for how Sport plays a critical role in the Australian community for our collective health, addressing the nation's obesity crises, chronic diseases, mental health, and personal development. Sport strengthens our communities and contributes to Australia's economy through major events, tourism, hospitality, infrastructure, research, and most importantly, sporting excellence builds national pride and motivation.

² ASC, *Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport*, BCG, 2017.

The submission presented recommendations for a new path forward for the Sports Industry and Government to work together on an industry-wide reform plan capable of delivering real generational change.

The 10+10 Submission sets out four key recommendations:

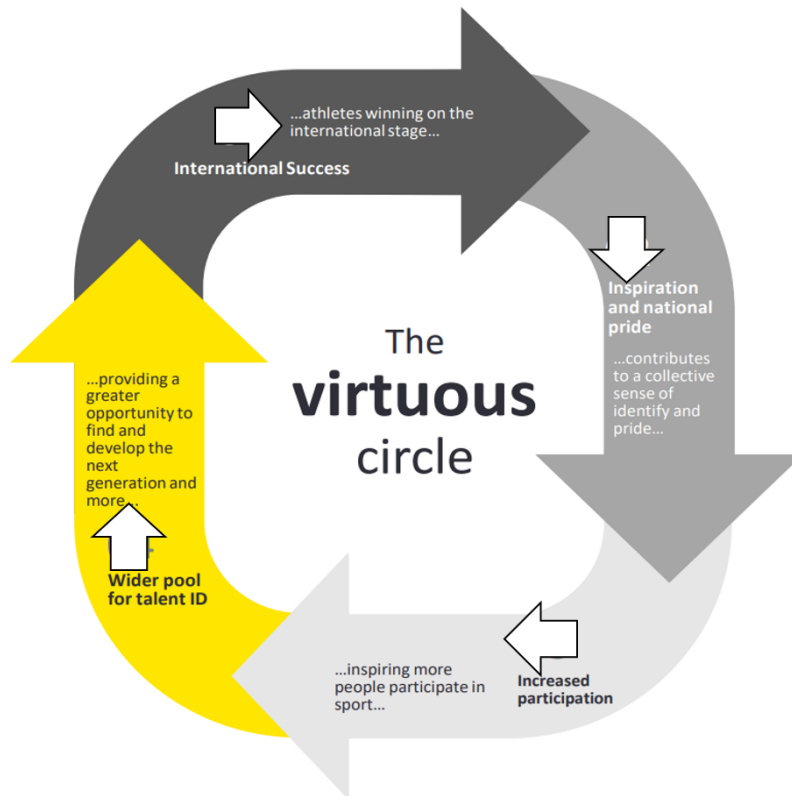
1. Develop an appropriately funded implementation plan for Sport 2030 enabling the sports industry to deliver. [Notably, *Sport 2030* is redundant, but the need to develop an appropriately funded implementation plan for the sports industry remains and is now a more urgent requirement in light of the Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032];
2. Redefine the sport investment framework so that it recognises Sports' highly integrated operations and that these need to be implemented in a holistic business plan so sports can develop their capability and capacity to deliver outcomes in participation, pathways and performance. The investment needs to be considered in the light of the 10+10 opportunity, with a minimum of four-year certainty of funding allocations based on sports presenting and being accountable for their business plan. Direct investment in:
 - Participation – an increase in annual direct grants for sports participation growth; and
 - Performance – an increase in annual grant allocations directly for sports performance.
3. Develop and fund a national strategic initiative, in collaboration with CGA and the AOC, for major sporting events to ensure benefits and legacy are maximised in three distinct phases: before, during and after major events; and
4. Confirm the ongoing role of CGA and the AOC as part of current and future formal policy development activities to reflect the broader value of sport in delivering government objectives.

With the award of hosting rights to Australia for Brisbane 2032 and Victoria 2026 by the IOC and the CGF respectively, the recommendations set out in the 10+10 are essential if Australia is to realise the unique opportunities presented by this decade-long runway of major sporting events.

Notably, Victoria 2026 acts as an accelerator of the Green and Gold runway through to 2032, providing Australia with a generational gift to make a real difference in transforming our nation for the better – a generational legacy.

While it is pleasing to see the 10+10 recommendations positively influencing the development of 2032+ and the development of the National Sport Participation Strategy, without meaningful investment from the Federal Government, both will fail.

The foundation principle of the 10+10 in reframing the sports partnership with government is the 'Virtuous Circle', which describes how incentivising sports to deliver the broader objectives of the '4Ps' [Participate, Perform, Promote and Provide] will yield sustainable outcomes.



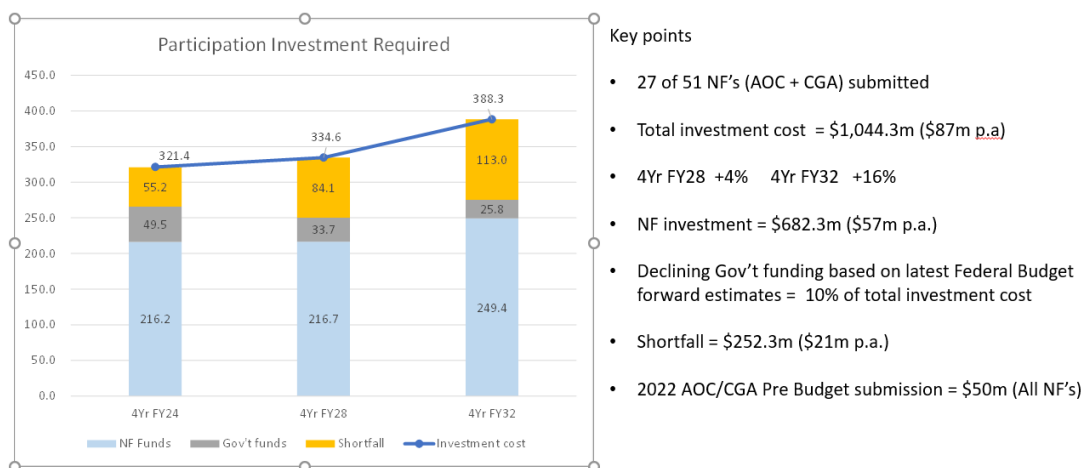
Sustainable outcomes cannot be achieved when the Federal Government’s funding to the ASC and in turn our Member Sports has declined in real terms since 2015-16.

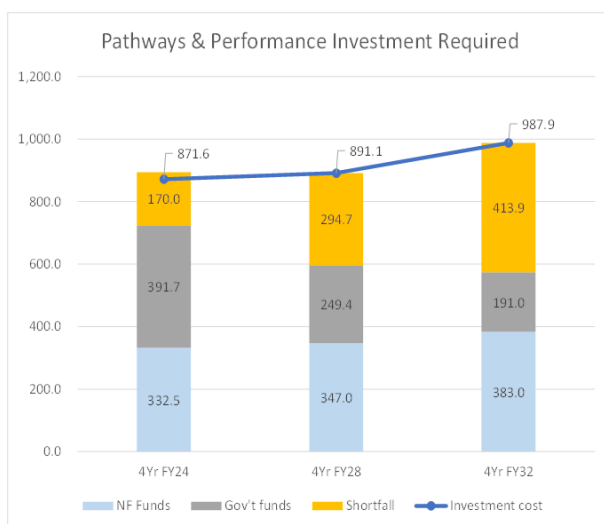
In 2018-19, funding to sport through the ASC peaked at \$442M and has been in decline since, with the Federal Government’s budgetary forward estimates showing a gap to retain the Member Sports’ current state, let alone maximise the opportunities presented by Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032.

In seeking to progress recommendation 1 of the 10+10 Submission (Develop an appropriately funded implementation plan), CGA and AOC developed a standard data collection template and a pro-forma business plan template, which was sent to 51 CGA and AOC Member Sports with 27 completing the data collection and 5 of these preparing the business plan.

In order to extrapolate out to the full 51 Member Sports, CGA and AOC accessed the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) financial statements for 15 Member Sports and pro-rated this to realise the shortfall in Federal Government investment.

Recommendation 1 - Costed implementation plan





Key points

- 27 of 51 NF's (AOC + CGA) submitted
- Total investment cost = \$2,750.6m (\$230m p.a)
- 4Yr FY28 +2% 4Yr FY32 +11%
- NF investment = \$1,062.5m (\$89m p.a.)
(note: 1 NF = 50%, 7 NF's=40%)
- Declining Gov't funding based on latest Federal Budget forward estimates = 30% of total investment cost
- Shortfall = \$878.6m (\$73m p.a.)
- 2022 AOC/CGA Pre Budget submission = \$78m (All NF's)

This process demonstrated a circa \$2B shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the NSOs through to FY32 [10 years] to deliver on the participation (\$0.5B), pathways and performance (\$1.5B) outcomes. On an annualised basis, this is \$200M per year over 10 years to FY32.

The stark reality of this analysis of the Federal Government's actual investment allocation to the Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Sports through to 2032, is that the high performing results, which the Australian public has come to expect from its' Commonwealth Games, Paralympic and Olympic Teams are not sustainable.

Further, Australia's recent strong performances at the Birmingham and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) require a sober consideration of all relevant circumstances to properly assess their repeatability, let alone the prospect of improved results at 'home' Games in Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032. Relevant factors here include:

- the comparatively lower level COVID impacts on Australian athletes in the lead up to both events to those experienced by athletes in other parts of the world;
- the tremendous performance of CGA's, the AOC's and PA's Games Services Teams in managing the health and COVID quarantine processes and protocols for Australian athletes at Birmingham and Tokyo, ensuring Australian athletes were able to perform at their best; and
- the historic multi-medal winning performances of generational athletes such as Emma McKeon – 6 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals at Birmingham 2022; and 4 gold and 3 bronze medals at Tokyo 2020.

In the face of the demonstrated decline in Federal Government funding, such favourable circumstances cannot be relied upon to routinely deliver world-beating results.

3. Victoria 2026 – A unique and critical opportunity

The opportunity for Australia's athletes to compete at three 'home Games' starts with Victoria 2026.

Australia has a proud history of hosting great Commonwealth Games.

Australia has staged the Commonwealth Games on five occasions, with Victoria playing host to the Melbourne 2006 Games; widely considered one of the most successful in Games history. Australia also staged the Games in Sydney in 1938, Perth in 1962, Brisbane in 1982

and most recently Gold Coast in 2018. Victoria also hosted the Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo in 2004.

Commonwealth Games hosted in Australia have consistently provided important legacy benefits to communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Sport infrastructure development;
- Public domain and transport infrastructure;
- Construction of housing, including student, social and affordable housing;
- Economic activity and uplift;
- Vocational skills training and job creation;
- Trade and investment opportunities; and
- Boosts to tourism and the visit economy.

Australia has hosted the Commonwealth Games more than any other nation.

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (Gold Coast 2018) provided a particularly compelling example of the broader economic and social benefits than can be delivered by the Commonwealth Games.

The Gold Coast 2018 saw more than 6,600 athletes and officials from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories take part in 11 days of competition from 4 - 15 April 2018.

Key legacy benefits included:

- \$2.5B boost to Queensland's Gross State Product. This included a \$1.8B economic boost to the Gold Coast;
- Supporting more than 21,000 jobs on a yearly full-time equivalent basis;
- Approximately 82% of Games-wide contracts awarded to Queensland businesses, worth nearly \$1.7B;
- \$170M in estimated annual boost to exports from Trade 2018 program in the four years after the Games;
- \$41M estimated annual boost to investment from Trade 2018 program in the four years after the Games;
- \$725M in transport infrastructure spending brought forward in time for Gold Coast 2018;
- 5% increase in sports participation in Queensland following Gold Coast 2018;
- \$300M financial contribution from the Federal Government for Games operations, sports and related transport infrastructure;
- 1,300 apartments and townhouses built to rent as part of the Gold Coast's new health and knowledge precinct – the Smith Collective; and
- 250,000 additional hotel visitor nights before, during and after Gold Coast 2018 with a Games time occupancy of 88%.³

Victoria 2026 is positioned to be a games-changer for the Commonwealth Sport Movement with a vision to deliver an innovative and flexible model for the Games that is unprecedented in the event's history.

Victoria's submission to the CGF, developed in conjunction with CGA, centred on a regionally focused Commonwealth Games that will expand the capacity of regional cities in Victoria to deliver major events linking tourism, arts, culture and sport.

³ Griffith University, *The economic impacts of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games - 2018 Post-Games Report*, 2019, accessed at: <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/economic-impacts-of-the-gold-coast-2018-commonwealth-games-2018-post-games-report>.

In what will be a first-ever predominantly regional Commonwealth Games, Victoria 2026 will be staged in March 2026 across multiple cities and regional hubs including: Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton and Gippsland.

Not only will the Games deliver new economic opportunities through event infrastructure, it will deliver the double benefit of creating local jobs and housing as well as world-class sporting facilities.

This will leave a legacy of affordable housing for the regions and state-of-the-art sporting infrastructure to attract future major events. The Games will also drive participation in sports, at both a community and professional level, throughout the State.

Beyond the field of play, Victoria 2026 will feature a program of cultural and business engagement experiences that bring to life the Commonwealth Games values of humanity, equality and destiny, and embrace the State's diversity and rich cultural history.

With one of its four strategic pillars being 'Honouring First Peoples', Victoria 2026 will be a key vehicle for respectful and meaningful engagement with the various First Nations communities in Victoria. First Peoples will be at the heart of the Games.

A Victoria-wide program of live sites and activations will ensure visitors are welcomed in every corner of the State, with the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay to traverse the regions in the weeks leading up to the Opening Ceremony.

The approach will showcase the best of what Victoria has to offer and ensure a uniquely Victorian experience for the athletes and spectators.

It is estimated that Victoria 2026 will contribute more than \$3B to the State's economy, creating 7,500 jobs:

- almost 600 full-time equivalent jobs before the Games;
- 3,900 during the Games; and
- a further 3,000 beyond the Closing Ceremony.

Notwithstanding these identified legacies, it is an uncontested truism that a successful home-Games is dependent upon a successful home team.

Accordingly, in the context of the Green and Gold decade's three signature home Games, Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032, the circa \$2B shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the Member Sports through to FY32 [10 years] is unfathomable.

In the overall medal result from Birmingham 2022, Australia edged out England by a mere 2 medals - 178 vs 176. The circa \$2B shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the Member Sports through to 2032 creates the very real prospect that for Victoria 2026, the Australian team will not finish at the top of the medal tally.

Recommendation 2 of the 10+10 identified the deficiencies of the current investment model as a major barrier to better, sustainable outcomes.

4. Funding of Commonwealth Games, Olympic and Paralympic Sports in Crisis

The current sport funding model managed by the ASC has been in varied, but similar forms for more than 40 years.

For many years now, the funding model has been developed/varied based on what funds are available, rather than what is optimal, hence it creates winners and losers all vying for funding from an ever-decreasing funding pool.

Direct grants to Member Sports have reduced, particularly relating to participation (the ASC has been forced to fund these grants out of other sources), and funding built on specific programs the ASC/AIS has developed to assist sports has declined.

At the same time, there have been numerous direct grants to large commercial sporting codes and franchises, totalling in the hundreds of millions of dollars, mainly for infrastructure. Government agencies/departments have also operated specific programs based around sport, but not necessarily with any strategic alignment to the goals of sports.

The logic of government funding support for these commercial sports is more confounding when consideration is had to the fact that these sporting codes and franchises are also the beneficial recipients of broadcast revenue deals, literally worth billions of dollars. CGA contends that such arrangements do not provide value for the Australian taxpayers, but moreover that this government largesse distorts Australia's sporting landscape diverting resources away from Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic sports, which combined have a much larger participation footprint and are at the heart of Australia's sporting identity globally.

A recent case study example of an unfathomable funding decision made by the AIS relates to the Australian women's hockey team – the Hockeyroos.

In December 2021, the AIS cut the funding of the Hockeyroos (who were ranked 4th in the world at the time) by a 7-figure dollar sum. The AIS's advised reason for this decision was a determination that the Hockeyroos were not a medal chance at the Paris 2024.

Notably, the Hockeyroos in 2022 won bronze at the FIH Women's World Cup and silver at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and are currently ranked number 3 in the world.

Another peculiar case study is provided by the AIS's decision to provide funding certainty for Netball, Squash and Lawn Bowls (all Commonwealth Games only sports) through to 2026.

While these sports are grateful for the funding certainty they now have, for Netball and Squash this funding is at the same level as previously confirmed to 2024 (before Victoria 2026 was awarded). In real terms, this funding "value" is diminished due to inflation and not adequate for a home-Games preparation.

Athletes from 19 of the 21 program sports contributed to Australia topping the medal tally at Birmingham 2022. For Australia to prevail in Victoria 2026, (at a minimum) funding certainty for all of CGA's Member Sports is required, not a very limited few.

Notably, CGA is investing \$13M of its own money toward the preparation of the Australian team for Victoria 2026. In addition, CGA will fully fund the Australian Team to the order of \$8M, making CGA's total monetary support for Australian athletes competing at Victoria 2026 \$21M.

As previously noted, CGA receives no Federal Government funding to support our teams or programs.

During the midst of the COVID pandemic, we saw Australians embrace and be inspired by the performances of the Australian Teams at Birmingham 2022 and Tokyo 2020.

It is clear that the Commonwealth Games continues to resonate with Australians, with research following Birmingham 2022 confirming continued interest in engaging with the Games.

More than 70% of Australians followed the 12 days of action, while 67% of those reported that watching the Games made them feel proud or want to participate in sport.⁴

The Commonwealth Games Team remains an important source of pride and inspiration for Australians. Regardless of the local team we support or the State we cheer for, as a nation our club colours are always Green and Gold.

As stated, more recently CGA has taken its' place alongside other organisations from across the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games Movements in the development of 2032+.

The successful resourcing and implementation of 2032+, as informed by the 10+10 recommendations, will be critical for the success of Australia's athletes at the home-Games in Victoria 2026.

The recommendations made below were first detailed by CGA in its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission and updated in its' FY23/24 Pre-Budget Submission. The recommendations made are critical first steps in ensuring the success of Victoria 2026 in its' own right and as an accelerator for the Green and Gold runway through to 2032.

In addition to these recommendations, CGA added a third to its FY23/24 Pre-Budget Submission considering the media statement made by the AIS on 16 February 2023 of more than \$17 million invested in Netball, Squash and Bowls to prepare for Victoria 2026.

CGA is seeking urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all Victoria 2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive, noting the reference in the AIS's media statement from 16 February 2023 that Australia's Commonwealth Games sports, that also compete at the Olympics and Paralympic Games, only have high performance funding through to Paris 2024.⁵

CGA also wishes to highlight that on 21 June 2023 it will be 1,000 days to go until 17 March 2026, the scheduled date for the Opening Ceremony of Victoria 2026. For Australians, Victoria2026 will not be a successful Games without a successful home Team. Accordingly, CGA requests that the Government urgently address the recommendations made in this Submission.

In this context, it was particularly disappointing to CGA that the primary recommendations set out in its' FY23/24 Pre-Budget Submission addressing the immediate, medium, and longer

⁴ Australian Sports Commission, *CPM summary report, Impact of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on the Australian community*, October 2022 < https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1076290/CPM-report-Impact-of-the-Birmingham-2022-Commonwealth-Games-on-the-Australian-Community-October-2022.pdf>

⁵ The remaining Olympic and Commonwealth sports that have no funding certainty after December 2024 are Athletics Australia, AusCycling, Australian Weightlifting Federation, Badminton Australia, Basketball Australia, Boxing Australia, Cricket, Diving Australia, Golf, Gymnastics Australia, Hockey Australia, Paralympics Australia (Para-Powerlifting), Rowing Australia, Rugby Australia, Shooting Australia, Swimming Australia, Table Tennis Australia, Triathlon Australia and Volleyball Australia.

terms funding requirements of our Member Sports were not accepted by the Federal Government in its most recent Budget.

This disappointment became an even more bitter pill to swallow when the Government announced a \$240M funding commitment to an AFL stadium in Tasmania as part of its' Budget initiatives.

Given that the majority of our Member Sports are experiencing considerable cost of living and inflationary pressures impacting on their ability to qualify athletes and teams for the Paris 2024, with 18 of those Member Sports having no funding certainty beyond December 2024, it is difficult to understand what rationale has been applied in:

- prioritising the allocation of \$240M of Australian taxpayers' dollars to a single, wholly domestic commercial sport in receipt of billions of dollars in broadcast revenues for a stadium where it is unlikely that a single AFL player will take the field before 2028; and
- preferring the \$240M allocation to the AFL in Tasmania over the urgent funding requirements of the Australian Olympic and Paralympic Teams for Paris 2024 and the Australian Commonwealth Games Team for Victoria 2026.

Finally, CGA notes the very positive outcome that many of our Member Sports have also taken the opportunity of providing a submission to this Inquiry, either as a collective group or individually. It is critical that our Member Sports are not only allowed to have their voice, but that their views and that of their representative bodies are listened to in shaping the future of sport policy in this country.

5. The “preparedness” of Australian Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic sports and the Australian Teams for Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032 – Inquiry reference clause (m).

As mentioned, while CGA notes the Inquiry's focus on sports infrastructure and international sporting events, these investments will come to naught if there is no investment in the capacity and capability of our Member Sports to grow and deliver. Our athletes preparing for Victoria 2026 will simply not have the support they require to deliver the results Australians have come expect from them.

Accordingly, the Inquiry should not look at “preparedness” just through the lens of infrastructure and delivery, as without a vibrant Australian sport industry and fully prepared Australian Commonwealth Games, Olympic and Paralympic Teams, Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032, regardless of legacy infrastructure or broader legacy outcomes, will be perceived by the Australian public as a failure if the home teams do not succeed.

CGA's FY23/24 Pre-Budget Submission made three key recommendations:

- i. immediate funding commitment for Games Time Services and Support for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Victoria;
- ii. Victoria 2026 Team Preparation Funding as part of the 10+10 Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032; and
- iii. urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all Victoria 2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive.

In relation to the first recommendation from CGA's Pre-Budget Submission, Games Time Services and Support for Victoria 2026, Budget Paper No. 1 of the FY23/24 Federal Budget still has Victoria 2026 in the list detailed in Statement of Risk on p. 306:

2026 Commonwealth Games – On 12 April 2022, Victoria was confirmed as the host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games, with regional hubs and athletes' villages to be established in Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland. The Australian Government has provided guarantees for the Victorian Government's hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Regional Victoria. The financial implications of this support are not quantifiable at this time.

While the Office of Sport has subsequently advised CGA (post the most recent Federal Budget) that there is a commitment to meet the Government's obligations for Games Services security and visa arrangements etc, the Budget Papers themselves do not detail when any fiscal allocation will be made in this regard and CGA is not aware how any such allocation/s will be reported.

Again, it was particularly disappointing that the recommendations made in CGA's FY23/24 Pre-Budget submission concerning the need for urgent confirmation of funding for the 18 Olympic and Commonwealth sports that fall off the fiscal cliff at the end of December 2024 were rejected.

As mentioned, CGA, in conjunction with the AOC, crafted the 10+10 Submission to inform the development of the Federal Government's 2021 IGR. The 10+10 Submission proposed a fundamentally new investment path forward for the Sports Industry and Government (see section 2. above).

CGA, like the AOC and Paralympics Australia has in good faith signed up to the ASC's leadership of the high-performance sport network through the development of Australia's High Performance (HP) Sport Strategy 2032+. The strategy is sound and CGA is committed to playing its role and responsibilities. The HP Strategy 2032+, however, will not deliver for sports, athletes and the nation, if the Federal Government investment in our sports falls short. This strategy is critical to the "preparedness" of Australia's Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Teams for Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032.

The recommendations set out in the 10+10 Submission are essential to the realisation of the unique opportunities presented by the decade long runway to Brisbane 2032 and the decade after – 10+10.

Recommendations – Team "preparedness"

The following recommendations are essential to the "preparedness" of the Australian Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Teams and the success of Australian athletes at Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2023.

Immediate action – to be delivered no later than MYEFO

- i. Immediate uplift of \$18.3M for Program sports for Paris 2024 who receive funding from the ASC/AIS and who are required to send athletes to qualification events for those Games.⁶

⁶ The Program Sports for Paris 2024 are: Archery, Artistic Swimming, Athletics, Basketball, Combat Sports, Cycling, Diving, Equestrian, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Paddle, Rowing, Rugby 7s, Sailing, Shooting, Skate, Swimming, Surfing, Table Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Weightlifting.

This quantum has been verified by the AOC as representing the cost increases for Games Qualification of sports for Paris 2024. The requested Games Qualification Assistance would be administered by the ASC.

- ii. Immediate confirmation of funding certainty for the remaining 18 Commonwealth sports on the Victoria 2026 Program through to December 2026 - a period of two years.

Based on the ASC/AIS's existing funding annual allocations for these sports, the required quantum is \$192.2M.⁷ See table below:

Sport	ASC/AIS annual funding allocation (\$M)
Athletics	10.8
Badminton	0.9
Basketball	10.6
Boxing/Combat	0.8
Cricket	2.7
Cycling	12.0
Diving	3.6
Golf	2.4
Gymnastics	2.9
Hockey	6.8
Rowing	11.1
Rugby	3.8
Shooting	3.6
Swimming	14.4
Table Tennis	1.6
Triathlon	4.5
Volleyball	3.3
Weightlifting	0.3
	\$96.1M – x 2 years
TOTAL	\$192.2M

[NOTE: Para-Powerlifting is a Program Sport at Victoria 2026 and is governed by PA, which has provided a separate submission to this Inquiry.]

On 16 February 2023, the AIS issued a media statement announcing more than \$17M to be invested in Netball, Squash and Bowls to prepare for Victoria 2026.

The Australian Team in Birmingham won medals in 19 out of 21 sports. In winning medals across 19 sports, Australia still only edged out England by 2 medals in the overall medal count - 178 vs 176.

The uplift announced by the AIS on 16 February 2023 for three Commonwealth Games sports does not address the larger systemic structural funding issues and overall shortfall. Also, it does not match the broader investment the Federal Government made for a whole of Team preparation applied for the Gold Coast 2018 – see CGA FY23/24 Pre-Budget Submission.

⁷ ASC, *Investment allocation Financial Year 2023-24*, accessed at: https://www.sportaus.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1105538/Investment-allocation-2023-24-Website-as-at-31-May-2023.pdf.

This funding confirmation will also enable our Member Sports to provide employment security for essential personnel (e.g., high performance coaching and technical staff) critical to Australia's performance at Victoria 2026 and Brisbane 2032.

Accordingly, CGA is seeking urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all Victoria 2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive, noting the reference in the AIS's media statement from 16 February 2023 that Australia's Commonwealth Games sports that also compete at the Olympic and Paralympic Games only have high performance funding through to Paris 2024.

iii. Immediate allocation of \$10M per annum to successfully prepare the Australian Commonwealth Games Team for Victoria 2026 - \$30M.

Consistent with the accepted dynamic that successful home-Games are largely dependent upon the success of the host-nation's team, the Federal Government provided an additional \$15.5M to the ASC in the FY17/18 Budget to support our athletes ahead of Gold Coast 2018.

Ahead of a home Games in 2026, CGA is seeking a correction in funding to our Member Sports from FY22/23 in the order of \$10M per annum through to FY25/26 to successfully prepare the Team.

A clear precedent for this requested support for Team Preparation Funding is contained in Budget Paper No.2 2017-2018 at p.107, showing the allocation of an additional \$15.5M to support the athletes in the lead up to Gold Coast 2018.

Ironically, the quantum of funding allocations for these immediate action recommendations total \$240.5M.

Medium/longer-term action – delivery to commence in the Forward Estimates detailed in the FY24/25 Federal Budget

iv. Develop an appropriately funded Federal Government Sport Investment Plan.

Develop an appropriately funded Federal Government Sport Investment Plan that enables the Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Sports to deliver on their ability to transform the wellbeing of communities, increase productivity, reduce health expenditure, improve academic results, play a leading role in diplomacy, and deliver international events driving tourism and employment.

v. Redefine the Federal Sport Investment Framework.

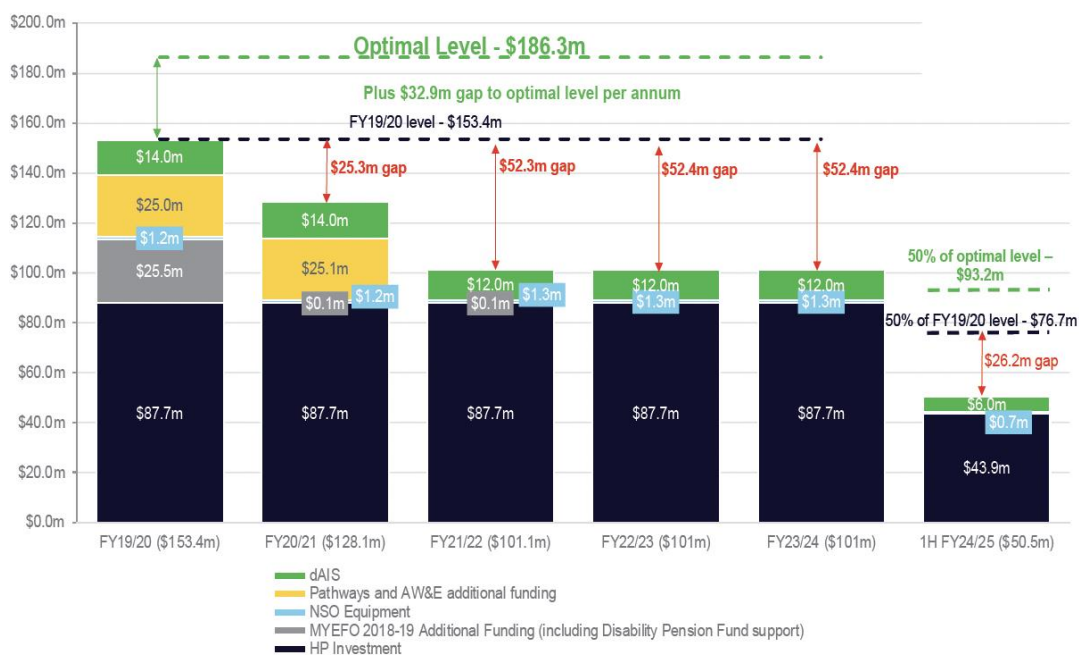
Redefine the Federal Sport Investment Framework so that it recognises Sports' highly integrated operations and that these need to be implemented in a holistic business plan so sports can develop their capability and capacity to deliver outcomes in participation, pathways, and performance.

This investment needs to be made in the light of the 10+10 opportunity, with a minimum four-year certainty and a projected eight-year forecast, based on sports presenting and being accountable for their business plans.

Details of the financial investment are set out in CGA’s FY23/24 Pre-Budget Submission (Annexure A), which identified a \$2B shortfall in Federal Government investment in the NSOs through to FY32 (10 years) to deliver on the participation (\$0.5B), pathways and performance (\$1.5B) outcomes. On an annualised basis this is \$200M per year over 10 years to FY32.

The \$314M funding shortfall noted in our 10+10 Submission (at p. 20) was based on the AIS’s modelling at the time deemed to be the optimal level of investment funding – see Table below.

AIS high performance funding profile / \$m / 2020 – 2025



Source: AIS

The commentary provided by CGA and the AOC in the 10+10 Submission did not promote that the \$314M was a reduction from levels of funding current at FY19/20, but that it was a significant shortfall from what the AIS itself had determined to be the optimum level of investment funding.

In February 2022, the AOC submitted its’ FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission. On p.7 of that submission, a request was made with the title “1. Immediate reinstatement of the \$314M shortfall in high-performance funding over 4 years since 2020-21”. The AOC has acknowledged that the title of this request, as described, may result in a level of confusion.

It is concerning to CGA that the Government describes increases of “new money” of \$183.4M, confirmed through the forward estimates to 2024 to ensure the peak funding of \$153.4M per annum was held through the Paris cycle. While this allocation is called new, it was not really “new” and did not actually increase the funding available.

In line with this observation, CGA remains deeply concerned with the most recent allocations across the forward estimates, which show significant reductions of current ASC funding levels totalling circa \$80M in FY24/25 and circa \$100M in FY25/26.

If these reductions in forward estimates are simply reinstated as “new” funding and there is no real increase above the current funding level by the Government, then Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic sports will be in serious financial difficulty with the obvious impact on athletes and their resulting performance.

6. Victoria 2026 Cross Partner Governance Framework - Inquiry reference clause (d).

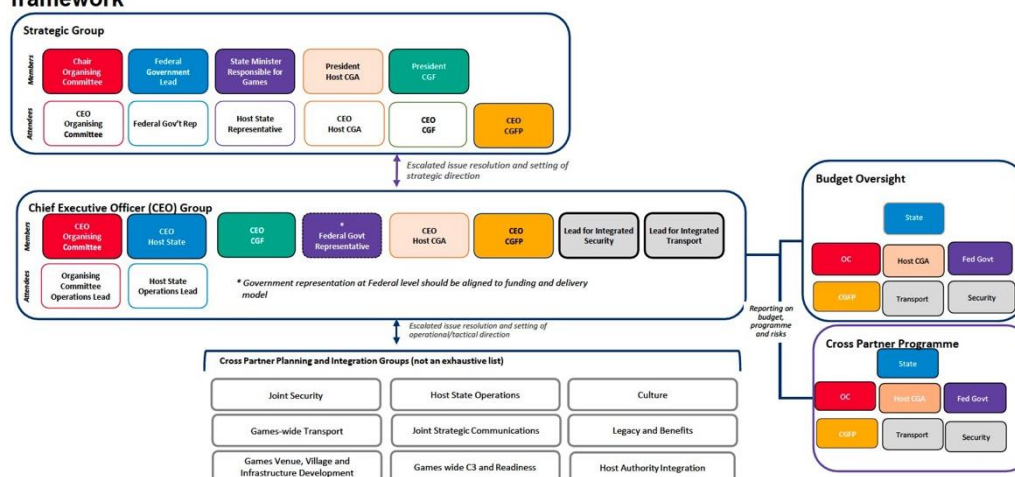
Following an exclusive dialogue period commencing in February 2022, the CGF awarded the hosting rights for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to the Victorian Government and CGA. This was announced on 12 April 2022.

In awarding the Games, the CGF, CGA and the Victorian Government all signed the Host Contract.

The CGF requires a specific Cross Partner Governance Framework (CPGF) to be adopted by the Games delivery partners. This is encapsulated in the Host Contract and is outlined below – see Figure 1.

Figure 1

Commonwealth Games Event Delivery Model – Cross Partner governance framework



(As noted earlier, not all of this governance model will be in place by the start of 2023)

It should be noted that this governance model is not the Games time governance structure, which will apply during the Games period. It is anticipated, however, that key aspects of this structure will be adopted into an appropriate model to support the operational and tactical nature of decision-making and rapid issue resolution requirements during the Games Period.

The CPGF governs the delivery of priority activities across two key phases:

1. Phase 1 – Mobilisation

Phase 1 commenced on the date of the Host Agreement and was anticipated to take up to one (1) year. This Phase was focused on the ‘set up’ of the Organising Committee and Games governance arrangements (required before the commencement of Phase 2).

The Mobilisation Group membership is comprised of representatives from: the CGF, CGF Partnerships, Host State (represented by the Office of Commonwealth Games), CGA and the Organising Committee.

- Phase 2 – establishment of an integrated Cross-Partner Governance Framework
Phase 2 contemplates a more wide-ranging Integrated Delivery Structure, which commenced at the start of 2023.

Figure 2 shows the Integrated Delivery Structure for the Games.

Figure 2
Integrated Delivery Structure

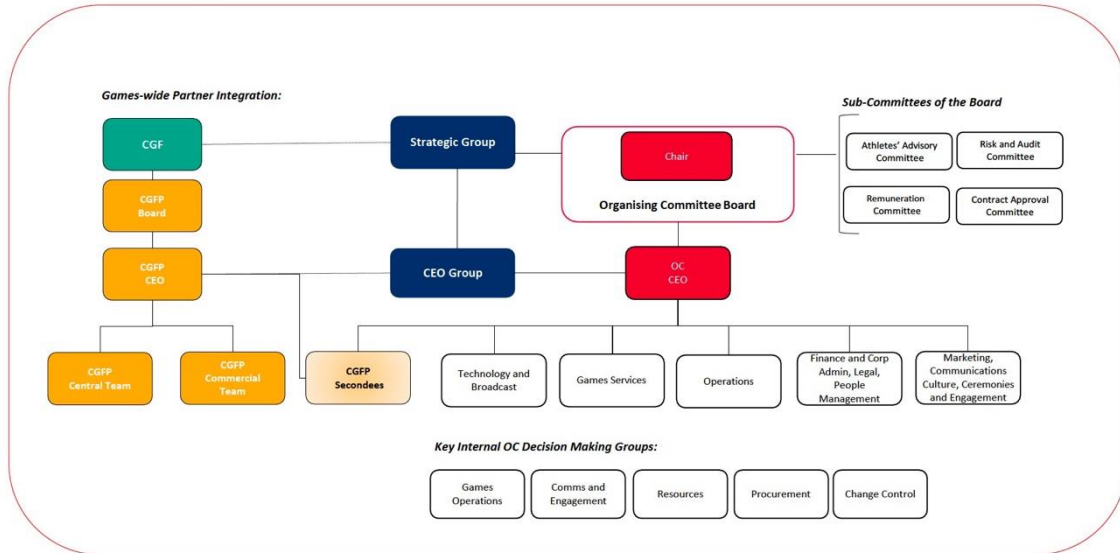
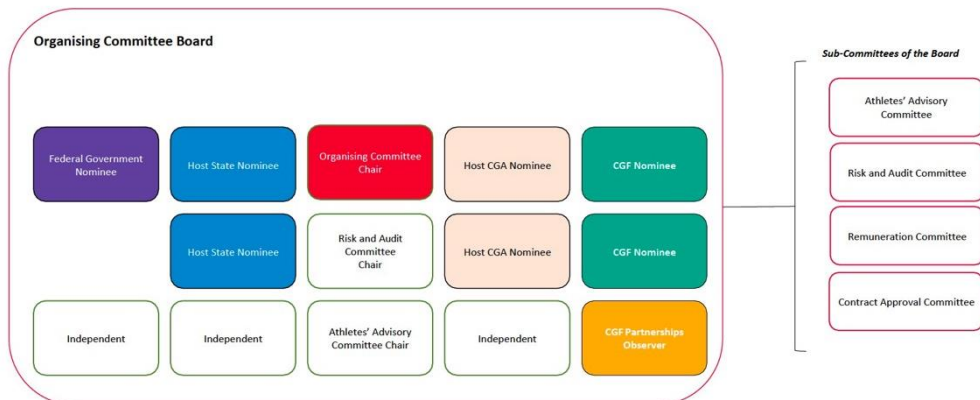


Figure 3 shows the Indicative Organising Committee Board Structure.

Figure 3 - Commonwealth Games Event Delivery Model – Indicative OC Board Structure



Notable features from this governance framework are that the Strategic Group is chaired by the Hon Jacinta Allen MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Commonwealth Games Delivery and Victoria 2026 legacy has a dedicated Minister in the Hon Ms Harriet Shing MLC, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy – a first for a Commonwealth Games.

A further strength of this framework, which reflects the integrated nature of the Commonwealth Games for able bodied and para athletes, is the appointment of Dr Lisa Chaffey ClinScD PLY to the Board of the Organising Committee. Dr Chaffey is a Paralympian

in Wheelchair Basketball (Athens 200) and is well recognised as an expert in diversity and inclusion.

In addition, two para-athletes, Julie Charlton (Athletics) and Tim Hodge (Swimming) are members of the Athletes Advisory Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Organising Committee Board.

7. Sporting Infrastructure – Inquiry reference clauses (a, b, c, d, h, I and k).

For the assistance of the Committee, CGA has grouped the list of sports facility venues for Victoria 2026 into four distinct groups:

- i. Venues (new or to be developed) where investment in a redevelopment/upgrade has been confirmed.

These are:

- Aquatics (swimming, diving) at Armstrong Creek;
- Gymnastics and Weightlifting/Powerlifting at Waurn Ponds; and
- Athletics (track and field) at Eureka Stadium.

See:

- Media release: <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/eureka-stadium-upgrade-ahead-victoria-2026>; and
- Media release: <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/new-venues-and-closing-ceremony-geelong-2026>.

- ii. Venues that have been announced, with upgrades being necessary, pending confirmation of investment.

These are:

- Hockey at Stead Park;
- Cycling (BMX) at Shepparton;
- Lawn Bowls/Para-Lawn Bowls at Bendigo Bowls Club; and
- Rugby Sevens at Latrobe Regional Stadium (Gippsland).

- iii. Venues that are complete and ready for use, having recently been built or redeveloped.

These are:

- Cricket and the Closing Ceremony at Kardinia Park;
- Opening Ceremony at the MCG;
- Boxing at the Ballarat Sport Events Centre; and
- Netball at Bendigo Stadium.

- iv. Venues that are yet to be confirmed (or announced) but are likely to be temporary or at locations requiring an upgrade.

These are:

- Marathon (half) at Ballarat;
- Mountain bike at Ballarat;
- Table tennis at Bendigo;

- Squash at Bendigo;
- 3x3 Basketball at Bendigo;
- Coastal Rowing at Geelong;
- Triathlon at Geelong;
- Beach Volleyball at Geelong;
- Golf at TBC course on Bellarine Peninsula;
- Cycling (road race) at Shepparton and Gippsland;
- Shooting in Gippsland; and
- Cycling (track) at Bendigo Showgrounds.

At this stage, the Victoria 2026 Master Plan is yet to be released and as mentioned, further details as to funding arrangements between the Federal Government and the Victorian Government have not been announced.

CGA undertakes to update the Committee once further information is confirmed.

8. Conclusion

The Inquiry's statement of direction reflects the important themes set out in the 10+10 Submission, which focus on using the power of sport, through high performance and participation, to encourage more Australians to participate in elite and community sports and live active lifestyles.

This is a unique opportunity not to be missed.

Of the two signature events, Victoria 2026 is the first multisport international milestone on the Green and Gold runway.

Victoria 2026 is an accelerator for Brisbane 2032 and provides a critical platform for athlete participation and pathway development. As mentioned, on 21 June 2023 it will be 1,000 days to go until 17 March 2026, the scheduled date for the Opening Ceremony of Victoria 2026.

The requested investment as detailed in the recommendations made in this Submission is critical to the success of Australia's Commonwealth Games Team.

Delay will result in the compromised preparation of Australia's athletes, as well as an inability for our Member Sports to retain essential high-performance coaching and technical staff critical to the performance of the Australian team.

If Australia is to maintain its' position as the number 1 sporting nation in the Commonwealth, the recommendations detailed in this Submission must be actioned now.

Commonwealth Games Australia

9 June 2023

ENDS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA MEMBER SPORTS

Victoria 2026 Program Sports

Athletics Australia *
AusCycling *
Australian Weightlifting Federation
Badminton Australia
Basketball Australia *
Bowls Australia *
Boxing Australia
Cricket Australia
Diving Australia
Golf Australia *
Gymnastics Australia
Hockey Australia
Netball Australia
Paralympics Australia (Para-Powerlifting) *
Rowing Australia *
Rugby Australia
Shooting Australia *
Squash Australia
Swimming Australia *
Table Tennis Australia *
Triathlon Australia *
Volleyball Australia

(*) denotes events for para-athletes planned

Associate Sports (not on Victoria 2026 program)

Archery Australia
Judo Australia
Wrestling Australia



Pursuing sporting excellence | Connecting with communities

2023-24 Commonwealth Games Australia Pre-Budget Submission

February 2023

For further information or questions about this submission, please contact:

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Contents

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA	3
OVERVIEW	3
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	12
DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS	13
1. Games Time Services and Support from the Federal Government for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Australia.....	13
2. V2026 Team Preparation Funding as part of the 10+10 Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032.....	15
3. Urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all V2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive.....	15
COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA MEMBER SPORTS.....	16
APPENDIX A.....	17
APPENDIX B.....	22

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA

Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) is a member-based organisation – our Members are the National Sports Organisations (NSOs) representing the sports participating in the next Commonwealth Games and those eligible to be included in future Commonwealth Games and our State Divisions.

CGA receives no Federal Government funding to support our teams or programs.

Our community is broad and diverse and includes our Team athletes, coaches, support staff and volunteers, the CGA Board, committees and staff, member sporting organisations and different levels of government within Australian and overseas, as well as the high-performance system, commercial and media partners.

We work in collaboration with other peak bodies and high-performance system partners such as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), Paralympics Australia (PA), our Member NSOs, the National Institute Network, universities and schools, and of course, the 71 Commonwealth Games Associations of other nations and territories from across the Commonwealth.

We introduce more people in more communities to the power of the Commonwealth Games and show a new generation how to get involved in the Commonwealth Sport Movement.

Australia's Commonwealth Games Team is the only national team with able bodied and para-athletes included in its membership. Our athletes wear the same uniform, compete in the same venues, live in the Games Village together and parade in the Opening Ceremony as Australia's Commonwealth Games Team.

The Team for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games was comprised of 429 athletes: 230 female athletes (54% of the team); 71 para-athletes (16.5% of the team); and a record 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes. Our oldest athlete was 63 and our youngest just 14. The Team won the gold medal tally and the overall medal tally, but more importantly our athletes united our nation still struggling with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic exemplifying our vision of pursuing sporting excellence and connecting with communities.

OVERVIEW

CGA welcomes the opportunity to provide this Pre-Budget Submission (“the Submission”) on behalf of its’ Member Sports (the Sports – see attached list) ahead of the Federal Government’s 2023/24 Budget.

CGA acknowledges that this Submission is being made outside the normal deadline. This delay is due to CGA’s participation in and the ongoing development of [Australia’s High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy](#) (2032+).

At the outset, it must be noted that matters relating to infrastructure funding arrangements for the Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Victoria in 2026 (V2026) are, to our understanding, still the subject of ongoing discussions between the Federal Government and the Victorian Government.

Those discussions do not form the subject of this submission.

Notwithstanding the outcome of those discussions, the timeframe for the preparation of the Australian Team and the proper assessment of and planning for Games Time Services and

Support is becoming increasingly short. Notably, as at 17 March 2023, it will be three years to the day until the Opening Ceremony for V2026.

On 24 January 2023, the ASC announced that work would commence on the development of Australia's first National Sport Participation Strategy. Reportedly, this strategy aims to transform the way participation is connected, delivered and supported in Australia and follows the launch of 2032+.

Given that there has been no increase in Federal Government participation funding for six years and no increase in pathway funding for seven years, this is a welcome announcement.

CGA has acknowledged the collective vision of the 'Win Well' pledge, a foundation of the strategy, as well as a new national commitment to balancing ambitious sporting goals with cultures that are safe, fair and supportive.

For 2032+ to be successful, CGA notes the need to unite the high performance network in Australia and focus on Australian performances in international sporting events in this Green and Gold decade, including the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games and 2030 Commonwealth Games.

This is an exciting time for sport in Australia and the 2032+ strategy has the potential to harness our competitive strength in sport for years to come. Without a significant uplift in the Federal Government's investment in the sport industry sector however, 2032+ is in danger of suffering the same fate as its' policy predecessor, *Sport 2030*, in being a plan without means.

In this context, CGA notes that during the development of 2032+, the ASC Investment Modelling Working Group met four times prior to its' launch. More recently in 2023, work has commenced on the development of the investment model that will underpin 2032+. Without a costed implementation plan and definitive monetary allocations across the forward estimates period through to 2032, the goals set out in 2032+ can be best described as 'aspirational'.

The systemic underfunding of Commonwealth, Paralympic and Olympic sports is a symptom of an outdated approach to how government invests in sport, with Commonwealth, Paralympic and Olympic sports being largely seen by policymakers as having a once every four year window of relevance attached to their signature events.

The logic of this redundant policy outlook cannot be upheld when considered against the fact that CGA and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) combined, have 49 Member Sports with a collective membership representing more than 13 million participants and millions more volunteers across Australia. This is a culturally diverse and inclusive membership that is committed to the development of sport for all; for physical and mental health, community building and cohesion, and education. Further, this membership develops and fosters elite athletes to represent Australia on the world stage providing inspiration and pride to many Australians.¹

Indeed, the Government's own research has found that the Sport Industry provides direct economic, productivity and volunteering benefits to a total economic value to the national economy of approximately \$83 billion annually returning to Australian communities at least \$7 for every \$1 invested.²

In anticipation of a positive decision from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in respect of the Brisbane 2032 candidature, CGA and the AOC recognised an urgent need to

¹ *Sport – Powering Australia's Future (10+10)*, <https://commonwealthgames.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Sport-Empowering-Australias-Future-1010.pdf>, p. i.

² *Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport*, BCG, 2017.

reframe the relationship with government and deliberately position sport as an economic portfolio and industry sector. This urgency was further heightened when CGA, in partnership with the Victorian Government, was awarded the hosting rights for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (V2026) by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) on 11 April 2022.

Accordingly, in May 2021, CGA and the AOC, on behalf of their respective members, submitted ***Sport - Powering Australia's Future (10+10)*** (10+10) to the Federal Government in support of the 2021 Intergenerational Report (IGR). 10+10 marks the first time sport has provided a submission to the Federal Government's IGR process.

10+10 advocates for how Sport plays a critical role in the Australian community for our collective health, addressing the nation's obesity crises, chronic diseases, mental health, and personal development. Sport strengthens our communities, contributes to Australia's economy through major events, tourism, hospitality, infrastructure, research, and most importantly, sporting excellence builds national pride and motivation.

The submission presented recommendations for a new path forward for the Sports Industry and Government to work together on an industry wide reform plan capable of delivering real generational change.

10+10 sets out four key recommendations:

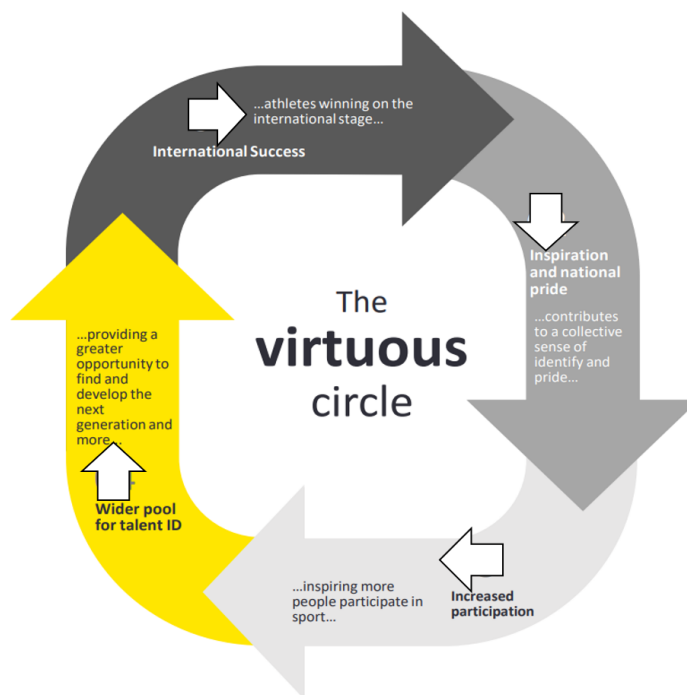
1. Develop an appropriately funded implementation plan for Sport 2030 enabling the sports industry to deliver. [Notably, *Sport 2030* is now redundant, but the need to develop an appropriately funded implementation plan for the sports industry remains and is now a more urgent requirement in light of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games];
2. Redefine the sport investment framework so that it recognises Sports' highly integrated operations and that these need to be implemented in a holistic business plan so sports can develop their capability and capacity to deliver outcomes in participation, pathways and performance. The investment needs to be considered in the light of the 10+10 opportunity, with a minimum of four-year certainty of funding allocations based on sports presenting and being accountable for their business plan. Direct investment in:
 - Participation – an increase in annual direct grants for sports participation growth; and
 - Performance – an increase in annual grant allocations directly for sports performance.
3. Develop and fund a national strategic initiative, in collaboration with CGA and the AOC, for major sporting events to ensure benefits and legacy are maximised in three distinct phases: before, during and after major events; and
4. Confirm the ongoing role of CGA and the AOC as part of current and future formal policy development activities to reflect the broader value of sport in delivering government objectives.

With Brisbane being selected as host of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) by the IOC on 21 July 2021 and the CGF selecting Victoria as the host of the Commonwealth Games 2026 (V2026) on 11 April 2022, the recommendations set out in the 10+10 are essential if Australia is to realise the unique opportunities presented by this decade-long runway of major sporting events.

Notably, V2026 acts as an accelerator of the Green and Gold runway through to 2032, providing Australia with a generational gift to make a real difference in transforming our nation for the better – a generational legacy.

While it is pleasing to see the 10+10 recommendations positively influencing the development of 2032+ and the development of the National Sport Participation Strategy, without meaningful investment from the Federal Government, both will fail.

The foundation principle of the 10+10 in reframing the sports partnership with government is the 'Virtuous Circle', which describes how incentivising sports to deliver the broader objectives of the '4Ps' [Participate, Perform, Promote and Provide] will yield sustainable outcomes.



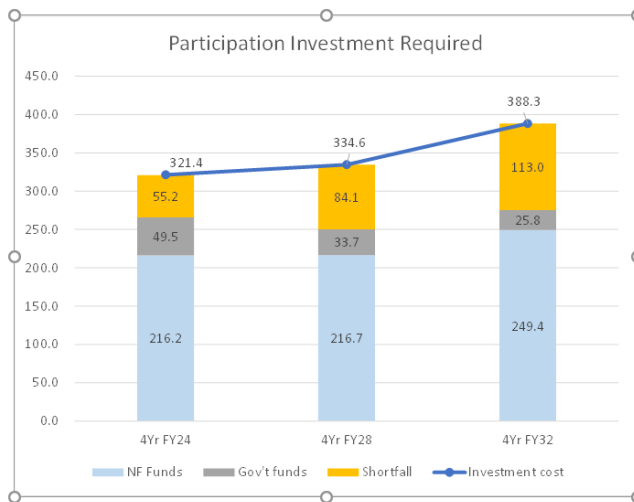
Sustainable outcomes cannot be achieved when the Federal Government's funding to the ASC and in turn the National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) has declined in real terms since 2015-16.

In 2018-19, funding to sport through the ASC peaked at \$442 million and has been in decline since, with the Federal Government's budgetary forward estimates showing a gap to retain the NSOs current state, let alone maximise the opportunities presented by V2026 and Brisbane 2032.

In seeking to progress recommendation 1 of the 10+10 (Develop an appropriately funded implementation plan), CGA and AOC developed a standard data collection template and a pro-forma business plan template, which was sent to 51 CGA and AOC members with 27 completing the data collection and 5 of these preparing the business plan.

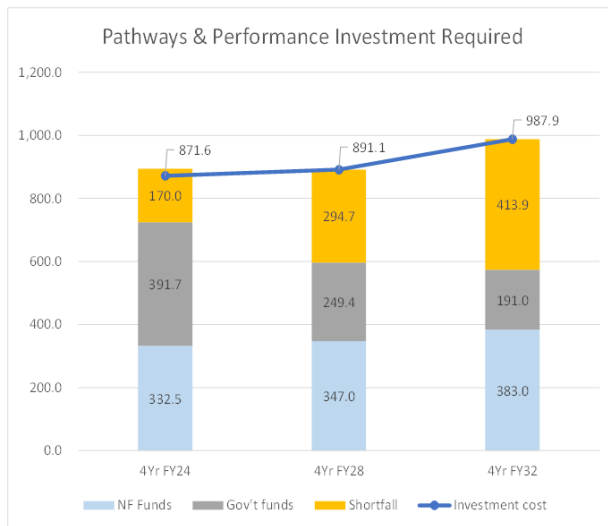
In order to extrapolate out to the full 51 NSOs, CGA and AOC accessed the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) financial statements for 15 NSOs and pro-rated this to realise the shortfall in Federal Government investment.

Recommendation 1 - Costed implementation plan



Key points

- 27 of 51 NF's (AOC + CGA) submitted
- Total investment cost = \$1,044.3m (\$87m p.a.)
- 4Yr FY28 +4% 4Yr FY32 +16%
- NF investment = \$682.3m (\$57m p.a.)
- Declining Gov't funding based on latest Federal Budget forward estimates = 10% of total investment cost
- Shortfall = \$252.3m (\$21m p.a.)
- 2022 AOC/CGA Pre Budget submission = \$50m (All NF's)



Key points

- 27 of 51 NF's (AOC + CGA) submitted
- Total investment cost = \$2,750.6m (\$230m p.a.)
- 4Yr FY28 +2% 4Yr FY32 +11%
- NF investment = \$1,062.5m (\$89m p.a.)
(note: 1 NF = 50%, 7 NF's=40%)
- Declining Gov't funding based on latest Federal Budget forward estimates = 30% of total investment cost
- Shortfall = \$878.6m (\$73m p.a.)
- 2022 AOC/CGA Pre Budget submission = \$78m (All NF's)

This process demonstrated a circa \$2 billion shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the NSOs through to FY32 [10 years] to deliver on the participation (\$0.5B), pathways and performance (\$1.5B) outcomes. On an annualised basis, this is \$200 million per year over 10 years to FY32.

The stark and shocking reality of this analysis of the Federal Government's actual investment allocation to the NSOs through to 2032, is that the high performing results which the Australian public has come to expect from its Commonwealth Games, Paralympic and Olympic Teams are not sustainable.

Further, Australia's recent strong performances at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games require a sober consideration of all relevant circumstances to properly assess their repeatability, let alone the prospect of improved results at 'home' Games in V2026 and Brisbane 2032. Relevant factors here include:

- the comparatively lower level COVID impacts on Australian athletes in the lead up to both events to those experienced by athletes in other parts of the world;
- the tremendous performance of CGA's, the AOC's and PA's Games Services Teams in managing the health and COVID quarantine processes and protocols for Australian athletes at Birmingham and Tokyo, ensuring Australian athletes were able to perform at their best; and

- the historical multi-medal winning performances of generational athletes such as Emma McKeon – 6 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals at Birmingham 2022; and 4 gold and 3 bronze medals at Tokyo 2020.

In the face of the demonstrated decline in Federal Government funding, such favourable circumstances cannot be relied upon to routinely deliver world-beating results.

Australia has a proud history of hosting great Commonwealth Games.

Australia has staged the Commonwealth Games on five occasions, with Victoria playing host to the Melbourne 2006 Games; widely considered one of the most successful in Games history. Australia also staged the Games in Sydney in 1938, Perth in 1962, Brisbane in 1982 and most recently Gold Coast in 2018. Victoria also hosted the Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo in 2004.

Commonwealth Games hosted in Australia have consistently provided important legacy benefits to communities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Sport infrastructure development;
- Public domain and transport infrastructure;
- Construction of housing, including student, social and affordable housing;
- Economic activity and uplift;
- Vocational skills training and job creation;
- Trade and investment opportunities; and
- Boosts to tourism and the visit economy.

Australia has hosted the Commonwealth Games more than any other nation.

The 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games provided a particularly compelling example of the broader economic and social benefits than can be delivered by the Commonwealth Games.

The 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games saw more than 6,600 athletes and officials from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories take part in 11 days of competition from 4 - 15 April 2018.

Key legacy benefits included:

- \$2.5 billion boost to Queensland's Gross State Product. This included a \$1.8 billion economic boost to the Gold Coast;
- Supporting more than 21,000 jobs on a yearly full-time equivalent basis;
- Approximately 82% of Games-wide contracts awarded to Queensland businesses, worth nearly \$1.7 billion;
- \$170 million in estimated annual boost to exports from Trade 2018 programme in the four years after the Games;
- \$41 million estimated annual boost to investment from Trade 2018 programme in the four years after the Games;
- \$725 million in transport infrastructure spending brought forward in time for Gold Coast 2018;
- 5% increase in sports participation in Queensland following Gold Coast 2018;
- \$300 million financial contribution from the Federal Government for Games operations, sports and related transport infrastructure;
- 1,300 apartments and townhouses built to rent as part of the Gold Coast's new health and knowledge precinct – the Smith Collective; and
- 250,000 additional hotel visitor nights before, during and after Gold Coast 2018 with a Games time occupancy of 88%.

V2026 is positioned to be a games-changer for the Commonwealth Sport Movement with a vision to deliver an innovative and flexible model for the Games that is unprecedented in the event's history.

Victoria's submission to the Commonwealth Games Federation, developed in conjunction with CGA, centred on a regionally focused Commonwealth Games that will expand the capacity of regional cities in Victoria to deliver major events linking tourism, arts, culture and sport.

In what will be a first-ever predominantly regional Commonwealth Games, V2026 will be staged in March 2026 across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton and Gippsland.

Not only will the Games deliver new economic opportunities through event infrastructure, it will deliver the double benefit of creating local jobs and housing as well as world-class sporting facilities.

This will leave a legacy of affordable housing for the regions and state-of-the art sporting infrastructure to attract future major events. The Games will also drive participation in sports, at both a community and professional level, throughout the State.

Beyond the field of play, V2026 will feature a program of cultural and business engagement experiences that bring to life the Commonwealth Games values of humanity, equality and destiny, and embrace the State's diversity and rich cultural history.

With one of its four strategic pillars being 'First Peoples First', V2026 will be a key vehicle for respectful and meaningful engagement with the various First Nations communities in Victoria. First Peoples will be at the heart of the Games.

A Victoria-wide program of live sites and activations will ensure visitors are welcomed in every corner of the State, with the Queen's Baton Relay to traverse the regions in the weeks leading up to the Opening Ceremony.

The approach will showcase the best of what Victoria has to offer and ensure a uniquely Victorian experience for the athletes and spectators.

It is estimated that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will contribute more than \$3 billion to the State's economy, creating 7,500 jobs:

- almost 600 full-time equivalent jobs before the Games;
- 3,900 during the Games; and
- a further 3,000 beyond the Closing Ceremony.

Notwithstanding these identified legacies, it is an uncontested truism that a successful home-Games is dependent upon a successful home team.

Accordingly, in the context of the Green and Gold decade's three signature home Games, V2026 and Brisbane 2032, the circa \$2 billion shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the NSO's through to FY32 [10 years] is unfathomable.

In the overall medal result from Birmingham 2022, Australia edged out England by a mere 2 medals - 178 vs 176. The circa \$2 billion shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the NSO's through to 2032 creates the very real prospect that for V2026, the Australian team will not finish at the top of the medal tally.

Recommendation 2 of the 10+10 identified the deficiencies of the current investment model as a major barrier to better, sustainable outcomes.

The current sport funding model managed by the ASC has been in varied, but similar forms for more than 40 years.

For many years now the funding model has been developed/varied based on what funds are available rather than what is optimal, hence it creates winners and losers vying for funding from an ever-decreasing funding pool.

Direct grants to NSOs have reduced, particularly relating to participation (the ASC has been forced to fund these grants out of other sources), and funding built on specific programs the ASC/AIS has developed to assist sports has declined.

At the same time, there have been numerous direct grants to large commercial sporting codes and franchises, totalling in the hundreds of millions of dollars, mainly for infrastructure. Government agencies/departments have also operated specific programs based around sport, but not necessarily with strategic alignment to the goals of sports.

The logic of government funding support for these commercial sports is more confounding when consideration is had to the fact that these sporting codes and franchises are also the beneficial recipients of broadcast revenue deals, literally worth billions of dollars. CGA contends that such arrangements do not provide value for the Australian taxpayers, but moreover that this government largesse distorts Australia's sporting landscape diverting resources away from Commonwealth, Paralympic and Olympic sports, which combined have the much larger participation footprint.

A recent case study example of an unfathomable funding decision made by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) (as part of the ASC) relates to the Australian women's hockey team – the Hockeyroos. In December 2021, the AIS cut the funding of the Hockeyroos (who were ranked 4th in the world at the time) by a 7-figure dollar sum. The AIS's advised reason for this decision was a determination that the Hockeyroos were not a medal chance at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Notably, the Hockeyroos in 2022 won bronze at the FIH Women's World Cup and a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and are currently ranked number 3 in the world.

Another peculiar case study is provided by the AIS's decision to provide funding certainty for Netball, Squash and Lawn Bowls (all Commonwealth Games only sports) through to 2026.

While these sports are grateful for the funding certainty they now have, for Netball and Squash this funding is at the same level as previously confirmed to 2024 (before V2026 was awarded). In real terms, this funding "value" is diminished due to inflation and not adequate for a home-Games preparation.

Athletes from 19 of the 21 program sports contributed to Australia topping the medal tally at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. For Australia to prevail in V2026, (at a minimum) funding certainty for all of CGA's Member Sports is required.

Notably, CGA is investing \$13 million of its' own money toward the preparation of the Australian team for V2026. In addition, CGA will fully fund the Australian Team to the order of \$8 million, making CGA's total monetary support for Australian athletes competing at V2026 \$21 million.

During the midst of the COVID pandemic, we saw Australians embrace the performances of the Australian Teams at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games for inspiration.

It is clear that the Commonwealth Games continues to resonate with Australians, with research following the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games confirming continued interest in engaging with the Games.

More than 70% of Australians followed the 12 days of action, while 67% of those reported that watching the Games made them feel proud or want to participate in sport.³

The Commonwealth Games Team remains an important source of pride and inspiration for Australians. Regardless of the local team we support or the state we cheer for, as a nation our club colours are always green and gold.

As stated, more recently CGA has taken its' place alongside other organisations from across the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games Movements in the development of 2032+.

The successful resourcing and implementation of 2032+, as informed by the 10+10 recommendations, will be critical for the success of Australia's athletes at the home-Games in V2026.

The recommendations made below were first detailed by CGA in its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission and are critical first steps in ensuring the success of V2026 in its' own right and as an accelerator for the Green and Gold runway through to 2032.

In addition to these recommendations, a third has been added in light of the media statement made by the AIS on 16 February 2023 of more than \$17 million invested in Netball, Squash and Bowls to prepare for Victoria 2026.

CGA is seeking urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all V2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive, noting the reference in the AIS's media statement from 16 February 2022 that Australia's Commonwealth Games sports that also compete at the Olympics and Paralympics only have high performance funding through to Paris 2024.

Finally, CGA highlights the proximity of V2026. As at 17 March 2023, it will be three years to the day until the Opening Ceremony for V2026. For Australians, V2026 will not be a successful Games without a successful home Team. Accordingly, CGA request that the Government urgently address the three recommendations made in this submission.

³ Australian Sports Commission, CPM summary report, Impact of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on the Australian community, October 2002 < https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1076290/CPM-report-Impact-of-the-Birmingham-2022-Commonwealth-Games-on-the-Australian-Community-October-2022.pdf>

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide immediate funding commitment for Games Time Services and Support for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Victoria.

- Security guarantees were identified in the March FY22/23 Federal Budget Statement of Risk with no quantified monetary allocation being listed.
- In the first Budget handed down by new Treasurer, the Hon Jim Chalmers MP on 25 October 2022, Games Time Services and Support from the Federal Government for the 2026 Commonwealth Games remained listed in the Statement of Risk with no monetary allocation.
- The timeframe for the preparation of the Australian Team and the proper assessment of and planning for Games Time Services and Support is becoming increasingly short. Notably, as at 17 March 2023, it will be three years to the day until the Opening Ceremony for V2026.

2. V2026 Team Preparation Funding as part of the 10+10 Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032.

- In the context of the Green and Gold decade's three signature home Games, V2026 and Brisbane 2032, the circa \$2 billion shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the NSO's through to FY32 [10 years] is unfathomable.
- In the overall medal result from Birmingham 2022, Australia edged out England by a mere 2 medals - 178 vs 176. The circa \$2 billion shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the NSOs through to 2032 creates the very real prospect that for V2026, a home-Games, the Australian team will not finish at the top of the medal tally.
- Neither the March 2022 Federal Budget nor the first Budget handed down by the new Government on 25 October 2022 made any provision for V2026 Team Preparation Funding.
- Ahead of a home Games in 2026, CGA is seeking an immediate correction in funding to our Member NSOs from FY2023/24 in the order of \$10 million per annum for three years (FY23/24, FY24/25 and FY25/26) as an urgent uplift for the V2026 Program Sports to pursue V2026 outcomes - e.g. funding for Rowing Australia is to ensure its Coastal Rowing program is supported.

3. Urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all V2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive.

- On 16 February 2023, the AIS issued a media statement announcing more than \$17 million invested in Netball, Squash and Bowls to prepare for Victoria 2026.
- The uplift announced by the AIS on 16 February 2023 for three Commonwealth Games sports does not address the larger systemic structural funding issues and overall shortfall. Also, it does not match the broader investment the Federal Government made for a whole of Team preparation applied for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.
- Urgent clarification is required as to when the remaining sports (other than Netball, Squash and Lawn Bowls) on the V2026 Program will receive additional funding support through to V2026.

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Games Time Services and Support from the Federal Government for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Australia.

Central to the hosting of international sporting events is confirmation of the Federal Government's support to meet the costs of Federal Government services relating to the staging of major events, including: Visa Support, Border Security, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism, Customs and Quarantine.

Ahead of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, the Federal Government provided the following assurances and support, which enabled the Games to be awarded:

- (a) Commitment letter (and attachments) dated 14 April 2011 from Senator the Hon Mark Arbib MP, Minister for Sport to the President, Commonwealth Games Federation (Appendix 'A');
- (b) \$2.5 million allocation set out in the FY14/15 Federal Budget to support coordinated planning by key agencies for the operational phase of preparations for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; and
- (c) Specific agency allocations from the FY17/18 Federal Budget - all marked 'NFP'.

In being mindful of critical timing issues relating to the consideration of the 2026 Commonwealth Games being hosted in Australia, as well the caretaker period ahead of the Federal Budget to be handed down on 29 March 2022, CGA sought a similar level of support from the Federal Government to that which was provided ahead of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Accordingly, prior to CGF's decision on 11 April 2022 to award the Games to Victoria, in its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission from January 2022, CGA highlighted the need for an immediate funding commitment for Games Time Service and Support for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in the event of a positive outcome.

Consistent with its' apolitical status, CGA provided copies of its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission within the January 2022 Pre-Budget period to the following:

- Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Sport;
- The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care;
- The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer;
- Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Shadow Minister for Sport;
- Treasury; and
- Office of Sport.

In addition, CGA also briefed the offices of the then Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison MP and the then Shadow Treasurer, Mr Jim Chalmers MP.

Prior to the Federal Election (21 May 2022), Minister Colbeck sent a letter dated 31 March 2022 to Dame Louise Martin DBE, President, CGF denoting the Federal Government's support for the V2026 candidature and willingness to provide the necessary guarantees for the hosting of the event. Minister Colbeck's letter to Dame Louise Martin is Appendix 'B' to this submission.

In addition, as the organisation responsible for Commonwealth Games hosted in Australia, in its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission, CGA also sought amendments to the *Major Sporting Events (Indicia and Images) Protection Act 2014 (Cth)* should Australia be confirmed as the host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Security guarantees for V2026 and Brisbane 2032 were identified in the Statement of Risk contained in the Federal Budget handed down on 28 March 2022 with no quantified monetary allocation being listed – see Budget Paper No.1 - Statement of Risks at p.245:

Major sporting events

2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games – On 21 July 2021, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) selected Brisbane to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Australian Government has committed to fund half the costs of critical infrastructure for the Games. The support is subject to shared governance arrangements with the Queensland Government. The Commonwealth has also provided a range of guarantees to the IOC for provision of government services in support of Brisbane hosting the Games at no cost to the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. The costs of these arrangements are yet to be determined.

2026 Commonwealth Games – The Australian Government has provided a commitment to support the hosting of the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Victoria, should Commonwealth Games Australia and the Victorian Government's bid be successful. The Commonwealth has provided a commitment relating to the provision of government services to support the bid. The detail and cost of these arrangements are yet to be determined.

Circumstances have obviously progressed and changed considerably since January 2022 with the Federal Election (21 May 2022) resulting in a change of Government, the CGF awarding Victoria the 2026 Commonwealth Games (April 2022) and the tremendous performances of the Australian Team at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Despite these changes, there are two significant matters that remain outstanding from CGA's FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission:

1. Games Time Services and Support from the Federal Government for the 2026 Commonwealth Games; and
2. 2026 Team Preparation Funding as part of the 10+10 Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032.

As mentioned, matters relating to infrastructure funding arrangements are, to our understanding, still the subject of ongoing discussions between the Federal Government and the Victorian Government.

Notwithstanding the outcome of those discussions, the timeframe for the preparation of the Australian Team and the proper assessment of and planning for Games Time Services and Support is becoming increasingly short. Notably, as at 17 March 2023, it will be three years to the day until the Opening Ceremony for V2026.

Since the change of Government, CGA has provided a copy of its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission to the new Federal Minister for Sport, the Hon Anika Wells MP and briefed her in person on its' two main recommendations, which remain as the central focus of this submission.

In the first Budget handed down by new Treasurer, the Hon Jim Chalmers MP on 25 October 2022, Games Time Services and Support from the Federal Government for V2026 remains listed in the Statement of Risk with no monetary allocation.

In noting the recent change of senior personnel at the Office of Sport, CGA has also briefed the new Head of the Office of Sport, Mr Travis Haslam on the contents of its' FY22/23 Pre-Budget Submission and highlighted the fact that its' two outstanding recommendations would be central to this submission.

Mr Haslam commenced duties in his new role on 1 February 2023.

2. V2026 Team Preparation Funding as part of the 10+10 Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032.

Consistent with the accepted dynamic that successful home-Games are largely dependent upon the success of the host-nation's team, the Federal Government provided an additional \$15 million to the ASC in the FY17/18 Budget to support our athletes ahead of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

In noting the tremendous benefits that a 2026 Commonwealth Games would contribute to the Green and Gold runway leading to Brisbane 2032, CGA was particularly disappointed that the AIS funding allocations announced by Minister Colbeck on 22 December 2021 did not address funding support for Commonwealth Games outcomes in Olympic and Paralympic sports, which are also on the Commonwealth Games program.

Ahead of a home Games in 2026, CGA is seeking a correction in funding to our Member NSOs from FY2022/23 in the order of \$10 million per annum to successfully prepare the Team and certainty of funding through to FY25/26.

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and V2026 provide a perfect platform for our athletes to strive towards Australian Team selection and, for many, will be a steppingstone towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, ahead of Brisbane 2032.

In this context, hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Australia also enhances the intergenerational opportunities identified in CGA's detailed joint submission with the AOC to the Federal Government's 2021 IGR - the 10+10 Submission.

A clear precedent for this requested support for Team Preparation Funding is contained in Budget Paper No.2 2017-2018 at p.107, showing the allocation of an additional \$15.5 million to support the athletes in the lead up to the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

3. Urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all V2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive.

On 16 February 2023, the AIS issued a media statement announcing more than \$17 million invested in Netball, Squash and Bowls to prepare for V2026.

As mentioned, the Australian Team in Birmingham won medals in 19 out of 21 sports. So, even in winning medals across 19 sports, Australia still only edged out England by 2 medals in the overall medal count - 178 vs 176.

The uplift announced by the AIS on 16 February 2023 for three Commonwealth Games sports does not address the larger systemic structural funding issues and overall shortfall. Also, it does not match the broader investment the Federal Government made for a whole of Team preparation applied for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Accordingly, CGA is seeking urgent confirmation of certainty of funding for all V2026 Program Sports from FY23/24 to FY25/26 inclusive, noting the reference in the AIS's media statement from 16 February 2022 that Australia's Commonwealth Games sports that also compete at the Olympics and Paralympics only have high performance funding through to Paris 2024.

ENDS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA MEMBER SPORTS

Victoria 2026 Program Sports

Athletics Australia *
AusCycling *
Australian Weightlifting Federation
Badminton Australia
Basketball Australia *
Bowls Australia *
Boxing Australia
Cricket Australia
Diving Australia
Golf Australia *
Gymnastics Australia
Hockey Australia
Netball Australia
Paralympics Australia (Para-Powerlifting) *
Rowing Australia *
Rugby Australia
Shooting Australia *
Squash Australia
Swimming Australia *
Table Tennis Australia *
Triathlon Australia *
Volleyball Australia

(*) denotes events for para-athletes planned

Associate Sports (not on Victoria 2026 program)

Archery Australia
Judo Australia
Wrestling Australia



SENATOR THE HON MARK ARBIB
Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development
Minister for Sport
Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness

Hon. Michael Fennell OJ CD
President
Commonwealth Games Federation
2nd Floor
138 Piccadilly
London W1J 7NR
United Kingdom

Dear Mr President,

Michael

I confirm the full support of the Australian Government for Gold Coast's bid to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. In relation to the bid, on behalf of the Australian Government ("the Government") I hereby provide guarantees referenced to the question numbers set out in the Candidate City Manual:

Q2.2 The Government supports and welcomes the possibility that the 2018 Commonwealth Games may be staged in Australia.

Q3.5 The Government declares that necessary legal and legislative measures have been taken, or will be taken, to protect Commonwealth related marks and designations in the name of the CGF.

Q4.3 The Government guarantees entry into Australia will be facilitated for those persons in possession of a valid passport and Commonwealth Games accreditation in order to carry out their Commonwealth Games functions in accordance with Australia's universal visa system and requirements. The entry into Australia and right to remain for the determined period will be subject to a discretion by the Australian Government to cancel, cease or refuse a visa on health, character, or other grounds.

Q4.4 The Government guarantees that a right to work will be attached to the visas that are granted to Commonwealth Games personnel to aid in the organisation of the Commonwealth Games where those personnel meet the criteria for the appropriate visa.

Q4.7 The Government guarantees it will work with the CGF to facilitate the import, use and export of goods related to the Commonwealth Games in order that they be managed consistently with Australia's legal and regulatory requirements.

Q6.8 The Government guarantees it has no intention of introducing new taxes at this time which would impact on the 2018 Commonwealth Games. However, Constitutional limitations present in Australia's system of government limit the Executive from binding either the Parliament or a future government. In addition, the Commonwealth cannot generally bind the states with respect to their tax bases.

Q7.2 The Government guarantees that the appropriate legislation to minimise ambush marketing by association and unfair practices, such as misleading and deceptive conduct or false or misleading representations will be in place no later than 30 June 2014.

Q10.13 The Government guarantees that:

- i. Australia is a State party to the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport and is compliant with it.
- ii. Australia has signed the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport.
- iii. The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) which is Australia's National Anti-Doping Authority has set Anti-Doping Rules for national sporting organisations which are compliant with the WADA Code 2009.
- iv. The Anti-Doping Rules have been implemented and enforced in a Code-Compliant way.
- v. ASADA has participated in the Code Compliance Questionnaire undertaken by WADA. The recent report from WADA confirms that Australia is fully Code compliant.

Q11.4 The Government guarantees a safe and secure celebration of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Q14.8 The Government guarantees the allocation of necessary frequencies, for the organisation of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Q14.9 The Government guarantees Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) will provide spectrum planning, frequency assignment and related services to the Organising Committee for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on a cost-recovery basis. Radiocommunications licences issued by the ACMA are required to authorise the use of the radiofrequency spectrum.

In providing the government guarantees it must be noted that there are constitutional limitations present in Australia's system of government that limit the Executive from binding either the Commonwealth Parliament or Parliaments in other jurisdictions. Similarly, the Executive does not have the power to make a guarantee or agreement which binds officials to exercise statutory powers in a particular way. These limitations apply to the commitments contained in the Government Guarantees and other agreements, and any legislation that might be required in support of these commitments.

Dated this 14th day of April 2011


Mark Arbib



Our ref: CP6/GCC337/I/HXA
Contact: Adam Hall
Direct ph: [REDACTED]
Direct fax: (07) 3239 6386

Department of
Justice and Attorney-General



30 March 2011

Ms Tehana Carniel
Communications Officer
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Bid Ltd
Level 5, 64 Marine Parade
SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

Dear Tehana

Trade Mark Nos. 1374612 and 1374613 – Certificates of Registration

I am pleased to **attach** the Certificates of Registration for the following trade marks:

Trade Mark Representation	Registration No.	Classes	Status
	1374612	35 and 41	REGISTERED Priority Date – 4 August 2010 Renewal Due – 4 August 2020
	1374613	14, 16, 18, 25 and 32	REGISTERED Priority Date – 4 August 2010 Renewal Due – 4 August 2020

The trade mark registrations in respect of the abovementioned trade marks will remain current for ten years from 4 August 2010. The next renewal date in respect of these trade marks will be **4 August 2020**.

State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane
GPO Box 5221 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
DX 40121 Brisbane Uptown
Telephone 07 3239 6703
Facsimile 07 3239 0407
ABN 13 846 673 994

Trade Mark Nos. 1374612 and 1374613 – Certificates of Registration

Crown Law currently maintains a trade mark register to monitor renewal dates of its clients' trade marks. Also, at this time, Crown Law is recorded on the Trade Mark Register as the address for service of notices from IP Australia and other third parties in respect of these trade marks, and would receive the renewal notices for the trade marks in ten years' time.

While we endeavour to provide reminders to clients concerning renewal dates, the length of time involved between renewals means that we cannot take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of trade marks. We therefore recommend that clients maintain their own "bring up" system for trade marks, and you may prefer to have the address for service changed to your office. If so, kindly advise the name and position of the relevant officer.

I would appreciate it if you would please acknowledge receipt of the enclosed Certificates of Registration by signing and returning the **attached** copy of this letter.

Please contact me on 3247 5699 if you would like to discuss any aspect of this matter.

Yours faithfully



Adam Hall
Senior Lawyer
for **Crown Solicitor**

Encl.



23 March 2011

Mr Ian Whitehead
Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Ltd
PO Box 3454
SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

Dear Ian

2018 Commonwealth Games – Gold Coast Bid.

This letter has been prepared for inclusion in the submission documentation for the Gold Coast bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. We thank the Gold Coast bid team for the opportunity to review and discuss concept plans as well as to consider the proposed competition schedule.

The concept plans and competition schedule demonstrate an excellent framework for the conduct and delivery of a Commonwealth Games event. Key infrastructure needs for swimming have also been highlighted within the concept plans. The plans also give us confidence that, when completed, the technical requirements and specification detail will meet the expectations of a major swimming competition.

Swimming Australia is excited by the possibility of the 2018 Commonwealth Games being conducted on the Gold Coast and believe it is an ideal location for such a major event. In this regard we offer our full support to the bid and look forward to further consultation as the planning process progresses.

Sincerely



Kevin Nell
Chief Executive Officer

Swimming Australia Limited

ABN 14 109 333 628

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Affiliated with the
Federation Internationale
de Natation (FINA)



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission





SENATOR THE HON RICHARD COLBECK

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services

Minister for Sport

Ref No: MS22-900137

Dame Louise Martin DBE
President
Commonwealth Games Federation
Commonwealth Games Australia

31 MAR 2022

Dear Dame Louise

The Australian Government is pleased to support current discussions regarding the potential hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Australia, and in particular the expectations concerning Government support outlined in the Commonwealth Games Federation's letter of 3 February 2022.

Australia has a proud and longstanding reputation as a host of major international sporting events. Many of the world's largest sporting events have been staged in Australia since the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games including hosting two very successful iterations of the Commonwealth Games – Melbourne 2006 and Gold Coast 2018.

Australia is hosting a strong line up of major sporting events over the next ten years, including the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Staging the XXIII Commonwealth Games would be a valuable addition to the already impressive schedule of events over the next decade.

I understand the Victorian Government is working closely with Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) to deliver a bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games with a strong Victorian regional focus. The Australian Government supports this approach.

The Government routinely engages with event organisers and prospective Australian host jurisdictions regarding guarantees of operational support to ensure the safe and successful delivery of major sporting events in Australia. We therefore stand ready to engage with the Victorian Government and CGA regarding the full scope of support required of the Government at the appropriate time.

The Government looks forward to working with the Victorian Government and CGA on the opportunity to host what would be an exciting event for both Australia and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Yours sincerely

Richard Colbeck

cc: The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia



Pursuing sporting excellence | Connecting with communities

Supplementary Submission of Commonwealth Games Australia to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Inquiry into Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games

25 August 2023

Commonwealth Games Australia consents to this Supplementary Submission being made public, either in whole or part.

For further information or questions about this submission, please contact:

Craig Phillips AM
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Games Australia

E: [REDACTED]

Contents

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA.....	3
SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION.....	5
1. Introduction.....	5
2. Repairing the Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032.....	5
(a) Importance of Commonwealth Sport Movement to Australian athletes and the nation.....	6
(b) Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy.....	8
(c) Sport Diplomacy and Australia's international reputation.....	8
3. Australian-based solution for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.....	9
4. Conclusion - the way forward.....	11
COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA MEMBER SPORTS.....	12
ANNEXURE A - Joint Statement on Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games	
ANNEXURE B – Infographic – Social media metrics from Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games	
ANNEXURE C – Infographic - Social media metrics from Trinbago 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games	

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA

Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) is a member-based organisation – our members are the National Sporting Organisations (Member Sports) representing the sports participating in the next Commonwealth Games, those eligible to be included in future Commonwealth Games and our State Divisions.

CGA receives no Federal Government funding to support our teams or programs.

Our community is broad and diverse and includes our team athletes, coaches, support staff and volunteers, the CGA Board, committees and staff, member sporting organisations and different levels of government within Australia and overseas, as well as the sporting high-performance system, commercial and media partners.

We work in collaboration with other peak bodies and high-performance system partners such as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), Paralympics Australia (PA), our Member National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), Sport Integrity Australia (SIA), the National Institute Network, universities and schools, and of course, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the 71 Commonwealth Games Associations of other nations and territories from across the Commonwealth.

We introduce more people in more communities to the power of the Commonwealth Games and show a new generation how to get involved in the Commonwealth Sport Movement.

Australia's Commonwealth Games Team is the only national team with able bodied and para-athletes wholly integrated in its' membership. Our athletes wear the same uniform, compete in the same venues, live in the Games Village together and parade in the Opening Ceremony as Australia's Commonwealth Games Team.

The Commonwealth Games is the only integrated multisport (able and para-athletes) international sporting event in the world.

Australia's Commonwealth Games Teams consist of athletes of different genders, abilities, ethnic background and range in ages from teenagers to athletes in their 60s.

No other team in our nation looks more like Australia!

The Australian team for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (Birmingham 2022) was comprised of:

- 429 athletes: 230 female athletes (54% of the team);
- 71 para-athletes (16.5% of the team);
- a record 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes;
- 59 members of our team were born overseas; and
- our oldest athlete was 63 and our youngest just 14.

The Team won the gold medal tally and the overall medal tally, but more importantly our athletes united our nation still struggling with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic exemplifying our vision of pursuing sporting excellence and connecting with communities.

CGA invested more than \$8M to deliver the team to Birmingham 2022, as well as \$11M in preparation funding for athletes via direct support and Member Sports.

More recently, Australia topped the medal tally at the Trinbago 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, claiming 64 medals including 26 gold, 17 silver and 21 bronze.

Our youth athletes were successful in every sport on the program, winning at least one medal in each of athletics, beach volleyball, cycling, FAST5 netball, rugby sevens, swimming and triathlon.

The competition program also featured para-sport for the first time, with a six-strong cohort competing in athletics as able-bodied and para-athletes came together to compete in track and field.

The Australian team included 51 female and 24 male athletes, including five who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

An impressive 63 sporting clubs and 58 high schools from every state and territory were represented in the Australian team.

The team's performance was summed up by Commonwealth Games alumnus, Paralympian and Australian Team General Manager, Elli Cole OAM like this:

"Trinbago 2023 has been a resounding success and I could not be more proud of the Australian team and how it has embraced the opportunity to compete.

"As we've heard time and time again from participating athletes, this experience is critical to their development in the high-performance system.

"The investment made here will set these young athletes up for future success, whether it be at world junior championships in the coming year or open-age multi-sport events like the Commonwealth Games in the future.

"I've been inspired by how our team has embraced their fellow competitors. To see them interacting and building friendships with people of varied backgrounds from all corners of the globe was one of my personal highlights.

"As a Paralympian, I also loved seeing para-athletes on the team for the first time and am confident the program will expand beyond just athletics at future Commonwealth Youth Games."

CGA invested more than \$1M to ensure the Australian team for Trinbago 2023 was competition ready.

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION

1. Introduction

CGA welcomes the opportunity to provide a Supplementary Submission to the Inquiry being conducted by the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport into *Australia’s preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games* (the Inquiry).

The circumstances in which CGA makes this Supplementary Submission follow the Victorian Government withdrawing from hosting the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games (Victoria 2026) on 18 July 2023.

CGA will make no further comment on the settlement of its dispute with the Victorian Government beyond those set out in the Joint Statement on Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games dated 19 August 2023 – see **Annexure: A**.

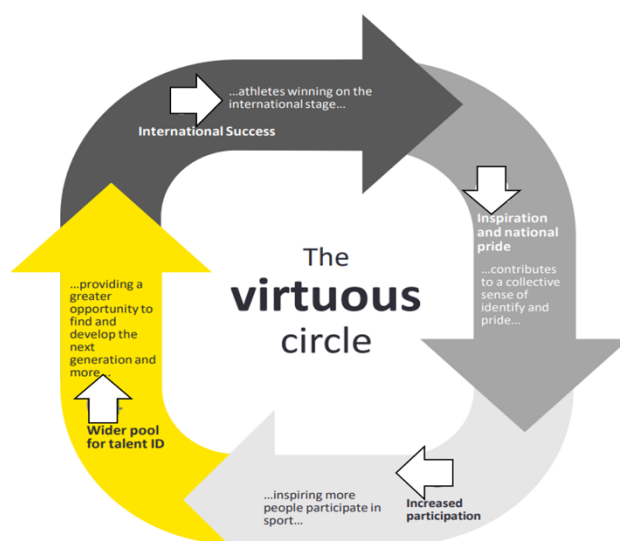
As the custodian of the Commonwealth Sport Movement in Australia, CGA is now focused on moving forward in the interest of our athletes, Member Sports and the nation as a whole with our immediate priorities being to:

- repair the Green and Gold runway following the cancellation of Victoria 2026; and
- determine an Australian-based solution for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

2. Repairing the Green and Gold runway to Brisbane 2032

When Victoria 2026 was announced in April 2022, it was universally acknowledged as an accelerator for the delivery of the generational opportunities presented by the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) and a critical milestone on the Green and Gold runway.

In CGA’s original submission, we highlighted the importance of reframing the partnership between sport and government through the ‘Virtuous circle’ - the foundation principle of the **Sport: Powering Australia’s Future - 10+10** (the 10+10 submission)¹.



¹ CGA and AOC, *Sport: Powering Australia’s Future - 10+10*, <https://commonwealthgames.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Sport-Empowering-Australias-Future-1010.pdf>.

The fiscal circumstances faced by Australia's Olympic and Commonwealth sports have not significantly improved since 19 August 2023 and the circa \$2B shortfall in the Federal Government's investment in the National Sporting Organisation through to FY32 [10 years] to deliver on the participation (\$0.5B), pathways and performance (\$1.5B) outcomes remains undiminished.²

Given our shared Member Sports and athletes, CGA supported the Pre-Budget Submission from the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) for the establishment of a Paris 2024 Games Qualification Fund to address the rising costs of qualification.

On behalf of our Members Sports and athletes, CGA gratefully acknowledges the Federal Government's allocation of \$20.056M to assist Olympic and Paralympic athletes qualify for Paris 2024.

CGA acknowledges the Federal Government's announcement on 21 August 2023 of \$200M in funding for women's sports following the Matildas' success at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup for the new 'Play Our way' program.

Similarly, CGA also acknowledges the Federal Government's announcement on 24 August 2023 that \$466,500 will be invested in Paralympic Australia's Talent Identification and Pathway Entry program.

While these funding contributions are gratefully appreciated, one-off program funding contributions will not address the systemic under-funding of our Member Sports, which are the nursery ground of grassroots participation in our sports and pathway development through to elite performance.

a) Importance of Commonwealth Sport Movement to Australian athletes and the nation

The Commonwealth Games is the only multisport integrated (able and para-athletes) international sporting event in the world.

Australia's Commonwealth Games Teams consist of athletes of different genders, abilities, ethnic background and range in ages from teenagers to athletes in their 60s.

No other team in our nation looks more like Australia!

During the midst of the COVID pandemic, Australians embraced and were inspired by the performances of the Australian Teams at Birmingham 2022 and Tokyo 2020.

More recently, we saw the nation rallying behind the stirring performances of the Matildas during the FIFA Women's World Cup. A powerful demonstration of the wide-reaching positive impacts that flow from a 'Home Games'.

A fact worth noting, taking nothing away from the performances of the Matildas, is that the 2022 Commonwealth Games topped the YouGov global sport rankings in Australia for the 2022 calendar, beating the FIFA (Men's) World Cup, Australian Open, the NRL State of Origin and the AFL Grand Final.

² On an annualised basis, this is \$200M per year over 10 years to FY32.

Key facts about the Australian team to Birmingham are:

- it was the largest Australian team sent to an overseas Games and the second largest team in history comprising 429 athletes and 256 officials;
- there were more female athletes than male athletes (230 – 199), and one athlete who identified as non-binary;
- there were more para-athletes (71) on the team than ever before;
- 59 members of the Australian team were born overseas, while a further 10 were First Nations Australians;
- the youngest athlete was 14 years old, with the oldest aged 63;
- Australia topped the medal tally winning 179 medals including 67 gold, 57 silver and 55 bronze; and
- 252 athletes returned home with a medal, and our top-of-the-table finish marked the 14th time Australia has achieved this result.

It is clear that the Commonwealth Games continues to resonate with Australians, with research following Birmingham 2022 confirming continued interest in engaging with the Games. This is despite the UK time zone not being optimal for Australian television viewers.

More than 70% of Australians followed the 12 days of action, while 67% of those reported that watching the Games made them feel proud or want to participate in sport.³

The Commonwealth Games Team remains an important source of pride and inspiration for Australians. Regardless of the local team we support or the State we cheer for, as a nation our club colours are always Green and Gold.

No other team in our nation looks more like Australia!

The popularity of the Australian Commonwealth Games teams for Birmingham (2022) and the Trinbago (2023) are underlined by the social media metrics showing the tremendous levels of engagement achieved during these events – see Annexure: B and Annexure: C.

The impact of a 'Home Games' cannot be underestimated. The rationale of the 'Virtuous Circle' cannot be disputed in demonstrating the inextricable linkages between grassroots aspirations and high-performance outcomes.

If there is no Australian host for 2026, that will have a significant impact on the development pathways for our youth athletes (many of whom have just competed at the Trinbago Commonwealth Youth Games), as well as our able bodied and para-athletes.

For our para-athletes, the impact will be particularly severe as they have very limited opportunities to be classified and qualify for international competition.

If there is no Australian host in 2026, many para-athletes will not be classified, which means they cannot compete in international competition and Australian Teams will be smaller.

In terms of generational impact, there will be less para-athletes in this country who can represent Australia at Brisbane 2032.

More generally, for Australians with a disability they will be deprived of the opportunity to be what they see through the inspiration of such a pinnacle international sporting event.

³ Australian Sports Commission, *CPM summary report, Impact of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on the Australian community*, October 2022 < https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1076290/CPM-report-Impact-of-the-Birmingham-2022-Commonwealth-Games-on-the-Australian-Community-October-2022.pdf>

There is no other multisport international sporting event of the scale of the Commonwealth Games, which integrates both able bodies and para-athletes, taking place in Australia before 2032.

It should also be remembered that many of Australia's greatest Olympic athletes debuted their international careers representing Australia at Commonwealth Games.

Household names include: Petria Thomas, Anna Meares, Kieren Perkins and of course the great Cathy Freeman, who made her international debut as part at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

Indeed, it is safe to say that without the Commonwealth Games there may not have been magic gold medal night at the Sydney Olympics when Cathy Freeman stopped the nation with her inspirational performance.

b) Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy

CGA is represented on the Strategic Leadership Group charged with the collective responsibility of developing Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy (2032+).

2032+ rightly identifies the importance of Pinnacle Events (international sporting events) such as the Commonwealth Games as being critical measures of success for athlete pathways and performance delivery.

The performance goals of 2032+ are seriously compromised by the cancellation of Victoria 2026.

Given the importance of the Commonwealth Games as the world's largest integrated multisport international sporting event, CGA is committed to playing its part in finding an Australian solution for 2026.

c) Sport Diplomacy and Australia's international reputation

Victoria 2026 was to be an international sporting event of tremendous importance to our Pacific neighbours who are part of the Commonwealth Sport Movement.

These Pacific nations considered Victoria 2026 to be a 'Home Games'.

For many Pacific nations, the Commonwealth Games are more important than the Olympics and Paralympics as there are fewer barriers to qualification and participation.

Equally, the opportunity for athletes from Pacific nations to medal and achieve podium performances are greater at the Commonwealth Games, which in turn provides inspiration to the next generation of athletes in their respective countries.

This is a fact that was not lost on UK Sports Minister, the Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP during his recent visit to Australian in July this year when he stated his desire to see Australia come up with an alternative solution for 2026.

This desire for Australia to demonstrate leadership in finding a 2026 solution was also communicated to CGA by 71 other CGAs who were in attendance during the recent Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinbago.

Notably, Sport Diplomacy has been identified as one of the main focus areas of the new National Sports Plan currently being developed by the Federal Government.

CGA also highlights the important strategic diplomatic and trade connections Australia has with a diverse group of Commonwealth nations, which also have a foundation based on close cultural connections through sport.

Two such nations include the UK and India.

India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner with two-way trade in goods and services valued at \$46.5B in 2022, with Australia recently signing an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) on 2 April 2022.⁴

CGA notes that negotiations have now resumed for an ambitious Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which will build upon ECTA outcomes to capitalise on the potential for closer economic ties between Australia and India.

During Birmingham 2022, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was extremely active on social media platforms. Further, the CGF's media monitoring reveals that there was more social activity in India related to the Games than anywhere else in the Commonwealth, including the home territories in the UK.

The A-UKFTA was signed on 17 December 2021 and entered into force on 31 May 2023.

Prior to the cancellation of Victoria 2026, Australia had an enviable international reputation of being able to host great Games.

Recent confirmations of this well-earned reputation are provided by the Gold Coast (2018) and Melbourne (2006) Commonwealth Games, the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games, and most recently the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

The delivery of an Australian-based solution for 2026 would restore Australia's reputation to its rightful place.

3. Australian-based solution for the 2026 Commonwealth Games

Now that CGA has reached a settlement with the Victorian Government, we can progress our consideration of an Australian-based solution for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

While there has been extensive commentary in the media about prospective 2026 hosting options in different Australian cities, as well as reporting relating to cross-jurisdictional models, CGA wishes to highlight that under the CGF's 'Commonwealth United' strategic plan 2023-2034, it is the CGF's ambition to deliver inspirational and impactful Games, pushing boundaries to ensure there are opportunities to host, across the Commonwealth, in a variety of formats.

CGF's updated strategic direction builds on the platform established by the CGAF 2026/30 Strategic Roadmap, which established the principle that the Games format will adapt to suit the host to ensure efficiency and affordability.

⁴ ECTA entered into force on 29 December 2022.

In this context, CGA highlights the actual costs of recent Commonwealth Games and their positive returns:

- Birmingham (2022) - \$1.5B;
- Gold Coast (2018) - \$2B; and
- Glasgow (2014) - \$1B.

Of the \$2B spent on Gold Coast 2018, \$577M was spent on new community sports infrastructure, which were used as Games venues.

Birmingham 2022

UK Sports Minister, the Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP was unequivocal as to the benefits of the Birmingham Games in his reported comments to media on 22 July 2023:

“The value of the Games is amazing; the feedback that I’ve had from members of parliament in the West Midlands area has been phenomenal.

“They’ve seen a real boost. it lifted the soul, if you like, of Birmingham and the wider region. The economic benefits brought in about €800m (\$1.5bn) and we would encourage you to see it as a great opportunity for growth and also for participation in sport.”

Gold Coast 2018

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (Gold Coast 2018) provided a particularly compelling example of the broader economic and social benefits than can be delivered by the Commonwealth Games.

The Gold Coast 2018 saw more than 6,600 athletes and officials from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories take part in 11 days of competition from 4 - 15 April 2018.

Key legacy benefits included:

- \$2.5B boost to Queensland’s Gross State Product. This included a \$1.8B economic boost to the Gold Coast;
- Supporting more than 21,000 jobs on a yearly full-time equivalent basis;
- Approximately 82% of Games-wide contracts awarded to Queensland businesses, worth nearly \$1.7B;
- \$170M in estimated annual boost to exports from Trade 2018 program in the four years after the Games;
- \$41M estimated annual boost to investment from Trade 2018 program in the four years after the Games;
- \$725M in transport infrastructure spending brought forward in time for Gold Coast 2018;
- 5% increase in sports participation in Queensland following Gold Coast 2018;
- \$300M financial contribution from the Federal Government for Games operations, sports and related transport infrastructure;
- 1,300 apartments and townhouses built to rent as part of the Gold Coast’s new health and knowledge precinct – the Smith Collective; and
- 250,000 additional hotel visitor nights before, during and after Gold Coast 2018 with a Games time occupancy of 88%.⁵

⁵ Griffith University, *The economic impacts of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games - 2018 Post-Games Report*, 2019, accessed at: <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/economic-impacts-of-the-gold-coast-2018-commonwealth-games-2018-post-games-report>.

4. Conclusion - the way forward

CGA is focused on finding an Australian solution to 2026.

A 'Home' Commonwealth Games, as the only fully integrated multisport international milestone on the road to Brisbane 2032, is critical to the pathway development of Australia's able-bodied and para-athletes.

CGA wishes to assure the Committee and the Government of its unwavering commitment to delivering 2026 as a Pinnacle Event for 2032+ and the new National Sport Plan.

CGA reaffirms the recommendations set out in its original submission to the Committee concerning the need for a new investment model for sport as articulated in the 10+10 Submission, which focused on the critical need for confirmation of preparation funding for athletes, coaches, and national sporting organisations.

We continue to prepare for a Commonwealth Games in 2026 as a new host is sought.

The show must go on!

We implore the Federal Government to do the same by:

- immediately confirming funding certainty for all Olympic and Commonwealth Games sports from December 2024; and
- immediately allocating an additional \$10M per annum to successfully prepare the Australian Commonwealth Games Team for 2026.

The Commonwealth Games are, and will remain, a critical competition and pathway development opportunity for Australian athletes and coaches on the green and gold runway to Brisbane 2032.

Our success, while important in its own right, will contribute to the preparedness of the Australian Olympic and Paralympic Teams of 2032, when those Games return to Australia for the first time since Sydney 2000.

A 2026 Games in Australia will provide an important 'Home Games' opportunity for our near neighbours in the Pacific and play an important role in our relationships with our other key trading and strategic partners, such as the UK and India.

CGA remains absolutely committed to using sport as a mechanism to connect communities across the Commonwealth, through our programmes, by building the capabilities of our Member Sports and by delivering exceptional Games that unite and inspire people and allow athletes to shine.

Commonwealth Games Australia

25 August 2023

ENDS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA MEMBER SPORTS

Athletics Australia *
AusCycling *
Australian Weightlifting Federation
Badminton Australia
Basketball Australia *
Bowls Australia *
Boxing Australia
Cricket Australia
Diving Australia
Golf Australia *
Gymnastics Australia
Hockey Australia
Netball Australia
Paralympics Australia (Para-Powerlifting) *
Rowing Australia *
Rugby Australia
Shooting Australia *
Squash Australia
Swimming Australia *
Table Tennis Australia *
Triathlon Australia *
Volleyball Australia

(*) denotes events for para-athletes planned

Associate Sports

Archery Australia
Judo Australia
Wrestling Australia

Statement



Saturday, 19 August 2023

JOINT STATEMENT ON VICTORIA 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Commonwealth Games Federation Partnerships (CGFP), Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) and the State of Victoria have settled all their disputes regarding the cancellation of the multi-hub regional Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games.

In July 2023 the Victorian Government announced its decision to withdraw from hosting the 2026 Games.

Following that decision, the affected parties have been involved in confidential good faith negotiations.

The parties subsequently agreed to refer the dispute to Mediation and appointed former New Zealand Judge, the Honourable Kit Toogood KC and the former Chief Justice of the WA Supreme Court, the Honourable Wayne Martin AC KC as joint mediators.

All parties engaged respectfully and made appropriate concessions in order to reach an agreement.

The State of Victoria has agreed to pay the Commonwealth Games parties (CGF CGFP and CGA) AUD \$380 million.

The parties also agreed that the multi-hub regional model was more expensive to host than the traditional models.

The settlement was supported by the mediators.

The terms of the settlement will otherwise remain confidential.

The settlement finalises all matters between the parties.

The parties are legally bound not to speak further regarding the details of the settlement.

429

TEAM MEMBERS
The largest Australian Team
for an overseas Games

283

DEBUTANTS
Representing 65.9% of
the Australian Team

53.4%

FEMALE TEAM MEMBERS
More medals were on offer for
women than men for the first time at
a multi-sport Games in Birmingham

10



INDIGENOUS TEAM MEMBERS
A new record for an Australian
Commonwealth Games Team

BIRMINGHAM 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

178

TOTAL MEDALS
The seventh time in the last eight
Games exceeding 150 medals

#1

MEDAL TALLY POSITION
Achieved our goal of being the
number 1 nation on the medal tally

67

57

54

252

MEDALLISTS
Number of Australian Team Members
who came home with medals from
the Birmingham Games

14th

TIME TOPPING THE MEDAL TALLY
Australia has finished atop the medal
tally at 14 of the 22 editions of
the Commonwealth Games

BIRMINGHAM TEAM MEMBER FUN FACTS

14

Swimming superstar Emma McKeon AM made history
at the Birmingham Games becoming the most decorated
athlete in Commonwealth Games history, winning her 14th
career gold medal. She finished the Games with six golds.

7

The Australian Kookaburras, the men's hockey team,
continued the side's incredible streak at Birmingham winning
the nation's seventh consecutive gold medal in the event.
The Kookaburras have lost just one game ever at the Games.

75

Australia was represented by 75 Para-sport athletes
at the Birmingham Games. This is the most Para-sport
athletes to ever don the green and gold at a Games.



CHERYL LINDFIELD
LAWN BOWLS - SILVER MEDALLIST
WOMEN'S PAIRS B6-8



CHARLI PETROV
DIVING - GOLD MEDALLIST
WOMEN'S SYNCHRONISED 10M PLATFORM

Australia's oldest and youngest athletes both won medals in Birmingham.
Lawn bowler Cheryl Lindfield (63) and 14-year-old diver Charli Petrov.

AUDIENCES

126k

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

34%

B2022 INCREASE

AWARENESS

17.1m

IMPRESSIONS

2.8m

REACH

ENGAGEMENT

1.07m

ENGAGEMENTS

2.03m

WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

f 48.4k

FOLLOWERS

31%

INCREASE DURING B2022

5.22m

IMPRESSIONS

1.79m

REACH

667k

ENGAGEMENT

18.5k

FOLLOWERS

15.5%

INCREASE DURING B2022

867k

IMPRESSIONS

450k

REACH

34.7k

ENGAGEMENT

50.7k

FOLLOWERS

52%

INCREASE DURING B2022

11.0m

IMPRESSIONS

550k

REACH

348k

ENGAGEMENT

7.2k

FOLLOWERS

356k

VIDEO VIEWS

28k

PROFILE VIEWS

27.8k

ENGAGEMENT



THE AUSTRALIAN NETBALL DIAMONDS WON AUSTRALIA'S 1000TH GOLD MEDAL AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN BIRMINGHAM



615k

WEBSITE USERS

2,031,142

WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

937,084

WEBSITE SESSIONS

1:28

AVERAGE SESSION DURATION



302k

EMAIL DATABASE

965,012

31.4%
OPENED EMAILS

3,651,368

EMAILS SENT DURING B2022

257,372

TOTAL CLICKS

TRINBAGO 2023 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES

AUSTRALIAN TEAM

RESULTS

75

TEAM MEMBERS

68%

FEMALE TEAM MEMBERS

56%

FEMALE OFFICIALS

5

INDIGENOUS TEAM MEMBERS

6

1ST TIME PARA-SPORT WAS INCLUDED, FEATURING 6 TEAM MEMBERS IN ATHLETICS

64

TOTAL MEDALS



#1

MEDAL TALLY

62

INDIVIDUAL MEDALLISTS

48

FEMALE MEDALLISTS

COMMUNITY REACH



63

LOCAL CLUBS REPRESENTED



58

HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIA DIGITAL PROFILE

131k

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

2.5m

IMPRESSIONS



49.6k

FOLLOWERS

688k
IMPRESSIONS

332%
T2023 INCREASE

650k
REACH



18.3k

FOLLOWERS

94.4k
IMPRESSIONS



50.7k

FOLLOWERS

1.7m
IMPRESSIONS

322%
T2023 INCREASE

834%
T2023 INCREASE



41k

USERS

78k
PAGE VIEWS

