

**Question on Notice**  
**No 325**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 22 March 2005**

**MR FINN** asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (MR MACKENROTH)–

**QUESTION:**

What is the Government doing to promote the participation in sport for Queensland's women and girls?

**ANSWER:**

The State Government has a strong commitment to providing new and improved opportunities for all Queenslanders to discover the benefits of regular, lifelong participation in sport. Through Sport and Recreation Queensland (SRQ) and the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS), the Government provides financial and other support to State and local level sporting organisations, local governments and Indigenous organisations to assist them in delivering programs and services aimed at increasing participation by all members of our community.

The Government acknowledges, however, that participation in sport by women and girls has historically not been as high as it is for males, and that there is a need to specifically address this issue. It is for this reason that the Government provides the following support:

- Over \$12 million in funding from SRQ since 2003, to 26 State sporting organisations with significant female membership - to assist them in developing programs, which enhance participation.
- Three new initiatives which link to existing SRQ activities and aim to enhance participation in sport by women and girls: *Regional Schoolgirls Breakfast Seminars, Professional Development and Networking Forums* and the development of an *Active Girls' Resource*.
- Almost \$900,000 over three years through SRQ's State Development Program, to support 12 State sporting organisations to deliver a range of specific women and girls initiatives.
- Professional development opportunities through SRQ's Locker Room Forums, which are held regularly throughout Queensland's regions. Two of these Forums each year specifically address issues for women and girls in sport.
- Financial support to the sport industry through assistance to State level, female-specific organisations such as Womensport Queensland, which helps to highlight the importance of participation in sport by women and girls. This support includes sponsorship of Womensport's *Rising Star Awards*, which provide financial assistance to a number of successful female athletes with a performance history indicating the potential to succeed at the open International level.
- Through the QAS, almost \$600,000 is allocated to developing six female-specific sports squads to participate at national and international levels. These sports are softball, hockey, waterpolo, netball and soccer. This strong focus on developing elite female athletes is already paying dividends, with the QAS providing 6 of the 15 members of the Australian silver medal-winning Softball team at the 2004 Athens Olympics.