



SUBMISSION TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SPORT

1. Introduction

To ensure high participation, community based sports like Orienteering need to receive a reasonable level of government support. The support provided by the infrastructure and funding of Australia's Sports System is very important thus Orienteering Australia (OA) has a keen interest in its effectiveness. OA is pleased that the Federal government has decided to conduct an independent review of Australia's Sports System.

OA has tried to focus on the strategic issues associated with the sporting system especially 'minor' sports. Orienteering will be used by way of example. We have tried to cover sport at both the elite (or high performance) and grassroots levels. In respect of the latter we have used the term "organised community sport". The submission also covers junior sport, open age groups and masters events.

The Terms of Reference are specifically addressed in Annex A.

2. Background to Orienteering Australia

Orienteering Australia Inc. is the federation of the Australian [State and Territory Orienteering Associations](#). The primary objectives of Orienteering Australia are to **encourage, promote** and **coordinate** the sport of Orienteering in Australia.

Orienteering Australia is governed by a Council comprising representatives from each State and an elected [Board](#). Day-to-day business and matters arising between Council meetings are the responsibility of the Board. In addition a number of [Committees](#) and [Officers](#) contribute specialist advice to the Board and Council.

Orienteering is highly reliant on voluntary labour, membership subscriptions and entry fees for events. There is a limit to all three sources which is why financial and in kind assistance, especially the provision of resource material, from governments is very valuable.

Orienteering covers the spectrum of school sport, grassroots sports and elite sports. The nature of major orienteering events is such that competitors of all ages and both sexes can participate at the same event. For juniors, it is good for their development to see first hand the sport performed at the elite level. It also strengthens their aspirations.

Despite limited funding support, Australia has performed very well in orienteering at the elite level. In recent years, we have produced a World Champion, a World Masters Champion and a World Mountain Bike Orienteering Champion (with a world number one ranking). OA has been conducting a National League for teams and a National Series for individuals since 1993, which are now well developed with growing corporate sponsorship and teams from all States and Territories bar the Northern Territory.

Orienteering enjoys high participation levels, increasing in recent years with a broadening to include more local suburban events. Almost all those associated with the sport are active participants many of whom also act as officials, coaches, office holders and other volunteer roles.

3. What Orienteering has to offer

Orienteering is a unique sport with a long history dating back to the 19th century and at least since the 1920s has had full gender equity. It provides a number of health and social benefits. In addition to contributing to an individual's health and well being, it helps develop life skills such as increased self confidence. Spatial skills are developed through Orienteering because of the extensive use of maps and compasses. It can be an enjoyable and rewarding sport for those with limited athletic ability because other skills come into play. At the elite level, high performance as for other sports requires a high level of physical fitness and technical competence. Moreover, Orienteering helps young people develop self confidence, independent decision-making and independence and in older people it helps them maintain their strength and balance, as well as cognitive stimulation to enhance their quality of life and independence.

There is a strong family emphasis in orienteering. Participants are of all ages; grass roots to national events may have participants as young as seven and as old as ninety. It is a sport for a lifetime.¹ It is not uncommon to see three generations participate at the same national event. There is also strong participation from both genders.

Orienteering is also good for communities, especially regional communities. Major events, including international events, are held in regional Australia. For example, the recent Australian Championships were based in Maryborough, Queensland. The next World Masters Championships will be based on Lithgow, NSW. These events can bring considerable economic benefits to the regions.

As an aside, when the previous World Masters Games were held in Australia, the largest number of international participants, by quite a large margin, was in Orienteering. The same can be expected for the 2009 World Masters Games being hosted by NSW.

Orienteering Australia through its affiliated State/Territory organisations currently have school-based programs offering Orienteering at an introductory level through to competitive events. In addition to the sporting aspects of Orienteering, some schools have used it in mainstream subjects such as mathematics, geography, etc. However, Orienteering's contribution to school-based activities is limited by resourcing constraints.

There is a strong volunteer element in Orienteering. This enables many activities including major national events to be undertaken, with limited funding, and also making participation very affordable. However, this strong reliance on volunteerism also runs the risk of burn out.

4. Issues from Orienteering Australia's Perspective

From our perspective, assistance to sports like Orienteering is declining rather than increasing, while government and participants' expectations, and administrative demands to achieve the required level of governance for sporting organisations (NSO and state associations), are increasing. In terms of federal funding, the ASC provided \$136,000 per annum for High Performance and Sports Development for the quadrennium ending in 2004-05. This was reduced to \$86,000 for High Performance only and none for Sport Development for the quadrennium ending 2008-09. Despite the excellent performance of Australian orienteers at the elite level and the continuing growth of the sport, indications are that Orienteering will receive no funding in the next quadrennium as the sport is not currently in the Olympic or Commonwealth Games programs. It should be noted that Orienteering is included as a recognised sport by the IOC (and the AOC) and the

¹ As an example, approximately 30% of the participants in the open classes at 1978's largest national competition were still involved in the sport in some way in 2008, 30 years later.

International Orienteering Federation is working with the IOC to fulfil the sport's ambition to be included in the Olympic program.

We are not seeing any increase in other forms of support from the ASC or federal government.

We suspect this reflects the situation with other lower profile sports. The vision of the ASC is stated as "to continue to be recognised as the world leader in developing high performance and community sport". We support that vision especially the emphasis on both high performance and organised community sport. The issue for Orienteering Australia is that, based on our experience, a very definite bias is developing at the federal level towards high performance for those sports that are in the current Olympic/Commonwealth Games programs only to the detriment of high performance in other sports. There also seems to be a bias away from organised community sports.

This is not surprising given the abolition of the former Participation Division around 2000 and the abolition of funding assistance for Sports Development for most lower profile sports from 2005-06. The reduction in support for organised community sport seems to have been a deliberate strategy. Elite or high performance sport may have a higher public profile but that doesn't make it more important. The maintenance of an elite component to Orienteering and other sports requires a significant level of participation at the underlying levels. As noted in the document "Australian Sport: emerging challenges, new directions" Australia currently over performs at elite level of competition considering the potential pool of elite talent. This is also true of Orienteering shown by recent world championship performances on both foot and mountain bike disciplines. Support for both elite and participation programs is necessary for this to continue.

We agree with the recent statement made by the Minister of Sports when she announced the membership of the Independent Sports Panel to review the Australian sporting system.

"Sport plays an important role in health and education, as well as the social and cultural life of communities throughout Australia, and we need to build on this tradition."

As mentioned above, our perception is that this is not the emphasis of ASC's current programs. We also note that the ASC Board is dominated by those with an elite sports background.

The ASC has responsibility for both elite sport and organised community sport. The objectives are very different. This inevitably results in tensions that are very difficult to manage within a single organisation. Perhaps a different governance arrangement needs to be considered as part of the implementation of a revised sports policy.

Administrative costs are increasing in real terms and it is becoming more difficult for many national sporting organisations to keep their heads above water. Furthermore, lower levels (eg clubs) need an effective federal body to provide the framework in which to operate at the grassroots level. The future of sports like Orienteering is at risk without some government support. There cannot be complete reliance on voluntary labour and contributions from their members. The lack of funding is limiting promotion of sports like Orienteering at schools, despite the range of benefits and life skills such sports provide to children.

There is insufficient connection with sports that require similar skills and preparation such as long distance running, cross-country and triathlon. This has the advantage of economies of scale as well as allowing cross-fertilisation of skills and knowledge. Such an approach could be applied to other groupings of sports.

At the State and Territory level, there is not a consistent approach to supporting sports. In some States and Territories, support is only provided for organised community sport. In some States and Territories additional support is provided through the Health Departments. In some State/Territory academies/institutes support is predominantly for sports currently in the Olympic or Commonwealth Games programs. Orienteering is only supported through individual scholarships or programs by the Institutes or Academies in South Australia (scholarships), Tasmania (scholarships) and ACT (program since 2000). Not surprisingly, these tend to be the best performed States and Territories at the elite level.

Concern has been expressed in some quarters of apparent duplication between the AIS and State/Territory Institutes/Academies. One role that the State/Territory bodies have played is that for some smaller sports that have been unable to gain support for an AIS program, but have been able to become involved with a State/Territory academy or institute, that academy/institute has become a *de facto* national centre of excellence. For Orienteering, the ACT Academy of Sport has become the national training centre, thus many elite competitors from around Australia have gravitated to Canberra. This has also created a critical mass of elite athletes in Canberra that has spearheaded Australia's improvement in international competitiveness. Were the State/Territory bodies to be abolished and their role taken over by the AIS, the potential for such national programs would be lost.

5. Conclusions

There is a need for a sports policy to guide Government support for sports program. This is the responsibility of the Government, although organisations like the ASC and the Department of Health and Ageing will be important contributors to advice on policy. The policy should cover both elite (or high performance) and organised community sports. The impression is that currently elite sports, for selected sports only, are getting priority.

Clearly there is a tension between these two objectives for sport. Is the tension too much to be managed by one organisation? This question needs to be addressed by the Panel. As a minimum, organised community sport should be a separate program with its own budget allocation and organisational arrangements (ie a reinstatement of something along the lines of the former Participation Division). The governance arrangements should be different. The required knowledge of those involved in increasing participation is different to those involved in elite sport. The Department of Health and Ageing should have a more prominent role.

Over the last decade (or two) priorities for Australian sport has leaned towards the high performance side. So much so, that your average Australian appears to believe that sport is something you watch from your armchair; and that the purpose of sport is to make us all feel happy come the Olympics or a World Cup. The high performance side, and that warm glow of an Olympic medal, is an important part of sport, but it is minor compared to actual participation, the feeling of self-achievement after completing an event. There are considerable physical and mental health benefits; there is also an educational benefit. We contend that participation should in fact be the primary goal of the Australian Sports System. The best thing for Australia would be to adequately fund a diverse range of high-participation sports to allow Australians to participate in a sport that suits their personal attributes and interests. Such diversity could provide opportunities for people who don't necessarily like team sports or prefer not to participate in sports requiring strong hand-eye coordination.

There are a number of organisational players in the Australian Sports System. The ASC and AIS are key players. There are others such as the State and Territory Institutes and Academies and the national sporting organisations. No doubt, there is duplicated effort and other things that fall between the cracks. The roles and responsibilities of all the

stakeholders within the system need to be clarified including the national sporting organisations. This has to happen if we are to have a genuine sporting system, using the word system in its intended sense with proper interaction between the different components of the system.

There needs to be more interaction between the ASC and well managed national sporting organisations including financial support. They play an essential role in the implementation of Government policy. It is an effective way of leveraging the voluntary efforts of the national sporting organisations. It also provides easier access to members and potential members. If these organisations are not well managed, the first step should be to provide them with the guidance to enable them to be well managed.

As mentioned in the previous Section, there also seems to be scope for greater clustering of similar sports to provide economies of scale and other benefits.

6. Recommendations

There is a need for a Sports policy that covers both high performance and organised community sport. This is the responsibility of the Government not the ASC. The main responsibility of the ASC and other relevant bodies should be to implement policy and provide advice on sports policy from time to time.

We strongly support increased participation in sports and physical activity as a major means of preventative health, education and community development. Government policy must include policies that will lead to increased sports participation across a diversity of sports and not just those with a high spectator interest or "Olympic" profile.

For this to occur we believe there has to be some separation of those functions associated with preventative health and community development from those associated with high performance as there has been in the past. Different governance arrangements may be necessary for these different goals of the Sports System. It makes sense for one organisation, the ASC, to take responsibility for the Australian Sports System, including coordination and networking with the various stakeholders, but the Department of Health and Ageing should have a greater influence for the preventative health and community development goals.

As part of this separation, a program for organised community sport, with a designated budget which would include grants/loans to sporting bodies, should be established. It should include an Advisory Board to provide advice on priorities including grants/loans. This would be based on submissions which should be multi-year to allow medium-term planning. The process should be transparent.

The State and Territory sports institutes and academies are an important part of the Australian sporting system. As part of this inquiry, their roles and responsibilities need to be debated and clarified to ensure they complement and are not duplicating the work of the ASC. There is some coordination between the ASC and the State and Territory Sports Institutes and Academies through the National Elite Sports Council (NESC). We are not sure how effective that is but it seems that the focus is on Olympic and Commonwealth Games sports. (The ASC Annual Report says "Through NESC the eight State and Territory Sports Institutes and Academies and the AIS form a national network of providers of elite sports programs and services".) The effectiveness of the coordination should be examined as part of this inquiry. There does seem to be scope for improvement.

The national sporting organisations are also very important parts of the sports system. They can help in the delivery of programs for both high performance and organised community sports, including junior sports. One of ASC's objectives is "Best practice management and governance of sport within and through national sporting

organisations". We are not seeing that objective being pursued in practice to any great extent possibly because the restructure in ASC has changed the emphasis of their activities. The role of national sporting organisations in the Australian Sport System should be strengthened. As part of this process, programs should be put in place to ensure national sporting organisations have the necessary capabilities.

Promotion of sports is essential if participation is to increase and implementation of a revised sports system should include some allowance for this. Advertising experts are best placed to determine how to reach target markets. We consider that advertising campaigns need to have a connection between any campaign and the potential providers. To this end more assistance could be provided to connect potential participants directly with providers.

Schools are possibly the most important means of promoting increased sport and physical activity. School curricula should be reviewed with this goal in mind. National sporting organisations should be able to assist with the design of school programs and the preparation of resource materials. Certainly Orienteering Australia would be prepared to assist in this way.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss our views with the Panel.

Orienteering Australia
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ADDRESSING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Ensure Australia's continued elite sporting success

Australia's elite sporting success is based on a system which includes key organisations such as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the State and Territory Sports Institutes and Academies. It also includes the national sporting organisations and their lower level units (eg clubs). It includes the professionals (eg physiotherapists, psychologists) who provide essential services. It includes the sports participants of course. It is not really a system unless the components work together in a reasonably cohesive manner.

The ASC is a vital component of Australia's sports system. We note its' vision is "to continue to be recognised as the world leader in developing high performance and community sport". We support that vision especially the emphasis on both high performance and community sport. The issue for Orienteering Australia is that, based on our experience, a very definite bias is developing towards high performance sports in current Olympic/Commonwealth Games programs and away from high performance in other sports. In our view, this is an issue that has to be addressed.

We are also concerned about the decline in priority given to organised community sports. This is discussed under the second Term of Reference.

It is clear that having an outstanding training, technical and scientific facility like the AIS is also crucial. Australia has had a comparative advantage compared with most countries because it was ahead of the game, but many other countries have caught up often with the assistance of Australian experts. Sports science is continually developing and the AIS needs to be positioned to take advantage of these opportunities. This requires good leadership and vision with staff having the skills to advance the science and communicate the main findings to their clients. Orienteering Australia does not have the knowledge to make specific suggestions on how the performance of the AIS might be improved but the leakage of skilled staff to other countries seems to be a problem that needs to be addressed.

Australia and the AIS have, however, benefited from the skills of overseas sports specialists including coaching staff, and in the future retuning Australians who have worked overseas are likely to bring new knowledge and skills. Hence any movement of skilled staff overseas should not necessarily be seen in a negative light.

The AIS and ASC should remain key parts of the Australia's sporting system even though there might be scope for improvement in their performance. Likewise, the State and Territory Sports Institutes should play an important role in Australia's sports system. They are physically closer to most of the 'customers' of the sporting system. A question that might be asked is whether they sufficiently complement the activities of the ASC and AIS. Is there sufficient collaboration and knowledge transfer between these bodies? Are their different roles and responsibilities sufficiently clear? We are not familiar with the details of their activities, but note that there are significant differences in the roles played by the State and Territory Sports Institutes and Academies.

We note that a National Elite Sports Council exists. It comprises the Directors of the organisations mentioned above. Its goal is to provide a national network of providers of elite sports programs and services. Its activities are invisible to us so it is difficult to comment. However, its effectiveness would be worth investigating. These investigations should also look at whether there is sufficient coordination and networking at the 'working levels' of the participating organisations.

Although not mentioned in the Terms of Reference, national sporting organisations play a vital role in the development of elite athletes. This includes the “top end of town” high profile sports as well as smaller sports such as Orienteering. NSOs should be seen as key stakeholders in the sports system by the ASC and AIS. They can provide support to ASC and AIS as one means of achieving elite sporting success. From Orienteering Australia’s perspective there is very little interaction.

If we want the organisations mentioned above to work together in a systematic way, there needs to be agreement on their respective roles and responsibilities. They should be complementary and mutually supportive. With the exception of the relationship between the ASC and AIS this is not happening at present. It seems that the roles and responsibilities of most of the participants have been developed independently.

Finally, we would like to emphasise that elite sporting success should not just be about sports in the Olympic and Commonwealth Games programs. Other sports like Orienteering are also important and have achieved elite sporting success. Over the last quadrennium we have been receiving \$86,000 per annum to support high performance activity. This is not a huge amount but still very welcome. During this period Australia has produced one World Champion, one Master’s World Champion and one Mountain Bike Orienteering World Champion (and world number one ranking). Notwithstanding this very impressive performance the signals are that Orienteering will not receive any funding in the next quadrennium because it is not a sport in the current Olympic or Commonwealth Games programs.

Is there sufficient connection between sports that require similar skills and preparation such as long distance running, cross-country and triathlon? This has the advantage of economies of scale as well as allowing cross-fertilisation of skills and knowledge. It may make the support of lower profile sports more viable. Such an approach could be applied to other groupings of sports.

2. Better place sport and physical activity as a Government’s preventative health approach

There needs to be a sports policy to guide programs supporting sport. The Government should be responsible for sports policy. It should not just be about high performance sport. We agree with the recent statement made by the Minister of Sport when she announced the membership of the independent sports panel to review the Australian sporting system.

“Sport plays an important role in health and education, as well as the social and cultural life of communities throughout Australia, and we need to build on this tradition.”

It is worth noting that statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that 54% of Australians did not undertake sufficient physical activity to obtain a health benefit. Much of this physical activity is outside organised sporting organisations involving informal non-competitive and social sporting groups and other providers of physical activity resources e.g. local gyms and recreational groups, as well as activity at the individual level outside any form of organised group activity.

Bodies like the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and the Department of Health and Ageing have a role in advising on sports policy but their main role is the implementation of the relevant Government’s programs and policies.

We also note that the objectives of the ASC include: (i) Growth in sports participation at the grass-roots level, particularly by youth, Indigenous Australians, women and people with disabilities; and (ii) Increased opportunities for children to be physically active. Are

these objectives getting sufficient attention? Orienteering Australia's experience is that ASC's interest in these objectives are declining. Perhaps this is because of the absence of a clear Government policy.

To put it bluntly, there is clear tension between the high performance and participation objectives that are not being managed optimally at present. This is not surprising given the abolition of the former Participation Division around 2000 and the abolition of funding assistance for Sports Development for lower profile sports from 2005-06. The reduction in support for organised community sport seems to have been a deliberate strategy. Elite or high performance sport may have a higher public profile but that doesn't make it more important.

The ASC has responsibility for both elite sport and organised community sport. The objectives are very different. This inevitably results in tensions that are very difficult to manage within a single organisation. Perhaps a different governance arrangement needs to be considered as part of the implementation of a revised sports policy. This question does need to be addressed by the Panel. At a minimum, organised community sport should be a separate program with its own budget allocation and organisational arrangements (ie a reinstatement of something along the lines of the former Participation Division). The governance arrangements should be different. The required knowledge of those involved in high participation sport is different to those involved in elite sport. The Department of Health and Ageing should have a more prominent role.

To break down the barriers to participation, it is first necessary to understand what the barriers are. This requires some well directed research. Only then should marketing and advertising programs commence. It goes without saying that these have to be professionally developed. The key messages in the programs have to be repeated to have some impact. No doubt, there is something to be learnt from the successes and failures of the "Life be in it" program of a few decades ago. It had a high profile but did it succeed in its objective?

Any key messages need to offer the opportunity for those viewing the message to be able to take advantage of it. Hence it needs to be directly connected to opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity otherwise much of the value is lost. Sporting organisations and other providers of sport and physical activity need to be supported in providing programs integrated with advertising programs aimed at increasing the participation rates and levels of physical activity amongst Australians.

Participation is likely to be higher if there is a diversity of sports from which Australians can choose. Peoples' preferences are different as are their physical and technical capabilities. We would argue that participation should in fact be the primary goal of an Australian Sports System. The best thing for Australia would be to adequately fund a diverse range of high-participation sports to allow Australians to participate in a sport that suits their personal attributes and interests. Such diversity can encourage people who don't necessarily like team sports or prefer not to participate in sports requiring strong hand-eye co-ordination.

Orienteering is a unique sport that provides a number of health and social benefits. It helps develop life skills. For example, spatial skills are developed through orienteering because of the extensive use of maps and compasses. It can be an enjoyable and rewarding sport for those with limited athletic ability because other skills come into play. However, as in other elite sports, performance at the elite level requires a high level of physical fitness and technical competence.

Orienteering offers opportunities for participation at both competitive and non-competitive levels, in particular members of a family group can all be involved to a level that each individual chooses. It also has the advantages of many individual sports in that

the level of commitment from regular to irregular is equally welcomed. Programs to increase sporting and physical activity participation need to involve orienteering and similar activities especially in the current climate where individuals and families have less time available for organised leisure and regular commitments to competitive sport.

One of the important roles of the national sporting associations is the staging of events. It is these events that provide the opportunities for participation for regular, occasional and new participants. This is just one reason why the national sporting organisations should be considered as an important component of the sports system. Participation will not increase unless they hold suitable events. For example, Orienteering Australia holds "Come and Try It (CATI)" events to encourage new participants.

Finally, you should not forget the role that schools play in increasing participation. School curricula should be reviewed with this goal in mind. National sporting organisations should be able to assist with the design of school programs and the preparation of resource materials. Certainly Orienteering Australia would be prepared to assist in this way. It does now but the level of activity is limited by resource constraints.

Some thoughts on possible barriers to participation include:

- The change in workforce participation rates and demographics impacts on the availability of time for adults in particular those with children, making it hard to commit to organised sport and act as volunteers for the smaller sports that exist only because of their volunteer base. Need exists to offer more flexible activities with possibly delivery through the working environment.
- Administration and delivery of sport in many environments including schools is now more complex and has more barriers in the sense of what has to be done to get a person onto the "playing field". When sport is run by volunteers, this often makes the process too difficult to contemplate.

3. Strengthen the pathways from junior sport to grassroots community sport right through to elite and professional sport

Good coaching is the key to successful pathways. It is particularly important during the development phase where basic skills and knowledge are established. At the junior sport level most coaches are either teachers or volunteers, often parents. They still need coaching skills and Australia's sporting system needs to find ways of transferring the requisite skills and knowledge through the different hierarchical levels of the sporting system. Some of these skills will be sport specific others will be general to all sports.

However, coaching is not a requirement only of junior sport. Many adults who have had limited involvement in sport as a junior or move to different sporting endeavours will benefit from coaching activities and be more likely to continue if offered opportunities to increase skill levels. Moreover, a coaching pathway must also include one that will satisfy this need.

The increased availability of learning environments as well as coaching specific needs are required to strengthen all development pathways. Restrictions to the creation of these learning environments often include the expertise and availability of coaches/managers but also extend to availability of equipment/venues and finances to cover costs such as travel, lodgings, equipment and venues. Financial restrictions are often debilitating to the development of junior athletes and those making the transition to senior ranks. The increased availability of transport and venues (lodgings/sporting venues) to these development pathways would reduce some of these common restrictions on development.

The various sporting federations are probably best placed to determine the best implementation strategy for their sport. There may be differences in very high

participation sports like soccer compared with lower participation sports. But the delivery of coaching development programs has to be at the State/Territory or even regional level. It seems sensible that the training of coaches be provided by State/Territory bodies consistent with a national accreditation scheme and a curriculum developed nationally. Coaches should be able to benefit from Australia's superb sporting knowledge. Perhaps the State and Territory Sports Institutes should have responsibility for delivery of coaching development programs where the programs themselves are provided by the ASC.

Coaching is also important for progression from junior sports to grassroots community sport. To continue, participants have to enjoy what they are doing. Having the requisite skills is essential. Not everyone has to be high performance but they should be able to participate at their chosen level so that they get the fulfilment they are seeking.

Coaches are also important for enabling those with the ability and dedication to progress to the elite level. There are other important factors such as knowledge as to what contributes to high performance and competition. The latter is important for all walks of life including sport. For many sports, it is important to have people of similar ability located in the same place so that they can benefit from regular competition.

Pathways through to non-elite, non-competitive and social sporting activities need equal emphasis as those through to elite sport. The majority of participants will follow the former, and even elites may move into other pathways over time, and so these need to also be attractive to those who have previously had involvement at the high performance end of sport.

Participation in sport and physical activity is encouraged amongst juniors of primary school age where participation rather than outcomes are given greater priority. However, movement through the junior ranks leads to sport becoming more competitive and requiring a regular and often significant time commitment on behalf of the juniors and their parents. A need exists to provide the continuance of participation and social sporting activities for older juniors. Also as participants move through the junior ranks sport becomes much less a local community activity thus adding to the demands in time required to continue participating. A further factor impeding junior development is the lack of affordable group accommodation in capital cities and major regional centres for junior and school sporting groups to stay when they visit such places for sporting activities.

Recognition of volunteers and including coaches and officials by government bodies and sporting organisations sometimes seems to take a higher priority than providing the support and resources that such volunteers need to continue their roles. Most undertake this activity not because of a desire for recognition but from self motivation and the personal satisfaction of being able to provide their skills, enthusiasm and knowledge. Continuation of the coaching and officials accreditation framework provided by the ASC and support from State bodies is essential. However, greater support to organisations in delivering sport specific components and sport specific curricula would assist volunteer workloads. Administration could also be better supported through more paid officers to perform tasks which the volunteers find onerous.

4. Maintain Australia's cutting edge approach to sports science. Research and technology

To maintain the necessary critical mass, sports science development should focus on the AIS. Australia is too small to spread this activity across several organisations. This should not stop the AIS from collaborating with other research institutes such as universities who have skills that complement those of the AIS and allow richer research programs. There is also scope for the AIS to support relevant post-graduate programs in various

ways. We are not in a position to comment on the effectiveness of these collaborations at present but simply note the possibilities.

The AIS and Australian Research Network should ensure it makes the most of the research potential in other fields of scientific research with external partners. We see greater potential for research partnerships between the AIS and external bodies as diverse as materials development, genetics, medicine, nutrition and mechanical and electronic engineering to name a few. Greater linkage with universities as well as industry would provide greater research potential than currently exists within Australian Sport. An important part of any applied research is its integration within the sport(s) and greater collaboration should also be used to free up staff to apply these research findings.

The application of research should then be a combination of knowledge sharing and direct applied support. In many instances research findings are specific to a chosen sport/event, but many findings can be passed on for the greater good of all Australian Sport. We query whether current knowledge is disseminated as effectively as possible both within and between partners of the ASC which further restricts the passing and development of ideas. Orienteering for instance has received no or little knowledge from higher ASC partners in these areas and believes it could provide valuable input back into this knowledge creation.

For research to be effective there has to be transfer of knowledge of the key research findings. For 'minor' sports like orienteering this is not done very well at present. The State and Territory Sports Institutes may have a role in this knowledge transfer but it probably requires greater collaboration with the national bodies than occurs at present.

5. Identify opportunities to increase and identify the funding base

Sponsorship is crucial and there are many opportunities for sports with large attendances and/or large television audiences. For many 'minor' sports this is not possible. They are dependent on government funding, member fees, fundraising activities and voluntary labour. Other calls on volunteers time e.g. to meet sport administration and governance requirements is impacting on their fund raising capabilities.

It is these types of sports that deserve some type of priority in funding assistance. As well as the high performance element, they also play a very important role in both preventative health and community development. Perhaps a specific fund should be set aside for minor sports with allocations based on submissions by the national associations. The submissions should respond to criteria established by the Government consistent with their objectives. It may be possible to get sponsors to a broad funding program like this which would have a higher profile than individual sports. They would probably like to have some naming rights so that they get the benefits of association with the program.

A diversity of activities that support preventative health should be seen as an investment in the national well-being, in the light of the "obesity" crisis in both our young and our aging populations. They will result in a reduction in downstream health costs. The reduction in health costs could be seen as a justification for increasing the funding base from government sources.

Some countries, such as Britain use National Lotteries to fund sporting activities. [British Orienteering has benefited significantly through receiving high levels of funding from the proceeds of the UK National Lottery.] Organising a National Lottery is more difficult in Australia because lotteries are State based, but it might be possible to get the States and Territories to cooperate occasionally to fund a National Lottery specifically targeted for sports development or high profile events like the Olympic Games.