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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

13 September 1984

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE HON. J.J. BROWN,  
MINISTER FOR SPORT, RECREATION AND TOURISM

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The Australian Sports Commission, which will hold its first meeting today, will bring a new focus to sports funding and development.

While Federal Governments over the past decade have been involved in sports development, their efforts have suffered from fragmentation, erratic funding and lack of consultation with sports bodies.

The ASC will be responsible for overseeing the allocation of funds to national sporting associations.

It will also help to develop and implement more imaginative and effective sports policies and programs.

The Government expects the Commission to achieve two fundamental objectives.

First, it will increase the level of direct input by the sporting community to the process of defining needs and priorities.

Second, it will have the flexibility and autonomy required to generate additional funds from the private sector, through a Sports Aid Foundation, to supplement funds from the Federal Budget.

The Foundation will aim to attract additional, private sector resources that can be used to support sports development programs that will benefit all levels of Australian sport, including assistance to Australia's high performance athletes.

The Foundation will provide Australian sport with a valuable extra source of funds to complement Federal Government spending.

Sport is a vital element in the life of the vast majority of Australians.

It has been an integral part of our growth and development as a nation.

Because of our increasingly competitive and technologically sophisticated environment it will become more important than ever as a way of celebrating and reinforcing a sense of national identity.

Sport will continue to make a direct and positive contribution to individual health, fitness and well being.

It is essential to have a flexible, effective mechanism that will allow Australia to develop its national sporting potential from the community participation level to the provision of assistance to high performance athletes.

The Australian Sports Commission will be an essential part of that task.

The Commission will operate as an advisory body to the Government pending legislation to establish it as a statutory authority.

The first Chairman of the ASC will be Mr Ted Harris, Chief Executive and Managing Director of Ampol, who was Chairman of the Interim Committee which prepared a number of recommendations for the Government on the role, structure and functions of the proposed Commission.

There will be another 20 Commissioners.

The Sports Commission will be run on a day-to-day basis by an executive staff based in Canberra.

Mr Greg Hartung has been appointed as General Manager of the ASC, and Mr Perry Crosswhite and Ms Libby Darlison have been appointed as Assistant General Managers.

Initially, the staff of the Commission will consist of officers transferred from the Sport and Recreation Division of the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism.

## AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

**Ted Harris (Chairman):** Chief Executive and Managing Director, Ampol Ltd, Mr Harris was chairman of the Interim Committee which reported to the Government on the role of the proposed Australian Sports Commission.

**Herb Elliott (Deputy Chairman):** Successful businessman and former world champion athlete, a gold medallist in the 1500m at the 1960 Olympics and never beaten over the 1500m or mile distances in competition. Mr Elliott was also on the Interim Committee and is a former member of the Sports Advisory Council.

**Bruce MacDonald:** Secretary of the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism and a member of the Board of Management of the Australian Institute of Sport.

**Mike Fitzpatrick:** As captain of Carlton Australian Rules team he took the club to two VFL Premierships. Mr Fitzpatrick was a Rhodes Scholar and was a member of the Interim Committee of the ASC.

**Roy Masters:** A leading rugby league coach with Sydney clubs Western Suburbs and St George. Mr Masters is a school teacher and has written a number of articles on sports psychology as well as being a guest writer for the Sydney Sun newspaper.

**John Newman:** President of the Australian Karate-Do organisation and a member of the executive of the Confederation of Australian Sport.

**Mark Tonelli:** A successful businessman and sports commentator, Mr Tonelli was a gold medallist at the Moscow Olympics as a member of the 4x100m medley relay team. He also won a gold medal at the 1974 Commonwealth Games.

**Colin Hayes:** A leading horse trainer in South Australia for more than 30 years, Mr Hayes has won about 20 South Australian premierships as well as training the winners of many prestigious races, including the Melbourne Cup. He administers an extensive breeding/training complex at Lindsay Park in South Australia.

**Phil Coles:** A leading canoeist for many years, Mr Coles represented Australia at three Olympic Games and has been an official at four others. He was team manager at the Moscow Olympics, is a member of the IOC and an executive member of the Australian Olympic Federation as well as Secretary of the NSW AOF.

**Glynis Nunn:** Olympic and Commonwealth Games gold medallist in the heptathlon, Ms Nunn is a physical education teacher. She is one of Australia's leading long jumpers and hurdlers.

**Grant Kenny:** Winner of the Australian men's open iron man title on four occasions, a member of the Australian team in the World life saving championships and a bronze medallist in the recent Los Angeles Olympics in the K2 1000m canoe race.

**Vicki Cardwell:** A top squash player for some years, Ms Cardwell has won the World Open Women's Squash Championships three times and the Australian title on numerous occasions. She is a national selector and recently retired from overseas competition.

**Ray Lindwall:** One of Australia's most successful fast bowlers between 1946 and 1959, Mr Lindwall played for Australia on many occasions. He became a national selector and was also a State representative rugby league player.

**Pat Clohessy:** One of Australia's most experienced athletic coaches, Mr Clohessy specialises in middle and long-distance events. He has been coach to Robert de Castella for some time and is currently the distance coach at the Australian Institute of Sport.

**Neale Fraser:** Captain of the Australian Davis Cup team since 1970, Mr Fraser was an outstanding player having won the Wimbledon singles title in 1960 as well as the US singles title in both 1959 and 1960. He was a Davis Cup player between 1958 and 1963.

**Alan Bond:** A successful businessman, Chairman of the Bond Corporation, Mr Bond headed the syndicate which successfully challenged for the America's Cup in 1984. He represented Australia in the Admiral's Cup.

**Betty Cuthbert:** A champion athlete, Ms Cuthbert won three gold medals at the 1956 Olympics and followed this with another gold medal in the 1964 Olympics. She became the first woman appointed as a trustee of the Sydney Cricket Ground.

**Wendy Pritchard:** A former international hockey player, Mrs Pritchard represented Western Australia for many years and played for Australia on many occasions. She took part in overseas tours with the Australian team in 1967, 1970, 1971 and 1979.

**Andrew Lederer:** A successful businessman, now semi-retired, Mr Lederer has been Chairman of Sydney City Soccer Club for 15 years. He is currently team manager to the Australian National team.

**Jim Yates:** A leading bowls player for 19 years, Mr Yates is a life member and former President of Moreland Bowls Club and is currently club coach at the Moonee Ponds Bowls Club. He won the Australian singles title in 1979 and the Adelaide Masters singles title in 1983 and 1984.

**Margaret Pewtress:** A former President of the All-Australian Netball Association, Mrs Pewtress has been involved in the administration and coaching of netball for many years. She was also an All-Australian Netball Umpire and a member of the Victorian Netball Association. She is currently a teacher at Box Hill Technical School.