

## **ASADA to Advance the Fight Against Doping:**

**CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT**

“Sport doping cases in Australia should now be processed with the support of greater resources, expertise and independence,” according to Confederation of Australian Sport (CAS) President, Michael Sparks.

CAS has hailed the introduction of the Australian Sports Anti Doping Authority (ASADA) as a major step forward in the fight against drugs in sport in Australia.

“The Confederation congratulates the Minister for Sport, Senator Rod Kemp, for driving this initiative”, said Sparks. “The challenge we face to keep Australian sport free from doping will be significantly enhanced by the expanded roles that ASADA will take on.”

The ASADA Bill which passed through Federal Parliament recently is now being formally established by Senator Kemp prior to the start of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

“We understand that ASADA may take a little time to roll out its new functions but the added responsibilities for investigation and prosecution of doping cases in particular, are important new roles for this authority”, said Sparks.

ASADA is to encompass the previous roles of the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) and the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee (ASDMAC) and include responsibilities of drug education, research and development, investigation and review of doping allegations and prosecution of breaches of anti-doping policy – principally in partnership with national sporting organisations.

“The ASADA model more closely resembles the structure of many overseas national sports anti-doping organisations,” Sparks added. “A challenge will be to ensure the independence of operations between the new functions, but if achieved satisfactorily, Australian sport will be in a stronger position in the fight against drugs in sport.”

“CAS will be happy to work with the new authority (ASADA) to assist national sporting organisations in adapting to any requirements that will result from the new legislation.”

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