

Royal Commission Statement
Australian Paralympic Committee
March 2016

Background

1. The APC helps Australians with disabilities participate in sport and compete at the Paralympic Games through partnerships with governments, business, sporting bodies and the community.

APC Structure

2. The APC:
 - a. is a company limited by guarantee.
 - b. is a not-for-profit organisation and is a registered charity.
 - c. is governed by a Board of Directors which sets the APC's strategic direction and policies. The Board has been chaired by APC President Mr Glenn Tasker since 2013.
 - d. has 20 full-time and 4 part-time staff across its four business divisions. The APC Head Office is at Sydney Olympic Park, with offices also situated in Melbourne and Adelaide.

APC Divisions:

3. The APC has the following divisions:
 - a. Paralympic Performance
 - b. Commercial
 - c. Finance
 - d. Communications

APC role internationally

4. The APC is the Australian member of the International Paralympic Committee and thus the recognised National Paralympic Committee for Australia. The APC is authorised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to enter duly qualified and eligible athletes into the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games.

APC role nationally

5. The APC has a membership including National Sporting Federations ("NFs" or "National Federations") and National and State Sporting Organisations for the Disabled.
6. APC Member Organisations
 - a. Athletics Australia
 - b. Australian Blind Sports Federation
 - c. Australian Shooting International Limited
 - d. Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with an Intellectual Disability
 - e. Basketball Australia

- f. Australian Sports Organisation for the Disabled
- g. Cerebral Palsy – Australian Sport and Recreation Federation
- h. Cycling Australia
- i. Disabled WinterSport Australia
- j. Disability Sport Australia
- k. Equestrian Australia
- l. Football Federation Australia
- m. Rowing Australia
- n. Swimming Australia
- o. Table Tennis Australia
- p. Tennis Australia
- q. Yachting Australia

APC Key Programs

7. The APC is responsible for preparing the Australian Paralympic Summer and Winter Teams for the Paralympic Games, which we have done successfully since the APC (including forerunner organisations) was created in 1990.
8. Australia has participated at every Summer and Winter Paralympic Games since the first Summer Games in 1960 and the first Winter Games in 1976.
9. The APC manages the High Performance Programs for the following three sports: Boccia, Goalball & Wheelchair Rugby and manages these sports both at a Games and between Games. In managing these Programs, the APC employs members of the coaching and performance service staff for Wheelchair Rugby in a full and part time capacity, and manages the day to day operations of each program.
10. In the time the APC has managed the sports listed above, there have never been any Children participating in these programs.
11. The athletes for the other disciplines included in the Paralympic Games are managed by the relevant National Federation.
12. As a result, the APC is only directly responsible for Children for a 10 – 20 day period every 2 years during the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games.
13. The Australian Paralympic Team is made up of athletes with the following impairment types:
 - a. Physical Impairment
 - b. Intellectual Impairment
 - c. Vision Impairment
14. Depending on the degree to which athletes on the team are impacted by their impairment, the APC is awarded accreditations by the local organising committee to ensure that adequate carers are provided to those who require individual assistance.
15. Carers are identified and nominated to the Australian Paralympic Committee by the NFs and will be required, as are all Australian Paralympic Team Officials, to have a current "Working with Children" Check in order to maintain their membership of the Team.

16. The role of a carer is to attend to the daily personal needs of athletes whose impairment requires additional support. They generally stay in the same room as the athlete for the duration of the Games.

Policies

17. The APC has the following policies which are relevant to this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Member Protection | Commission Exhibit [A] |
| Child Protection | Commission Exhibit [B] |
| Disciplinary Hearings and Appeals | Commission Exhibit [C] |
| Grievance Resolution | Commission Exhibit [D] |

18. These policies, provided on 11 March 2016, contain small edits to policies which exist on that date but these versions are expected to be approved by the Board of the APC in March 2016.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Relationships

- a) The APC's relationship with the AOC is a fraternal one whereby each organisation works in parallel to ensure a team is prepared for their respective Games. There is crossover inasmuch as a number of National Federations are responsible for preparing athletes for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- b) The AIS is a service provider to the APC to assist in the with delivery of the Games Team including but not limited to Sports Science, Sports Medicine, personnel support and grants for targeted projects and as such we have not interacted with respect to child protection.
- c) As a recipient of funding through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) the APC are bound to have Member Protection and related polices in place. As far as we are aware, the APC's member organisations including the National Federations and National Sports Organisations for the Disabled are also bound by ASC policy requirements but are not directly involved in the development of APC policies.
- d) None

2. Policies

- a) See Ex B paragraph 3 and 8.
- b) Ex B paragraph 10.11. Ex D is unlikely to be relevant in cases of child sexual abuse.
- c) Ex B paragraph 10.11, 16.1 and Attachment 2; Ex C.
- d) Ex B 10.11 and Attachment 2.

- e) Ex B Attachment 2 (step 3). The Rio Team will include a Team Psychologist who is an AIS employee with specific expertise in counselling services who will be available to assist should the need arise.
 - f) Following an investigation the Chef de Mission will notify the relevant National Federation.
 - g) the APC routinely keeps its documents for 7 years although in some cases they will be kept for a longer period.
3. All APC policies are available on the APC website at www.paralympic.org.au and are sent to all National Federations and members of the Australian Paralympic Team (once selections have been finalised)

4.

- i. All officials (including carers or any other team member who is not an athlete) nominated to the Australian Paralympic Team are required to complete a "Working with Children" Check (relevant to their state of residence and or primary place of work) and to provide evidence of this check before being formally selected to the Team by the APC Board.
- ii. The APC has three members of staff (all of whom have roles on the Rio Australian Paralympic Team) who have completed the ASC funded "Play by the Rules" Member Protection Officer Training Workshop (completed in October 2015)

5.

- i. The APC is acutely conscious of its responsibility to safeguard the wellbeing of all athletes including Children whilst they are under our care as members of the Australian Paralympic Team. We have no direct involvement in grass roots Paralympic Sport but expect our member organisations are compliant with ASC policies regarding Child Protection. The APC will monitor and review any recommendations by the Royal Commission and other bodies to ensure that the APC are at the forefront of Child Protection.
- ii. As a National organisation, the lack of a uniform national Working with Children Check is an issue for the APC.
- iii. Given that our Team travels internationally, we see little impact of State based regulation.

11 March 2016