

CORRECTED VERSION

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into 2003–04 budget estimates

Melbourne – 19 June 2003

Members

Mr W. R. Baxter
Ms C. M. Campbell
Mr R. W. Clark
Mr L. A. Donnellan
Mr B. Forwood

Ms D. L. Green
Mr J. Merlino
Mr G. K. Rich-Phillips
Ms G. D. Romanes

Chair: Ms C. M. Campbell
Deputy Chair: Mr B. Forwood

Staff

Executive Officer: Ms M. Cornwell

Witnesses

Mr J. Madden, Minister for Sport and Recreation;
Mr T. Healy, Acting Secretary;
Mr S. Mather, Corporate Finance; and
Mr P. Hertan, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Department for Victorian Communities.

The CHAIR — Good morning. I declare open the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings on the budget estimates for the portfolios of Sport and Recreation and Commonwealth Games. I welcome the Honourable Justin Madden, Minister for Sport and Recreation; Mr Terry Healy, acting secretary, Department for Victorian Communities; Mr Peter Hertan, executive director, Sport and Recreation Victoria; Mr Stephen Mather, Corporate Finance, Department for Victorian Communities; departmental officers; members of the public; Hansard; and the media.

All evidence taken by this committee is taken under the provisions of the Parliamentary Committees Act and is protected from judicial review. However, any comments made outside the precincts of the hearing are not protected by parliamentary privilege. All evidence given today is being recorded. Witnesses will be provided with proof versions of their transcripts early next week. Before I call on the minister to give a brief presentation on the more complex financial and performance information that relates to the budget estimates for sport and recreation, I ask that all mobile phones be turned off and pagers be turned to silent.

Minister, you have 25 to 30 minutes allocated for questions after you have made your initial presentation. This overhead presentation will be shorter than the Commonwealth Games one..

Mr MADDEN — Thank you very much, Chair, and thank you, members. You should presently be receiving copies of a series of slides in relation to this overhead, and I will progress with this presentation. Knowing that we have limited time for the sport and recreation portfolio, I will try to move through the overheads fairly rapidly.

Overheads shown.

Mr MADDEN — You will appreciate, no doubt, from previous ministers who have spoken to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee that there was the establishment of the Department for Victorian Communities, and part of that is the portfolio of sport and recreation. We will move on to the next slide.

In terms of some of the key achievements across 2002–03, we have seen the commencement of the MCG redevelopment. The project is on budget and progressing well to meet all milestones. When completed, it will be the premier sporting venue for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and beyond the games. There has been the finalisation of the design for the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre redevelopment, and the commencement of the State Lawn Bowls Centre and training velodrome at the John Cain Reserve in Darebin. As well as that, the event ticketing crowd management legislation was passed for major events to ensure that the public gains fair access to major events and to curb unruly behaviour.

We continue to lead Australia in terms of hosting major events, including having conducted the World Masters Games; attracting record numbers of participants; and conducting annual events such as the Heineken Golf Classic, the World Cup swimming, the Rip Curl pro surfing and the women's world cup cycling. We have recently secured the 2004 world track cycling, the 2005 world gymnastics and the 2005 Deaflympics.

In terms of strategic issues, there are a number there. Our objectives for sport and recreation in Victoria include increasing participation in sport and physical activity; maximising the range and quality of opportunities available; strengthening sporting organisations to deliver programs and services to the community; developing a better understanding of the commercial potential of the industry; researching the benefits for the economy, community and individuals of sport and recreation and ensuring the community is well informed about them; and in particular, building strategic partnerships to make the most of expertise and funding.

The crucial partners there are local government, state sporting associations, regional sports assemblies, and the likes of Tourism Victoria, the Victorian Major Events Company, as well as links with the other state agencies, such as the departments of education, health, et cetera.

Strategic issues is the next slide. The strategic issues also include maintaining Victoria's position as the premier sporting state of Australia by attracting and facilitating world-class events and maximising their tourism potential and their contribution to the state economy; supporting the development of our elite athletes and providing grassroots openings for talented youngsters; and supporting those who reach elite level, as well as building better infrastructure to support community sport and recreation and ensuring a more even spread of sport and recreation opportunities and assets across Victoria, especially for regional Victoria.

Priorities is the next slide. Physical activity is essential to the health and wellbeing of all Victorians, and the government supports a range of programs to help people improve their level of physical activity and fitness, so this

will be a key priority. In the last term of government we released the Active for Life physical activity framework, which demonstrates the promotion that participation in sport and recreation is part of a whole-of-life, whole-of-government approach to promoting health and physical activity.

There are quite a number of priorities, but we as a government will assist local government to increase the quality and range of sport and recreational opportunities through the planned development of aquatic leisure facilities throughout Victoria through the Better Pools program, through the provision of high-quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across the state through our facilities funding program, and also through the upgrading of five residential recreational camps located at Anglesea, Bacchus Marsh, Mount Evelyn, Falls Creek and on the Mornington Peninsula. These camps are accredited under the Australian camping accreditation program, which demonstrates environmentally sustainable practices.

The next slide, priorities — —

The CHAIR — Perhaps we could read those.

Mr MADDEN — Okay. You can see there events and major capital investment into those facilities, in particular again the MCG, the sports and aquatic centre, the State Lawn Bowls Centre, the soccer centre, the training velodrome and Olympic Park. Other priorities include industry development, promoting safety and injury prevention, and promoting the importance of volunteers to sport, but as well as that increasing the participation of women in sport and recreation through programs such as the Active Girls breakfast and additional support for popular women's sport, for netball, women's leadership grants, probity in sport, and safety and risk management.

The next slide is the budget comparison: appropriation in 2002–03, the expected outcome is substantially more expenditure than was originally indicated, and the appropriation for 2003–04 is an even greater increase in terms of investment in sport and recreation. The variation in the expected outcomes is due to the established expenditure provided each year in budget papers for major events, representing the pre-commitments approved by government for the following year at the time the state budget is delivered, and then as a result the estimate is generally well below the final expenditure on those events — I can see that Bill is looking a bit concerned about that — and the events are approved during the course of the year. So basically, those events are approved during the year and then they come on stream in terms of budget funding. So those major — —

Mr FORWOOD — What is the source of the funding?

Mr MADDEN — We can go through the questions on that, Mr Forwood, and I am happy to answer that in some detail.

Mr FORWOOD — Do you know the answer?

Mr MADDEN — I am happy to answer that at the appropriate time. The vast array of major sporting events are delivered within the cap, and I will speak to that at a later date, and the budget 2003–04 shows an increase in the pre-commitment of approved events and funding to the MCG redevelopment.

In our key new initiatives, in particular we will continue to support the promotion of accessible inclusive sport and recreation opportunities within communities. Funding will be provided for local and regional communities to upgrade or establish new sporting facilities across Victoria. Kardinia Park in Geelong will be upgraded to ensure that AFL games continue to be played in Geelong and to provide improved amenity for spectators and local sporting organisations.

Sport and recreation's residential recreation camps will be updated to enable these facilities to meet appropriate regulatory and legislative health and safety requirements, and plans will be advanced for the national ice skating centre in Melbourne. As well as that we have increased events held in regional Victoria, a la the World Hot Air Ballooning Championships, the Commonwealth Youth Games, and the World Deaflympic Games.

The CHAIR — I refer you to slide 5, which deals with maintaining Victoria's recognition as Australia's premier sporting state. Can you advise the committee of the future program for major sporting events, including those in regional Victoria, and the subsequent economic impact for Victoria as a result of hosting these events? This is also referred to in budget paper 3, at page 401.

Mr MADDEN — For many years major event attraction in this state has been significant in terms of attracting additional economic benefits but also enhancing the state's reputation in terms of promoting not only those events in sport in this state but also attracting a significant number of visitors. In 2003 the economic impact of

major events in Victoria was estimated to be in excess of \$956.5 million, which represents 0.5 per cent of the gross state product (GSP). This contribution fluctuates from year to year, depending on the event program and the attraction of the event to interstate and overseas visitors — for example, I understand that an interstate team competing in an AFL final series will increase the economic impact of those particular events throughout the AFL series; and one-off events will have only a single-year impact. So there is a degree of fluctuation allowed for that.

The Victorian Major Events Company has been very successful during 2003 and 2002 in bidding for and securing a number of major events in Victoria. These events include the Women's Road Cycling World Cup, the 2004 IDSF Ten Dance World Championships, the 2005 FIG World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, and the 2006 World Life Saving Championships. Additionally Sport and Recreation Victoria is working with the City of Greater Bendigo to secure the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games. The committee will appreciate that a number of those events are well and truly into future years, and this will help continue to maintain Victoria's reputation for major events.

I understand tourism contributes 5.2 per cent of GSP, and sport and recreation contributes 2 per cent of the GSP, so there is a fairly significant contribution to not only the direct benefits to the respective sports but also the flow-on effects coming out of the attraction from those events. As I mentioned, the total economic impact was \$956.5 million, and this impact was \$95 million greater than was achieved during 2001–02, but appreciating that 2002–03 includes the \$55.6 million for the 2002 World Masters Games and \$22.3 million for the 2002 Global Warning Wrestling Tour, which was also staged that year. So they had fairly significant impact coming out of those events. Particularly significant was the success of no doubt the World Masters Games and the way in which that event was managed and delivered; it exceeded all expectations.

In terms of a number of the other events, we have had a number of events in regional Victoria and the benefits are being reaped accordingly. In 2003–04 several major events will be held in regional Victoria with many of them outside many of the regional centres. The year 2003 will see the World Superbike Championships staged at Phillip Island. That is expected to attract over 50 000 spectators. As well as that we will see the Rip Curl Pro Surfing Classic held in Torquay; this event attracts over 20 000 spectators with an estimated economic impact of \$3 million.

The prestigious World Cup Triathlon will be held in Geelong in November. The Women's Road Cycling World Cup was in Geelong in March. The 2004 World Hot Air Ballooning Championships will be held in Mildura from 26 June to 4 July 2004, and it is expected this will attract 100 competitive and 60 non-competitive balloons from around the world, and of course the appropriate staffing required for those events. That is on top of the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo, with an estimated economic impact of approximately \$6 million for the region and \$5 million to the state, and the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island.

As well there are future events such as the 2006 World Life Saving Championships in Lorne and Geelong, those youth games in 2006 in Bendigo and the 2005 Deaflympics, which will include a major component in Ballarat. That shows that not only are the events continuing to be acquired, rolled out and delivered but that the impact is significant, particularly for regional Victoria as well as for the attraction and enhancement of sport in Victoria, including the regions.

Mr FORWOOD — Who does the calculations, and could you make them available to the committee?

Mr MADDEN — In terms of the economic benefits?

Mr FORWOOD — The \$956 million. I would be interested to look at the formula. I am sure you have the work available, and it would be good for the committee to have a look at it.

Mr MADDEN — Yes, sure, Mr Forwood. Appreciating that there is significant benefit from these events, and in most cases the attraction of the event is determined on the economic impact, not only the kudos and the significance of the event in terms of an international sporting calendar, but appreciating that those events are normally determined in the context of economic benefit, whether it be to the city or the state, and that is considered accordingly I am happy to provide you with any information that I am able to, given the restrictions that might be imposed by contractual agreements or arrangements in relation to the organisations which we enter into arrangements with.

Mr FORWOOD — I certainly do not want stuff that I am not allowed to have, obviously, but if you are making the claim of \$965 million of net benefit to the state, I would like to know how the calculations were made

and who did it. Is it just a figure that Mr Healy dreams up in the department, or have you gone and hired a consultant?

Mr MADDEN — I can give you that information now, if you would like.

Mr FORWOOD — No, put it on notice.

Mr MADDEN — I have that information here, and the benefits are determined by external groups — internationally highly reputable accounting and auditing firms that provide that information.

Mr FORWOOD — Can you give us a list?

Mr MADDEN — I am happy to provide you with the details of those organisations that have provided that information, whether it be KPMG or Ernst and Young or any of those organisations that provide that information so that you can feel comfortable that we are continuing to deliver events and that the substantive work that goes into researching the benefits is on the record.

The CHAIR — Is it true that before the state puts in any of its financial contributions an independent analysis must be done in order to enable the state to assess whether it wishes to make a contribution to an event?

Mr MADDEN — Yes, my understanding is that before any significant financial input into these events, appreciating that in the vast majority of cases these events require us to enter into a sort of competition arrangement to acquire them and often around the world you have other capital cities trying to vie for these events, a substantial amount of work is done in order to determine whether it is appropriate for the government to seek to acquire these events and whether it is in the economic and broader interests to acquire these events. The marketplace is highly competitive. I have been advised that not only is there significant competition in the world for these events — many countries appreciate the benefits that are derived — but there is also a fair degree of national competition with other states. We must appreciate the work that has been done in years past. The expertise here is pretty important, and we do not make those decisions lightly.

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — Minister, I would like to ask you about the machinery-of-government changes. Last week you told the Parliament that not all the changes with respect to forming the Department for Victorian Communities had taken place, and indeed that some of those changes would take effect from 1 July. That was with particular reference to the banking arrangements for the new department and in answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition in that house.

Page 415 of budget paper 3 has the balance sheet for the new department. It shows that \$26.1 million is held in cash reserves. There are two options for that. One is that the departmental secretary has \$26 million sitting in his desk, which I think is unlikely. The other is that there are departmental bank accounts. Is it not a fact the Department for Victorian Communities already has its banking arrangements in place? If that is not the case, where are the banking arrangements for the old department recorded in this year's budget papers?

Mr MADDEN — I welcome that question. Whilst it is certainly appropriate for me to recognise that, it is also a broader issue for the lead minister, Mr Thwaites.

Mr FORWOOD — Ducking already?

Mr MADDEN — I would never duck, Bill. I am too tall to duck, but I might actually defer to one of my colleagues here to give a broader outline of those issues.

Mr MATHER — The cash assets are assets reflected in bank accounts for the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games, which still exists. With the machinery-of-government changes announced in December, the Department for Victorian Communities became the successor-in-law to the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games. Those elements of the department that were previously in the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games are treated as part of the DVC. What you are seeing there is a cash balance previously held by the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games.

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — So what you are saying is that there is a Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games in existence now which is not recorded in these budget papers?

Mr MATHER — The Department for Victorian Communities is the successor-in-law to the Department of Tourism, Sport and —

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — The Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games still exists?

Mr MATHER — The bank accounts still exist.

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — There is no record of that.

Mr MATHER — Yes, that is the record. It is the same organisation legally.

Mr MADDEN — Can I ask that any supplementary questions be directed through me?

Mr FORWOOD — No, you know the rules. Once you flick it to him he is open game, my friend. Open game!

Mr MADDEN — I also know the rules, Bill, that I am the one being interrogated here — —

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — All right, minister.

Mr FORWOOD — No.

Mr MADDEN — And I am happy to defer — —

Mr FORWOOD — If you cannot answer them we are entitled to ask follow-up questions to your officials. You know that

Mr MADDEN — And my understanding, Bill, is that you have to ask them through me and I can refer to him in relation — —

Mr FORWOOD — No. Once you have flicked it, you are done.

The CHAIR — Excuse me, Mr Rich-Phillips, has your particular question been answered to your satisfaction or not?

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — No, it has not been answered.

The CHAIR — Would you have any points of clarification outlined, please?

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — So it is your understanding that both departments — Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games, and Victoria Communities — are currently in existence?

Mr MADDEN — That is correct. My understanding is that there are machinery-of-government changes, which have been indicated here, and come 1 July that those machinery-of-government changes will be completed, and this is an interim arrangement until those are completed.

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — Where is this committee supposed to get an understanding of the financial position of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games if you are saying both departments exist but only one is recorded in the budget papers?

Mr MADDEN — I will defer to one of my colleagues to allow that to be answered.

Mr HEALY — The Department for Victorian Communities is the successor-in-law to the Department for Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games. If you look at the administrative arrangements that is very clear. So when the minister speaks about administrative arrangements you need to go back to the administrative arrangements audit, and that is when the Department for Victorian Communities came into existence as the successor-in law to the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games. The arrangements that are not yet complete are administrative arrangements that are contingent on that, and that is simply — and I think that is what Stephen Mather was saying — that some of the arrangements with respect to how cheques are issued, and I think that is how the issue arose. It was issued on a DTSCG cheque. That simply arises just administratively within the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, a carry forward of their stationery and the arrangements that are in place, but in fact that is going to change on 1 July, so that any cheques that are issued are issued in our name. So you need to go back to the administrative arrangements — —

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — That has actually confused the matter more, because you are suggesting Sport, Tourism and the Commonwealth Games has reverted to Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, and the minister is saying it is — —

The CHAIR — That is not what he said.

Mr HEALY — I am sorry. I did not say that. DVC is the successor-in-law to DTSCG. If you go back and have a look at the administrative arrangements audit, that makes that very clear. It is inevitable when you have administrative arrangements changes that there are some loose ends, if you like, that need to be tied up, including things like stationery. That is really all that this was about. Those cheque arrangements that have had some significant attention over recent weeks in the Parliament will be changed as of 1 July. It has no material impact on how the funds have been disbursed and charged.

The CHAIR — Thank you very much.

Mr RICH-PHILLIPS — The minister's comments that both departments are in existence was incorrect?

Mr HEALY — No, I do not think that was the sense of what the minister was saying at all.

Mr MERLINO — Minister, given that you have referred to the economic and social benefits for Victoria hosting major sporting events, I ask that you advise the committee in more detail of the success of the 2002 World Masters Games.

Mr MADDEN — Again, we need to appreciate that we are delivering the Commonwealth Games and that we have a strong history of major events in this state. The World Masters Games are very significant, not only in terms of attendance and participation but also in signalling that as a state we have the capacity, the expertise, the delivery mechanisms and the venues to deliver world-class multidisciplinary sports events.

In 2002, from 5 to 13 October, we saw the World Masters Games staged in Melbourne and there was also an emphasis on events in regional Victoria. It was the largest multidisciplinary mass participation sporting event ever staged in Australia. The event attracted record numbers which were considerably beyond even the expectation of organisers. I am informed that 24 899 competitors from 97 countries attended, along with 443 officials and 2892 registered accompanying persons. Over 19 000 people travelled to Victoria for the games with an estimated 8900 travelling from overseas.

The economic impact of the games as estimated by Ernst and Young was \$55 million for Victoria and \$69 million for Australia. This was some \$20 million above the net economic benefit estimated at the time the games were won for Victoria. Regional Victoria also significantly benefited from the games. Ballarat hosted rowing and Bendigo hosted orienteering and full-bore shooting. Geelong hosted baseball and triathlon events. Nagambie hosted the canoeing. The games brought together veteran and masters athletes aged from 25 to 99 years and comprised 26 sports. The most popular sports were athletics, with 2532 participants; basketball with 2250 in 244 teams; softball, with 2143 in 146 teams; 1750 swimmers; and 1408 cyclists.

So you can see that the World Master Games were a resounding success. That reflects on the state's capacity and the expertise, particularly from the volunteers not only who helped in terms of the operation of the event, but also reflects on the capacity of each of the state's sporting associations who were able to bring together their own volunteer base and their own expertise to work together in conjunction with the World Masters Games organising committee and the state government to make sure we had a word-class and an outstanding event which was well received by the visitors who were here. At the closing ceremony many people were not only enthusiastic about the World Masters Games model but also the prospect of returning to Melbourne based on their extremely positive experience of the games in Melbourne.

That reflects well on the capacity of the state's sporting associations particularly in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games, which we will speak to later this morning. The expertise within the industry and the sector, combined with the expertise within government, reflects well on our ability to deliver events of that magnitude and puts us well and truly in the box seat for other events, having seen the value we added to the brand of the World Masters Games. Those who are involved in major events across the world will see that positively and appreciate that Melbourne delivers major sporting events probably better than anywhere else in the world. That in its own right, regardless of the competition, will put us in the box seat to attract further major events well into the future.

Mr FORWOOD — I want to follow the same theme. Minister, you would be aware that the Australian Open Golf Championship is scheduled to be held at Moonah Links in November this year. Have you been informed of any possible delays in the preparation of the course, the grandstand or the facilities? Has the government been approached to provide any kind of financial assistance to assist with the preparations or conduct of that event?

Mr MADDEN — I am advised that the Victorian Major Events Company is currently in discussions with the event organiser to see if there is a positive arrangement that might be considered in relation to the role of VMEC in adding value to that event, either now or potentially into the future.

Mr FORWOOD — How much do they want?

Mr MADDEN — I am not aware of any financial contribution at this stage. More often than not with these events it is the assistance in terms of expertise, networking prospects and adding the imprimatur of government that can also enhance the standing and marketability of the event. Mr Forwood would appreciate that any major sporting event is driven on the financial revenues that are often drawn from potential sponsorship and sponsorship attraction, and often if the government is involved in one form or another, either in terms of expertise, advice or branding, that can reflect positively on the event and the potential to not only market the event but to attract sponsorship. Some of those elements can be the keys to event delivery, and I understand the Victorian Major Events Company is in discussion with the event promoter at this stage.

Mr FORWOOD — How do the people of Victoria get involved in understanding what is happening? I understand the major events company plans events a long way out; it goes out and attracts them. We now have a situation where this golf tournament has been scheduled for Moonah Links for a long time and at the last minute there seem to be negotiations between the government and the organisers of the golf tournament. I think the people of Victoria are entitled to know what is going on, what the approach has been, and whether public funds are going to be used in this type of situation as opposed to the one you outlined before where you do a calculation of economic benefit and you compete around the world to attract someone here. It seems to me to be an entirely different situation.

The CHAIR — Thank you for the commentary. In terms of questions, the minister is responsible for his portfolio.

Mr FORWOOD — His portfolio is sport and recreation, and this is a sporting event.

The CHAIR — The minister has outlined that there is discussion occurring at the moment.

Mr FORWOOD — Why don't you let the minister answer the question?

The CHAIR — Minister, is there anything more you wish to add?

Mr MADDEN — The only thing I can add is that Bill would appreciate that in that part of Victoria there are some major attractors, particularly in relation to golf, and I know he is a great golf player on his own reckoning.

Mr FORWOOD — Not my reckoning!

Mr MADDEN — There are opportunities to promote the region and also to promote health and recreational opportunities in that region, and that sits mainly outside my portfolio. That is also part of the branding strategy which the VMEC is considering.

Mr FORWOOD — When will we know how much money?

Mr MADDEN — I understand that once those negotiations are completed there may or may not be announcements. All I can say at this stage is that there are negotiations under way. If there are announcements to be made I am sure Mr Forwood will be the first to know.

Mr FORWOOD — Where are the funds to come from?

The CHAIR — Mr Donnellan.

Mr DONNELLAN — In the 2003–04 budget there is reference to \$1.2 million over four years for women in sport packages. Can you advise on these and other initiatives that aim to increase the participation by females in sport and physical activity?

Mr MADDEN — Members of the committee would appreciate that on many occasions I have made very positive announcements in relation to women in sport. Our government supports a range of initiatives designed to increase participation in sport and recreation of all Victorians. This has a particularly strong focus and commitment on women in Victoria, including women of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and all levels of abilities in a wide range of sports.

The government recognises the significant contributions women make within their communities through recreation and sport and is investing in women and girls from diverse backgrounds to enhance their involvement in all levels of sport and recreation organisations. We have committed \$1.2 million over four years to encourage female participation in sport. The three sports in particular that we will focus on across this term in government in relation to women's funding are soccer, basketball and cricket, and they will share in funding which aims to support the full involvement and inclusion of females at all levels within sports.

Importantly this focus is not on women just being involved as sports participants, but it is also directed at promoting women in decision-making and leadership roles. Research indicates that women are underrepresented in all aspects of decision-making and management roles within the sport and recreation industry, and this includes paid and voluntary workers in sports administration, coaching, officiating, and on boards and committees. The government is committed to addressing the lack of information on women in sport as leaders and to promoting opportunities for women to develop professional and leadership skills that will make a difference to the community and to sport. As part of that commitment we have developed key initiatives that will enhance the uptake of women in leadership roles in the sport and recreation industry.

On 4 March I had the pleasure of presenting grants valued at up to \$3000 each to 12 women from a diverse range of sports. They will use these grants to pursue professional development and up-skilling in either sports management or coaching. Some of the sports represented by the grant recipients include athletics, fencing, gymnastics, kayaking, disabled winter sports and shooting. Administrators from the Waverley Netball Centre, the Ballarat Regional Sports Assembly and the university sports association will use their grants to undertake sports management development. These sports leadership grants add to other initiatives of the Bracks government designed to encourage female participation in sport and recreation as sports players as well as leaders and administrators.

The women in sport and recreation research package also has funding over three years committed to supporting the involvement of women and girls in active recreation through community partnership that helps address the fear of injury, and a project awaiting a federal grant that will examine the combination of strategies that will be most effective in promoting cycling to women. An annual allocation of \$40 000 is made to the Active Girls program, sportswomen in the media and other related activities. Earlier this year I presented the Active Girls award at the Leader newspaper group Sports Star of the Year award.

Mr FORWOOD — Why don't you just table the paper?

Mr MADDEN — The Active Girls award enhances the local media profile of women and girls in sport. The award consists of placing emerging athletes in a program that assists them in developing their potential to become elite athletes and also their profile and what that means.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Mr BAXTER — I am still trying to come to grips with the mysteries of budget accounting under this government. Minister, in question time on the last day of sitting, in answer to a question from the Mr Mitchell, you announced a series of grants from the community facilities funding program, one of which was \$300 000 for the relocation of the Wodonga Diamonds soccer club. Bearing in mind that relocation is consequent upon the relocation of the Melbourne–Sydney railway which is being funded by the state government and — principally — by the federal government, why would that relocation not be expensed from that funding rather than from your hard-pressed community fund for sports facilities?

Mr MADDEN — Thank you very much, Mr Baxter. You would appreciate that the community facilities funding program is about partnerships. In particular the partnerships which we form as a government relate to the relevant or associated sporting organisations but also to local governments. That is important for a number of

reasons. It means that sports organisations are involved in the delivery, as are local councils, not only of funds to them for the facility but also in particular they have ownership of the project. Rather than just say, 'This is a project that you should have', or, 'We expect you to have a facility of this nature', these projects are developed from the grassroots up. They are determined in conjunction with normally some strategic arrangements with local government on what their vision for sport in the region is. Those relevant sporting associations work very hard at raising funds no doubt but also at securing support from their committees, volunteers, supporters and participants to take ownership of the project and help deliver it.

Mr FORWOOD — Help is on the way.

Mr MADDEN — We also are eager, as I mentioned, that this is not a project just determined by the state government; that it is one of ownership and partnership. At the end of the day what we see coming out of projects like these, because of the strong sense of involvement and commitment by the community and the active engagement of local government, is enormous community building — community benefit. That is why sport and recreation is a significant component in the Department for Victorian Communities.

The models that we use and have used for many years are particularly well received by the state sporting associations, the peak bodies in relation to sport and by local government. They are very positive about the relationships we form and the way in which we fund these projects. In particular they are a high priority for local government, particularly the larger projects as well as the smaller ones — and particularly pools, Bill. You would appreciate that pool funding, which was originally instigated under the Kennett government and has been increased and maintained under this government, has ensured that the provision of facilities like community pools is a key enhancer of local communities. Those facilities really strengthen those communities. They give them a high sense of morale and are very positive.

Mr BAXTER — If I had been in the house I might have called a point of order over the relevance to the question. Minister, all that means, as good as it might be, is that your department will be reimbursed the \$300 000 from the funding that has been made available to relocate the railway line so that you then have \$300 000 to allocate to other worthy projects that are not being necessitated by some other government program.

Mr MADDEN — Thanks, Mr Baxter. You probably need to appreciate the strategic nature of the facilities funding as well. It is not about — —

Mr FORWOOD — Come on.

Mr MADDEN — It is not about the replacement, Bill, of like for like. It is not about replacing old golf clubs with new, as you might like, Bill, but it is about actually being strategic in trying to get community groups to think about how they bring these facilities together. What you see in terms of the redevelopment of any of these sporting facilities is a high emphasis on inclusiveness. That inclusiveness relates to women, families and disability.

The CHAIR — If we could have some comment in relation to the question and the supplementary, then we will be able to move on to the Commonwealth Games.

Mr BAXTER — I accept that the relocation will give them a much better facility and that part of the \$300 000 may go to that sort of upgrade, but will you be getting any reimbursement from the railway relocation project for this \$300 000?

Mr MADDEN — I think again, Bill, you fail to understand the strategic nature of the fund. Councils apply for those projects. We do not tell them they should apply. Local councils apply for them because they deem them necessary in terms of their strategic plan, and hence if they are a high priority for those local governments, which this was, and they put together the strategic work — —

Mr BAXTER — We cannot shift the railway line unless we shift the soccer ground.

Mr MADDEN — That strategic work and the value added to the community by relocating and enhancing the facility is exactly the sort of strategic outcomes that we seek as a department, Bill.

Mr BAXTER — I do not mind if the answer to the question is, 'No, you're not going to get any dough'. I am just trying to find what is the answer.

Mr MADDEN — Again, Mr Baxter, I do not fund trains; if you do not understand the sport portfolio, I fund sport.

The CHAIR — I thank the minister and his advisers for their attendance for the sport and recreation portfolio. We do appreciate your attendance. We will now do a rapid turnover for the Commonwealth Games.

Mr MADDEN — Thank you very much, Chair. Can I thank those members of the committee who may be leaving us at this time. Normally at the end of all Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings I like to thank the members for their continued hard work. On this occasion, for those who may not be staying with us for the Commonwealth Games presentation, I would like to thank them for their continued involvement in this committee.

Witnesses withdrew.