



Speech by

Hon. R. GIBBS

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Hansard 16 September 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Drugs in Sport

Hon. R. J. GIBBS (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing) (9.56 a.m.), by leave: I am pleased to announce the State Government's initiatives in addressing the issue of drugs in sport. My department has worked cooperatively with the Australian Sports Drug Agency to establish an education and promotional strategy on anti-doping practices in sport. More recently, this partnership has been developed to complement the national drugs in sport framework and recently amended Commonwealth legislation.

Queensland is recognised by ASDA as being extremely proactive and committed to promoting and encouraging a drug-free sporting environment. The development of a user pays drugs testing program has ensured that Queensland is leading the way in the testing of State level athletes in Australia.

My department, in conjunction with ASDA, has developed a coordinated approach to combat drugs in sport. Under Queensland's new drugs in sport policy, Queensland State sporting organisations and the Queensland Academy of Sport will now have the opportunity to enter into drug testing contracts with ASDA. My department has allocated \$22,200 in project moneys for 1999-2000 to a user pays drug testing program—\$2,200 for administration costs and \$20,000 for the Government-funded tests. This allocation will fund approximately 22 event tests and 22 out-of-competition tests in the lead-up to the Olympics.

Under the user pays drug testing program, ASDA will independently assess each application from State sporting organisations or the QAS based on criteria developed by ASDA and my department. ASDA will negotiate all contractual agreements with the State bodies. Numbers of drug tests allocated to sports will be based on ASDA's determination of the level of risk of doping that exists in the sport.

My department and ASDA are also working together to establish an education and promotion plan for the program. This will involve publishing a brochure on the rights of State sporting organisations, compiling a drugs in sport reference manual including information on the user pays testing program, and a risk management guide. The first major development of the education and promotion strategy will be the official launch of the drugs in sport policy, risk management guide and user pays drug testing program on 7 October.

The elimination of drugs in sport remains one of the key objectives of this Government. The range of measures that I have outlined today will go a long way towards achieving this objective.
