



Project Aperio

Organised Crime and Drugs in Sport

**New Generation Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs and
Organised Criminal Involvement in their use in Professional Sport**

Talking points and Q&As

ACC, DRALGAS, ASADA

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Key messages

- The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) has undertaken a project concerning new generation performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs) and their use in professional sport, the findings from which have been summarised in an unclassified report.
- The project was undertaken with assistance from the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and builds on the ACC's 2011 assessment on Threats to the Integrity of Professional Sport in Australia, which identified professional sport as a sector that is increasingly attractive to organised crime.
- This recent project—codenamed Project Aperio—is important because it has given the ACC the opportunity to proactively monitor the development of a drug market and to propose measures that are intended to disrupt organised criminal activity in the market and harden the operating environment for organised crime through collaboration with bodies within the sporting sector that are being targeted by organised crime.
- This work, which focused on a subset of the sports sector, has revealed widespread PIEDs use by athletes in one sport and a more limited level of use in several other sports, activity that has been linked in some cases with match fixing and the fraudulent manipulation of betting markets.
- A complex and highly organised network of individuals and companies is involved in the acquisition and distribution of peptides and hormones, and there is also a larger number of entrepreneurial market participants.
- These are significant national issues that threaten the integrity of sport in Australia and Australia's international reputation.
- Legal provisions prevent the ACC from publicly disclosing detailed information about the nature of the matters identified in this report. This includes the disclosure of information specifically referencing players, clubs and any information that could identify other individuals involved in matters relevant to this work.
- This is because of the nature of how the intelligence has been collected using the ACC's coercive powers.
- Particular sporting bodies have received classified briefings of matters relevant to them. The ACC is also working closely with the Australian Sports

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Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) and Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (DRALGAS) on response options.

- The ACC's ability to brief industry on emerging threats, so that they can harden their environment from further exploitation is an important milestone in the fight against organised crime, has been enabled by recent legislative change.

Key Findings

Use of PIEDs and Player Welfare

- The use of Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs or Peptides is widespread in some sporting codes.
- Multiple players across a number of clubs and codes are implicated in the ACC's investigation.
- Some sports scientists, high performance coaching units and other club officials have orchestrated the doping of entire playing teams.
- Club doctors are not always aware of what substances are being provided to players under the guidance and advice of coaching staff.
- Players are being administered with substances that are not yet approved for human use.
- These are very serious issues for the welfare of players. Some of whom may not have been aware of what they were being administered.

Illicit Drug Use as distinct from Peptides

- Use of illicit drugs by professional athletes is a significant issue, with official statistics significantly understating the extent of actual use.
- Use of illicit drugs by players makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation by organised criminals, particularly in relation to match fixing and fraud arising from the use of 'inside information'. The ACC, with law enforcement, is currently pursuing a match fixing allegation arising from the investigation.

Organised Crime and Integrity

- Associations between suppliers of Peptides and criminals exist.

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- Professional sport in Australia is highly vulnerable to infiltration by organised criminals via legitimate business relationships with sport.
- Increasing personal associations of concerns between professional athletes and criminals are evident.
- Contact between professional athletes and criminals create the risk of corruption of players.
- As a result of this assessment, multiple potential criminal offences under the Customs Act, TGA Act and Criminal Codes have been identified and referred to the relevant law enforcement agencies where legally possible. Detailed intelligence has also been provided to ASADA to assist their investigation, along with information provided to the relevant health regulators. Comprehensive briefings have been provided to the relevant sporting codes.
- Measures must be taken now to stamp out the use of all illicit and WADA banned substances from Australian sport and the associations with professional sport that organised crime seeks. If the measures are successfully implemented this will harden Australian sport against organised criminal activity including match fixing, illicit drug use and the use of banned performance enhancing drugs.

Questions and Answers

PEPTIDES AND OTHER PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS – ACC & ASADA

What are the side effects of peptides and other hormone substances? Can you give an example?

- Many of these substances are untested and have not been approved for human use.
- The ACC has found that athletes are being administered a range of substances to 'enhance performance' however, in many cases these substances have limited to no history of use in humans. As a result the potential impact on the health of players is unknown.
- The apparent willingness of high performance coaches, trainers and sports scientists to administer these untested and experimental drugs raises concern over the welfare of players who are being administered these substances, sometimes without knowledge of the precise substances they are being given.

Is there a specific type of PIED that is being used?

- The ACC's inquiries focused primarily on substances known as CJC-1295, GHRP-6, IGF-1 and SARMs, although other substances did come to notice. Please refer to the handout for further details of these substances.
- Please also see Appendix 1, 2 and 3 for a description of each performance and image enhancing drug mentioned in the assessment.

How do Peptides enhance performance?

- Peptides stimulate the production of Human Growth Hormone (hGH), which is essential for bone and muscle growth. For sportspersons, they are perceived to (and in some cases do) permit athletes to perform for longer at an elite level and to recover more quickly from injuries, while in some cases being difficult to detect in normal testing regimes.
- Peptides can be used on their own to promote muscle growth, and they can be used in combination with anabolic steroids to maintain muscle gain.
- Anecdotal reports also suggest peptides may assist in rehabilitating soft tissue injuries.

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What countries are these substances coming from?

- In most cases these substances are being imported from China, although they can also be sourced from North America.
- These substances can also easily be acquired from a multitude of online stores based in Australia and overseas.

What is the difference between Peptides and supplements?

- Supplements are products which meet a nutritional deficiency or maintain/restore health and immune functions. They are readily available for everyday consumers.
- Peptides is a generic name given to any group of amino acids that are linked together to form a chain. Essentially, they are similar to proteins though in much shorter lengths (less than 50 units long)
- In the world of sport peptides generally refer to one or two things (either broken protein fragments from hydrolysed proteins or peptides hormones and related compounds).

PROJECT APERIO – ACC

Why is the ACC involved in this work?

- The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) monitors all illicit drug markets. This includes the market for Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs (PIEDs). This work evolved on previous work in relation to the integrity of sport (see below), data in the 2010-11 ACC Illicit Drug Data Report which pointed to increased seizures and arrests in relation to PIEDs and increased levels of injection, and intelligence that was supplied by ASADA.
- This project provided the ACC with an opportunity to proactively target a market before it has become established and work with partners to identify the threat and vulnerabilities that are being exploited, identify the organised crime presence in the market, disrupt the detected activity and harden the sports sector against attempts by organised crime to infiltrate it.
- The ACC's work has confirmed links between the PIEDs market, other more traditional drug markets (eg cocaine and MDMA) and fraud, match fixing and money laundering.
- This work builds on the ACC's 2011 assessment *Threats to the Integrity of Professional Sport in Australia*, which identified professional sport as a sector that is increasingly attractive to organised crime.
- In November 2012 the ACC and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to help protect the integrity of sport by allowing the agencies to more efficiently share intelligence and work collaboratively in relation to allegations of doping in sport.

Why is the ACC dedicating resources in this area when it should be concentrating on drugs or other significant serious and organised crime issues?

- In its 2011 assessment *Threats to the Integrity of Professional Sport in Australia*, the ACC identified professional sport as a sector that is increasingly attractive to organised crime.
- The ACC's work in this area has revealed links between drug use by athletes, match fixing and the fraudulent manipulation of betting markets.
- These are significant national issues that threaten the integrity of sport in Australia and Australia's international reputation.

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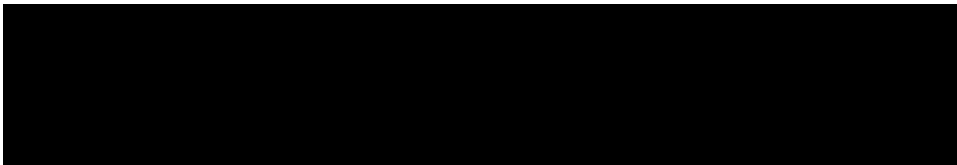
- The ACC maintains a broad understanding of drug markets where there is illicit use, whether that be pharmaceuticals, World Anti-Doping Agency prohibited substances or narcotics.
- The ACC is working in this area **as well as** focusing on other illicit drug markets—this is just one component of the ACC's work.
- The significance of this work is that it has been a proactive initiative designed to disrupt the organised crime presence in this component of the PIEDs market and to alert sporting codes to a potentially significant source of harm—that is one of the roles of a criminal intelligence agency.

Who was investigated as part of this assessment?

- Based on the original information and the ACC's wish to focus on the organised crime component within the PIEDs market, the project which led to the assessment primarily considered two professional sporting codes. Incidental intelligence was collected during the course of the project in relation to a number of other sports.

Can you disclose the clubs and individuals found to be using peptides and other hormone substances?

- No. Legal provisions prevent the ACC from publicly disclosing detailed information about the nature of the matters identified in our assessment. This includes the disclosure of information specifically referencing players, clubs and any information that could identify other individuals involved in matters relevant to this assessment.
- Intelligence concerning individuals and clubs in question has and will continue to be referred to the relevant agencies for necessary action.



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Are players using illicit drugs as well as PIEDs. If so, which ones?

- The ACC has found evidence that illicit drug use (eg: cocaine and MDMA) by professional athletes is more prevalent than reflected in official sports drug testing programs statistics. In some cases players are using both illicit drugs and PIEDs—this may reflect a particular culture or individual choices by some athletes.
- The ACC also found evidence that professional athletes are exploiting loopholes in illicit drug testing programs.

What loopholes are players exploiting to remain undetected in relation to their illicit drug use?

- Loopholes in the drug testing regime conducted by professional sports do exist that prevent some players from being compelled to undertake random testing.
- For example, under the AFL drug testing regime (the three strikes policy) athletes can avoid mandatory testing if they self-report suspected inadvertent illicit drug use to the AFL just before they are tested. In addition, players who have one or two strikes and who are undergoing some form of treatment are reportedly exempt from further testing for as long as they are being treated.

How long has the investigation been running?

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- This has been a 12-month long ACC-led investigation, with the support of ASADA and the TGA.
- Making the findings public today, is a rare opportunity for the ACC, law enforcement, regulators and Government to get ahead of the game.
- This investigation should be a strong warning to those who have used, are currently using or intend to use PIEDs.
- The ACC has made a number of sporting codes aware of the findings that relate to their respective codes.
- It is now up to the sporting codes to look at their integrity frameworks, make adjustments, or in some cases create entirely new frameworks, to stamp out this type of drug use.

Did the investigation extend to any officials?

- Apart from persons who are engaged in traditional organised crime, the ACC looked at players, sporting club officials and contractors, including sport scientists and professional persons such as doctors and pharmacists, who facilitate the supply of PIEDs.

Did the investigation extend to semi-professional sporting codes.

- Sub-elite athletes have also been identified as using peptides and hormones.

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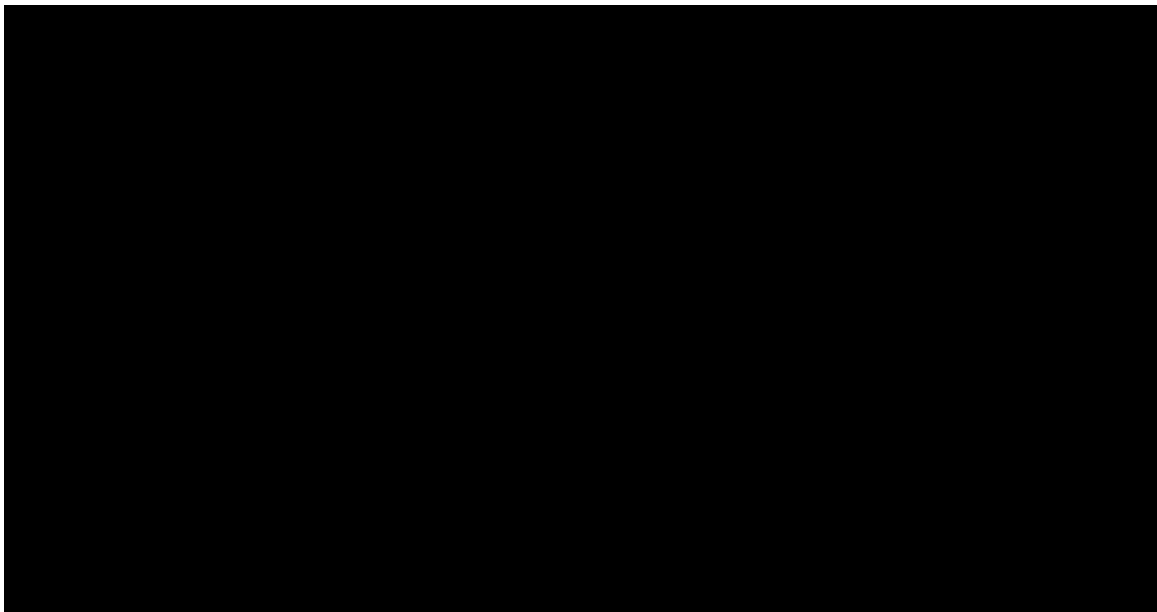
- Sub-elites athletes are considered a high-risk group for doping due to the highly competitive environment in attaining a position in elite sport and the ability to make significant gains in strength and power through the use of PIEDs.

Has anyone been/ Will anyone be charged or arrested?

- The assessment found that there is strong organised criminal involvement in the PIEDs market. As a result, the ACC will not rule out the possibility of criminal charges being laid and other sanctions imposed in appropriate circumstances, although this is a matter for the respective law enforcement and regulatory agencies.
- Some importation charges have been laid in relation to PIEDs, separate from this investigation.

Has the ACC only considered a narrow range of sporting codes?

- In response to intelligence leads, the ACC has investigated a small component of the overall sports sector in Australia. The findings of the project were of such concern that it was considered timely and appropriate to brief law enforcement, regulatory and policy agencies and the private sector to generate a comprehensive response.
- The findings are relevant to all sporting codes, which are likely to face the same vulnerabilities and criminal exploitation.



How did the ACC become aware of this threat?

- The ACC routinely monitors all illicit drug markets and engages with stakeholder agencies to obtain specialist advice. The ACC 2010—11 IDDR

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noted increases in seizures and arrests for PIEDs and increases in injection rates for PIEDs.

- In late 2011, ASADA alerted the ACC to its concerns about the potential expansion of the PIEDs market and in particular to the peptides and hormones component of the market.
- ASADA was able to provide the ACC with some specific information and these leads were explored by the ACC in collaboration with ASADA and the Therapeutic Goods Administration. This worked evolved into Project Aperio.

How long has the ACC been aware of this 'widespread use'?

- In recent years, an ever expanding range of new generation performance and image enhancing drugs, which manipulate the body's hormonal system and promote muscle growth, have become available.
- However, as a result of Project Aperio the ACC's awareness of the extent of use of peptides and hormones has only crystallised in the last few months.
- This assessment provided new insight in the PIEDs market in Australia and demonstrated that the PIEDs market is significantly more diverse and larger than previously assessed by the ACC.

Are sports scientist regulated? Who do they answer to?

- Our enquiries found there is no consistent regulatory framework for sport scientists or high performance coaches.
- Therefore sport scientists and high performance coaches employed by clubs and codes are not necessarily operating within a broader regulatory framework

Do we need greater regulation/accountability of scientific practitioners in the sporting industry?

- This assessment has revealed that people with scientific qualifications that are employed by sporting codes appear to be outside regulatory frameworks and therefore are not accountable to an industry or Government. They also have a greater role than previously in club decision making concerning athletes and hence, for the minority that do not respect the WADA Code, these persons pose a threat to the integrity of sport.

PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS AND ORGANISED CRIME

How is organised crime linked to the use of these PIEDs?

- Organised criminal identities involved in the trafficking of steroids have been identified distributing peptides and hormones. It is assessed that organised criminal identities and groups will increasingly become involved in the trafficking of peptides and hormones in Australia over the next five years, due to high financial returns in relation to the supply and the potential importance to organised crime of associations with athletes, particularly in sports with wagering markets
- WADA advises that its current understanding of organised crime involvement in sport world-wide is that it is significant and that the same criminals who are engaged in other facets of attack upon the integrity of sport, including betting, bribery and corruption are active in PIEDs trafficking. WADA notes that some have said that organised crime now “control” or perhaps more accurately “have the potential to control” 25 per cent of world sport.

- Other organised crime links identified by the ACC include overlap between the PIEDs and other illicit drug markets, match fixing and placement of wagers based on inside information. The ACC has also detected links between organised crime identities and companies and businesses that engage with professional sports, clubs and franchises.
- WADA in recent years has reiterated the increasing need for anti-doping authorities to work with law enforcement agencies in anti-doping investigations given the increasing presence of organised criminal groups in the PIEDs market. Domestically the relationship between ASADA and law enforcement agencies is strengthening as demonstrated through this assessment and the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ASADA and the ACC.

Are Organised Crime Groups taking advantage of a lack of legislation in regards to performance and image enhancing substances?

- Organised crime groups are taking advantage of the current legislative and regulatory situation, whereby persons and entities who supply certain substances prohibited under the WADA Code to athletes do not commit a crime in Australian jurisdictions, while athletes who use the substances face substantial sporting bans. This is a significant regulatory vulnerability that requires attention.

Are we seeing a similar level of OC infiltration of what we saw with

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- No. We've got this at an early stage, it hasn't yet evolved to the level of sophistication we've seen internationally.
- However, we have seen early signs of persons of interest seeking to establish overseas links, that is one of the reasons why it is appropriate to tackle the issue now.

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Are players trafficking the drugs themselves

- We have seen no evidence of playing trafficking PIEDs, however we have seen evidence of players supplying other players with illicit substances.

In the report you say you have identified personal relationships between organised crime and players – but are players involved in organised crime themselves.

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- yes in some cases and in other cases they are being unknowingly exploited by OC groups.

Is there a connection between PIEDs use and match fixing?

- With the sports wagering market continuing to grow in Australia, the incentive to profit through engaging in activities which undermine the integrity of sport will also increase. Organised criminal groups and individuals are well placed to exploit sports wagering markets.
- Project Aperio has obtained intelligence concerning the link between drug use by athletes, match fixing and fraudulent manipulation of betting markets through the use of inside information. This issue is the subject of ongoing inquiries so I cannot comment further.
- The drugs in question are both PIEDs and more traditional illicit drugs—in either case once an organised crime group supplies the substance to a player that player is compromised and is at risk of being exploited by organised crime for a range of illegal purposes.

Are the same organised criminals involved in both criminal markets?

- Yes, in some cases. This is unsurprising—organised crime groups will seek to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself.

Will any criminal charges be laid?

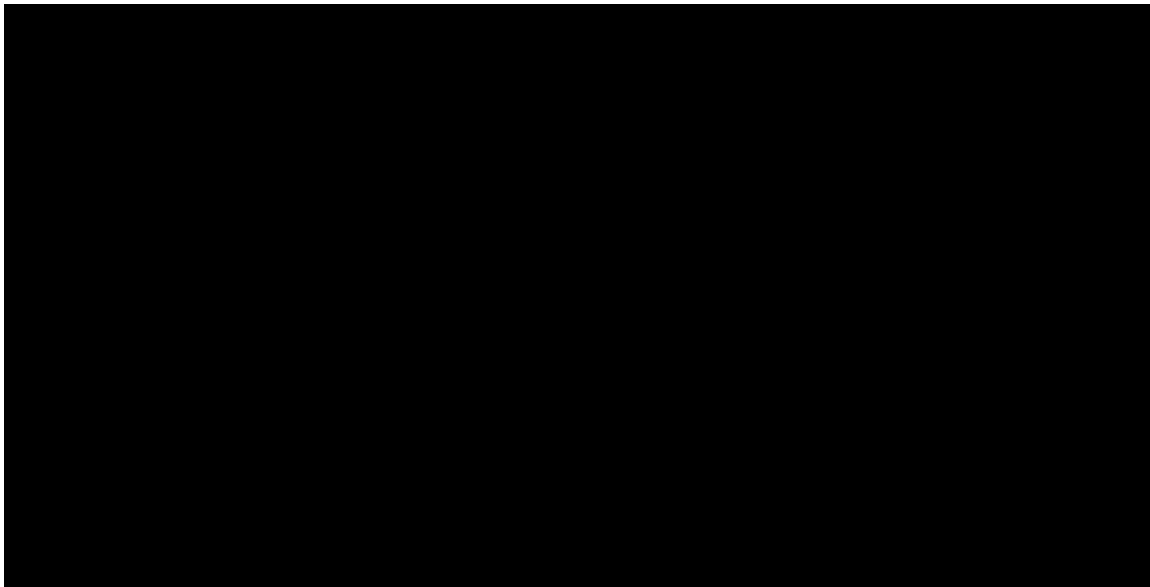
- The assessment found that there is strong organised criminal involvement in the PIEDs market. As a result, the ACC will not rule out the possibility of criminal charges being laid and other sanctions imposed in appropriate circumstances, although this is a matter for the respective law enforcement and regulatory agencies.
- The ACC has and will continue to disclose relevant material to those agencies.
- The ACC has obtained intelligence and evidence concerning ancillary matters in the course of this assessment which could amount to criminal and/or unethical behaviour. Once again, this material is being shared with the relevant external agencies and entities.

PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS AND THE LAW

Are Peptides illegal? What are the penalties associated with their use and importation?

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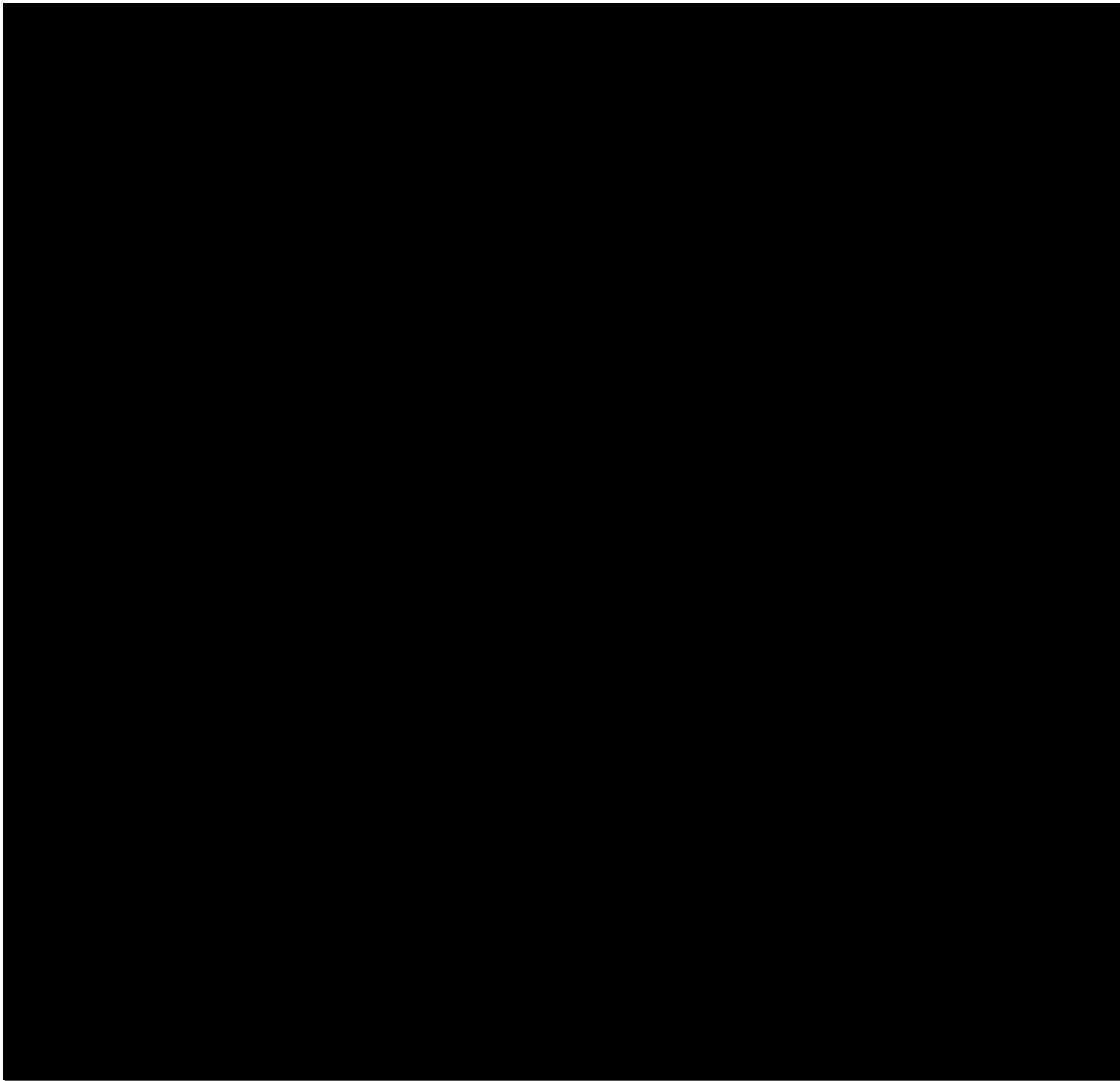
- Most peptides are listed under Schedule 7A Item 3 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. Under Regulation 5, Schedule 7A substances are classified as prohibited imports unless the importer has a permit to import issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).
- Many peptides are considered to be unapproved therapeutic goods, making persons who import, export, manufacture and supply them at risk of committing offences against the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989
- If a user of peptides and hormones is covered by the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) they are at risk of committing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ARDV), which may lead to sanctions including being banned participating in any capacity, and in any sport, that has a Code compliant anti-doping policy.



If I am not a professional sports person, can I use peptides legally?

- Under Australian law, the use of some peptides is not illegal, but it is illegal to import some peptides without a permit.
- It's also important to note that in most cases, these substances are untested and experimental and have not yet been approved for human consumption.
- If a user of peptides and hormones is covered by the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code) they are at risk of committing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ARDV). This may lead to sanctions including being banned from participating in any capacity, and in any sport, that has a Code compliant anti-doping policy.





If the public have information on organised crime, who do they report it to?

- *If you have information which could help the Australian Crime Commission in its investigation of organised crime, please contact us on one of the following:*

FREECALL: 1800 088 225

INTERNATIONAL: 61 2 6209 2965

EMAIL: hotline@crimecommission.gov.au

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USE OF PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS IN PROFESSIONAL SPORT – ASADA

Is this the largest doping scandal uncovered in Australia?

- ASADA is at the very start of its investigation, so it would be inappropriate to label it at this point in time.
- Based on the assessment released by the ACC it would be correct to say that what we potentially face is an investigation that poses a significant threat to the integrity of sport in Australia and Australia's international reputation.

Is the doping problem more widespread than the Essendon Football club / AFL and NRL (media reporting on Wednesday, 6 February about a sports scientist linked to the Essendon Football club and other AFL and NRL clubs).

- No sport is immune to doping.
- A quick look at the sanction table on the ASADA website shows that doping is not limited to one sport.
- Doping will never completely disappear from sport, but this does not mean ASADA should ignore the problem.
- The majority of athletes and support personnel are doing the right thing and ASADA owes it to these true champions to foster a sporting culture that is free from doping.

Who are the athletes and support personnel involved?

- ASADA does not talk or speculate about individuals during an investigation or results management process as Australian legislation ensures that an athlete or support person has their privacy protected while a matter is being reviewed.
- Under the ASADA Act and the NAD scheme, ASADA is authorised to publish information once a matter has been finalised.
- It is important to remember that in all doping cases it is the athlete or support person's reputation and sometimes career that is at stake. So ASADA has a duty to be both thorough and accurate in every step of the process involved.

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Is the use of peptides and other hormone substances in professional sport in Australia a new issue?

- By the ACC's own assessment this is a relatively new market of performance and image enhancing drugs that is significantly more diverse and larger than previously assessed by the ACC.
- The assessment reveals that users include athletes at all levels of competition including elite athletes.

Are high profile players using peptides and other hormone substances more than amateurs?

- The assessment shows that athletes at all levels of competition have been identified as using peptides and hormones.

Is ASADA looking at these substances in sports other than AFL / Essendon Football Club?

- ASADA is committed to thoroughly investigate the sports identified by the ACC for possible anti-doping rule violations.
- If ASADA investigations reveal possible anti-doping rule violations in other sports, ASADA will pursue these matters.

Is the use of these substances widespread?

- By the ACC's own assessment this is a relatively new market of performance and image enhancing drugs that is significantly more diverse and larger than previously assessed by the ACC.
- The assessment reveals that users include athletes at all levels of competition including elite athletes.

How are players/teams getting away with this drug use?

- The announcement today shows that those who are involved in doping will be investigated.
- Doping in sport is becoming increasingly sophisticated.

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- ASADA works hard to stay abreast of scientific advances so that it can target our detection programs towards the identification of doping cheats.
- Developments in the world of anti-doping such as the use of intelligence and investigations, long-term storage of samples and the Athlete Biological Passport are making it harder for the cheaters.

What are the likely penalties for athletes or support personnel who are caught up in this investigation?

- Until ASADA concludes its investigation there is no definitive answer to this question.
- Generally speaking, under the Code, sanctions for violations can range from a warning, to a short suspension, to a lifetime ban.

How long has there been a doping problem in Australian sport?

- We are not going to speculate on what has happened in the past. Asada's focus is to review the current evidence and to progress possible cases of anti-doping rule violations to their natural conclusion.

Do you think codes are doing enough to clean up the sport?

- ASADA is encouraged by the commitment shown by the sporting codes, identified in the ACC assessment, to work with us in the wake of the ACC's assessment.
- To ensure the success of the investigation ASADA needs the cooperation of all sports and their athletes and support personnel.

What action will be taken against players who have been identified as having taken banned peptides and other banned WADA substances?

- ASADA is at the beginning of its investigation and it would be premature to speculate about what action will be taken before the investigation is concluded.
- ASADA works to meet its obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code and we strongly believe that each athlete and support person deserves the right for us to deal with their matter in a fair and impartial way. This treatment also

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extends to the right an athlete or support person has to privacy while their matter is being reviewed.

- ASADA will issue a public announcement about any athlete or support person who has committed an anti-doping rule violation when its legislation permits it to do so.

Short of an admission, what evidence do you need to proceed with an ADRV?

- Determining whether an athlete or support person has committed an anti-doping rule violation is complex; it is open to legal argument within a sporting tribunal, and there are appeal options for all parties.
- Under the World Anti-Doping Code there are eight anti-doping rule violations an athlete or support person can be sanctioned for.
- The first thing to note is that at ASADA we take every potential anti-doping rule violation seriously.
- ASADA knows that in all cases it is the athlete or support person's reputation, and sometimes their career, that is at stake so ASADA has a duty to be both thorough and accurate in every step of the process.

What is 'substantial assistance'?

- Where an athlete, support person or other person acknowledges their mistakes and are willing to bring further anti-doping rule violations to light by other people ASADA can offer 'substantial assistance' under the World Anti-Doping Code.
- The World Anti-Doping Code supports the concept of reduced sentences for athletes and support personnel who voluntarily come forward and provide evidence that leads to the discovery of doping violations by others.

Are you offering athletes and support personnel an amnesty if they come forward?

- ASADA is not offering an amnesty.
- ASADA's primary role is to apply the World Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List in Australia.

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- It is ultimately a decision for WADA to determine if it introduces some form of amnesty.

Will a similar arrangement to the Truth and Reconciliation process established by cycling in the wake of the recent allegations of doping in the sport be considered?

- The recently announced Truth and Reconciliation process for cycling is being applied in cases beyond the existing eight year statute of limitations.
- The focus of this investigation are incidents which are more recent.

What is the scope of the investigation?

- ASADA's investigation includes players and support personnel from the sporting codes identified in the ACC's assessment.

Are you asking players to come forward to talk to you?

- Anyone with knowledge of doping activity in sport can contact us at any time.
- To report suspicious doping activity in sport call the confidential Stamp Out Doping hotline on 13 000 27232 or use the secure online form at www.asada.gov.au

Who have you spoken to already? Who are you going to talk to?

- ASADA will not discuss the specifics of what we have and will be doing as part of the investigation.
- What can be said is given the scope of the ACC findings; ASADA's investigation will be extensive.
- The investigation will take some time, but ASADA has a duty to be both thorough and accurate in its investigation.

Why should athletes or support personnel talk to ASADA?

- To protect the integrity of sport and their livelihoods.
- For professional athletes their sport provides their livelihood. However, when people lose interest in their sport because of ongoing doping scandals, the

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income streams of the codes are put at risk through falling attendances, dwindling sponsorship. Players will face falls in the value of their contracts.

- We have seen the adverse effects on major league baseball in the United States when players and administrators resisted calls to clean up their sport after the doping scandals that occurred in that sport.
- Players, coaches, support staff and administrators should realise that the best course of action is to rid their sport of doping so that the public retain confidence in the integrity of their sport.

How long will investigations into this matter take?

- At this stage it is difficult to say how long the investigation will take.
- What can be said is given the scope of the ACC findings; ASADA's investigation will be extensive.
- The investigation will take time, but ASADA has a duty to be both thorough and accurate in its investigation.

What happens if ASADA finds evidence of an ADRV?

- Generally speaking any doping matter must go through the normal results management process.
- ASADA's role is to conduct the Results Management Process and to present information to the independent Anti-Doping Rule Violation Panel about a potential violation of the Code.
- The independent Anti-Doping Rule Violation Panel is made up of experts in the areas of sports law, clinical pharmacology, ethics and investigations. They assess the information presented to them, including information provided by the athlete or support person, and then make a finding whether it is possible for the athlete or support person to have committed an ADRV.
- The athlete or support person is then given the opportunity to have a hearing before a sports tribunal. It is then up to the individual sport to sanction the athlete or support person.

How common are violations based on investigations?

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- About one-third of all entries of established doping violations on the register of findings result from investigations.
- At ASADA we are constantly improving our techniques and now, more than ever before, doping cheats stand a greater chance of being caught.
- We have managed to redefine anti-doping by building a unique capability integrating traditional testing with the power to investigate possible doping activity.

What is the difference between ASADA's investigation into cycling and this new investigation?

- From an operational point of view there is little difference as both investigations are focused on determining if any potential anti-doping rule violation has occurred in sport.

When will you release the findings of the investigation?

- ASADA's policy is to not talk or speculate about individuals during an investigation or results management process as Australian legislation ensures that an athlete or support person has their privacy protected while a matter is being reviewed.
- Under the ASADA Act and the NAD scheme, ASADA is authorised to publish information once a matter has been finalised.

Does ASADA need more powers to investigate?

- The Government has announced that it intends to introduce legislative amendments to strengthen ASADA's investigation and intelligence capabilities.

Are other countries doing similar investigations?

- ASADA is at the beginning of its investigation and it would be premature to speculate about what will come out of it.
- However, if the investigation points to potential anti-doping rule violations by athletes and support people from other countries, ASADA will share its findings with its international partners.

Will the ACC and ASADA take joint action again the future?

- The ACC and ASADA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2012. The MOU envisages a range of collaboration, some of which already occurs as a function of 'business as usual'.
- The level of cooperation between ASADA and the ACC highlights the success these agreements can achieve and only serves to ensure ongoing collaboration.

How does ASADA work with law enforcement?

- Under its legislation ASADA has a function to conduct comprehensive investigations into allegations of doping in Australian sport.
- We collaborate with law enforcement bodies on performance-enhancing substances as a matter of course.
- We work cooperatively with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Federal Police, as well as state and territory police.
- This vital exchange allows us to carry out investigations into possible violations of anti-doping rules by an athlete or support person.
- We guard closely the specifics of our investigations processes to ensure we maintain our ability to keep a step ahead of the drug cheats.
- However, whenever an athlete or support person has been detected as having connections with performance-enhancing substances – ASADA knows about it, and we are able to act on it.
- Nearly one-third of all entries of doping violations on the register of findings result from investigations.

How does a substance make the World Anti-Doping Agency's prohibited list?

- The Prohibited List is the international standard that outlines the substances and methods that are prohibited in sport. It reflects the latest scientific and medical advances and is finalised after a consultative process facilitated by WADA.

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- Each year an expert panel, convened by WADA, reviews submission from around the world about what should be included or removed from the Prohibited List. The expert panel takes into account the latest in scientific and medical research when reaching their decision.
- WADA also undertakes a consultation process where stakeholders can make submissions suggesting proposed changes to the Prohibited List. The Australian Government makes a submission during this consultation process.
- For a substance or method to be prohibited, it must meet two of the following three conditions:
 1. The substance or method has the potential to enhance, or does enhance performance in sport.
 2. The substance or method has the potential to risk the athlete's health.
 3. The World Anti-Doping Agency has determined that the substance or method violates the spirit of sport. -

Have there been positive tests / Why hasn't any one tested positive?

- Testing methods have been developed to detect the presence of peptides in a sample, but despite our best efforts we will not catch everyone through testing alone.
- ASADA is constantly improving its techniques and now, more than ever, doping cheats are likely to be caught. ASADA has managed to redefine anti-doping by building a unique capability integrating traditional testing with the power to investigate possible doping activity.
- Nearly a third of all established doping violations have resulted from investigations.
- ASADA also has the capability to store selected samples for up to eight years for retesting. Retesting the samples means that if an athlete is using a substance that is not detectable today, it is likely that it will become detectable within eight years with advances in technology.

Does the ACC's involvement signify that ASADA is not effective in addressing these issues alone?

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- ASADA has more than two decades of experience at the forefront of global anti-doping efforts.
- ASADA boasts one of the most fully integrated anti-doping frameworks in the world, and this is being emulated by anti-doping agencies abroad.
- ASADA has managed to redefine anti-doping by building a unique capability integrating traditional testing with a function to investigate possible doping activity. Key to this success has been the relationships ASADA has formed with a number of government and law enforcement agencies.
- What the ACC assessment highlights is that through cooperation and collaboration, our combined agencies responded to a significant national issue that threatened the integrity of sport in Australia and Australia's international reputation.

Did the reductions in funding for ASADA over the last few years (efficiency dividend) mean that these kinds of issues couldn't be detected sooner?

- No.
- ASADA is appropriately funded to carry out its anti-doping business that includes the running of its deterrence, detection and enforcement programs.
- By the ACC's own assessment this is a relatively new market of performance and image enhancing drugs that is significantly more diverse and larger than previously assessed by the ACC.

Does ASADA have enough resources to conduct this extensive investigation?

- Yes. ASADA will use the resources available to it as efficiently and effectively as possible to undertake these investigations.
- The Government will provide funding to double ASADA's investigative capacity to further enhance its capacity to conduct investigations and gather intelligence.

How can people report doping activity in sport to ASADA?

- To report suspicious doping activity in sport anyone can call the confidential Stamp Out Doping hotline on 13 000 27232 or use the secure online form at www.asada.gov.au

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- It doesn't matter how little information someone provides, it could be a piece of a puzzle leading to an action against someone doping.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE - DRALGAS

What is the Government going to do about the findings of Project Aperio?

- The Government is significantly hardening the sporting environment through a comprehensive suite of measures including:
 - We have introduced legislation to strengthen ASADAs legislation so it can investigate more fully these types of matters – and in particular require people of interest to attend interviews, co-operate and provide necessary documents and information.
 - We have significantly increased ASADA's resources to enable them to undertake this work program. We have doubled their investigations unit. ASADA and the codes have agreed an investigations work program – and this work program has started.
 - We will improve the investigatory work program of the National Integrity of Sports Unit, so it can work with codes and other stakeholders in collating information – with a view then to it being referred where necessary to ASADA or law enforcement agencies.
 - We will work with States and Territories to fast-track their match-fixing legislation and implement their commitments under the National Match-fixing Policy.
 - The National Integrity of Sports Unit will work with States and Territories and sports to develop a National Sports Integrity Policy, comprised of four elements all designed to toughen our approach to integrity issues:
 - the National Policy on Match-fixing will be fast tracked, to put in legislative basis for dealing with match-fixing and betting problems;
 - it will develop strategies to address the issues of substance abuse;
 - it will address unethical practices in sports that are beyond doping and the WADA code;
 - it will address issues of probity in commercial and other relationships.

- We will put in place stronger arrangements to refer to relevant agencies instances of inappropriate activity by medical practitioners, pharmacists and other health workers. We will work with sports to ensure greater integrity assurance around personnel working with athletes.

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- the ACC will continue its investigative work in conjunction with ASADA and the National Integrity of Sport Unit.

What is the Government doing to reduce the prevalence of Peptide use in professional sport and amongst the community?

- Under its current legislation ASADA has a function to conduct comprehensive investigations into allegations of doping in Australian sport.
- ASADA collaborates with law enforcement bodies on performance-enhancing substances as a matter of course.
- ASADA works cooperatively with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Federal Police, as well as state and territory police.
- This vital exchange allows ASADA to carry out investigations into possible violations of anti-doping rules by an athlete or support person.
- The Government also recently announced that it intends to introduce legislative amendments to strengthen ASADA's investigation and intelligence capabilities.

How has this happened when we've had a world class anti-doping system in place for many years?

- Doping in sport is becoming increasingly sophisticated and it is becoming increasingly difficult to detect doping through testing alone.
- Today's announcement should not be seen as a failure. Sophisticated and systemic doping linkages have been identified.
- This work has identified doping and further action will be taken to sanction those who have breached the rules.

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- This announcement also provides a clear warning to all sports that they need to be vigilant in the fight against doping.

Are there any clean sports left in Australia?

- The majority of athletes and support personnel are doing the right thing and we owe it to these true champions to foster a sporting culture that is free from doping.
- Unfortunately, there will always be individuals who seek to boost their performance or seek shortcuts in their recovery through the use of prohibited substances.

Does this mean that the Government will reconsider any funding it provides to the codes involved?

- It has been a condition of Government funding for some time that national sporting organisations must implement code-compliant anti-doping policies.
- Sports will have a problem if they treat doping matters as one of mere compliance and do not follow through with implementation and ongoing assessment of doping policies and practices.
- The Government has also recently moved to further protect the integrity of sport by linking funding provided to national sporting organisations to the development of robust anti-match-fixing policies, codes of conduct and education programs.
- The relevant codes have committed to fully support the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and the National Integrity of Sport Unit through the current process and to adequately strengthening their respective anti-doping and anti-corruption strategies, and codes of conduct where required.
- I have full confidence in the codes' willingness to support the current process and will be looking to the codes to ensure that they have put in place any necessary reforms.

Is the problem too big for sports to manage?

- The codes have already demonstrated a strong commitment to tackling integrity issues through the development to date of comprehensive policies, codes of conduct, and education programs around anti-doping and anti-corruption.

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- The Government, through the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and the National Integrity of Sport Unit will continue to work with the codes to ensure that these matters are dealt with appropriately. I believe this partnership approach will deliver the best outcome.
- I would encourage all national sporting codes and organisations to examine the recommendations in the recently released Review of Cycling Australia and the Government's response to ensure that they have best practice policies and structures in place.

Should we legalise doping and control it instead?

- The Government believes strongly in the principle that sport should be clean, fair and well-governed for both participant and spectator alike.
- The Government does not support the legalising of doping in any form. The Government will continue to drive our position at the forefront of the fight against doping and corruption in sport.

Given today's revelations, is the Government now going to consider criminalising doping offenses?

- Anti-doping issues are primarily about upholding the rules of sport and the Government supports the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and sports working together to sanction athletes who breach anti-doping rules.
- Under current arrangements, sports are responsible for imposing sanctions on athletes for anti-doping offences. This reflects the Government's long held belief that "sport should run sport".
- There are already some criminal penalties in place at both the Commonwealth and state level for the production, distribution, importation and sale of some of the substances on the WADA prohibited list. There are also criminal penalties for individuals who provide false and misleading information on anti-doping matters to ASADA.

Will the Government be suggesting to the codes that they consider retrospective action against any teams affected?

- Any sanctions that may be imposed are a matter for the respective codes under their existing anti-doping policies and codes of conduct.

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- Both the codes have demonstrated in the past that they view breaches of their respective codes of conduct around doping as very serious matters and I anticipate that any sanctions imposed will be appropriate.

The Government just finalised the Cycling Review. Given today's revelations are you going to launch similar reviews of these sporting codes?

- The Cycling Review offers valuable findings for all of Australia's national sporting codes and organisations.
- The Government will need to await the outcomes of the current investigative process related to the matters raised in the ACC investigation before considering the need for any further reviews.
- I would certainly encourage all codes to examine the recommendations from the Cycling Review to ensure that their integrity policies are in line with best practice.

What does this do to our international reputation as being a clean sporting nation? Will this affect our bids for major sporting events in the future?

- The current investigation demonstrates the Government's commitment to maintaining our reputation as a world leader in using investigative and intelligence gathering techniques to identify doping cheats.
- The Government, through the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, has one of the most comprehensive anti-doping programs in the world.
- Today's announcement highlights the strength of Australia's anti-doping regime demonstrating the capacity of our agencies to cooperate the deterrence, detection and enforcement of anti-doping rule violations in Australia.
- This investigation demonstrates that our system works.

