

State and Territory Sport Shadow Ministers back Federal Government's drug testing review

Liberal and National Party sport and recreation shadow ministers have supported a review of drug testing protocols initiated by the Federal Government.

Meeting in Canberra with the Federal Sports Minister, Rod Kemp, state and territory shadow ministers supported a review of the range of substances that should be tested and controlled in Australian sport.

The shadow ministers expressed particular concern about the use of caffeine as a stimulant in sport, especially in junior sport.

The Canberra meeting of shadow ministers established a commitment to improve the level of physical activity in schools and in the community generally.

Bruce Atkinson, the Liberal sport and recreation spokesperson for Victoria, said the shadow ministers were concerned about declining physical education and sport in schools and threats to community sport associated with high insurance costs and ever increasing responsibilities for volunteers.

The Canberra meeting between the Senator Kemp and his state and territory counterparts was attended by Hon Bruce Atkinson (Victoria), Hon George Souris (New South Wales), Hon Kevin Lingard (Queensland), Dr Duncan McFetridge (South Australia), Hon Sue Napier (Tasmania), Trevor Sprigg (Western Australia) and Bill Stefaniak (Australian Capital Territory).

The state and territory shadow ministers attended a briefing for the Federal Coalition's Small Business, Tourism, Sports and Arts Committee from the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee.

The group also received a briefing on the Australian Institute of Sport and completed a tour of the institute's facilities.

The briefing with the AIS included discussions on state sports institutes and AIS centres located outside Canberra.