

Doping Still A Threat To Australian Sport

Australia's crime fighters have remarked that the controversial drugs in sport report has been vindicated by record seizures of performance enhancing drugs. The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) has revealed that imports of banned drugs into Australia have dropped since the release of its [drugs in sport](#) report.

The [Australian Crime Commission](#) was criticized for a lack of specifics when it released a report as many clubs and individuals complained all sportspeople were tainted by the finding that performance enhancing drugs in sport were widespread and linked with organized crime. However, Justice Minister Jason Clare says fresh figures released in the ACC's illicit drugs report show the sport report was justified. The report said the high profit illegal industry was thriving and the number of detections for performance and image enhancing drugs was 8726 in 2011/12, a rise from 5561 the year before. Clare remarked when the (drugs in sport) report was released earlier this year we made the point that there had been something like a 200 per cent increase in the importation of some performance and image enhancing drugs and we have seen a drop in importations interestingly in the last few months, which shows the impact of the release of that report only a few months ago.

The comments came as six rugby league players were banned for drug use for a period of two years. Four of the players - Matthew Lennon and Matthew Tailford (Sandgate Brighton Gaters) and Johnathon Matters and Jarrod Knox (Aspley) - all gave positive tests after playing in the QRL Brisbane second division grand final at Langlands Park on September 8 while the others were Andrew Zaro (Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles, tested on August 26) and Benjamin Morgan (James Cook University Saints, tested on September 16). All the six lower grade Queensland rugby league players tested positive in August or September last year to methylhexaneamine, a stimulant banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Clare said these are drugs which are dangerous and the athletes that have been banned in Queensland for the use of performance enhancing drugs were using a drug which has the potential to kill people and added that we have seen an example of that last year in the London marathon. Meanwhile, ACC chief executive John Lawler said doping remained a threat to Australian sport.

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) warned the stimulant, found in some supplements, posed big health risks that people may not be aware of. Since August 1, 2012, Methylhexaneamine - also called DMAA, dimethylamylamine or 1,3-dimethylpentylamine - has

been listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's poisons standard. ASADA said the purpose of this was to prohibit the sale, supply or use of this substance because of its known potential harm to human health and added ASADA encourages any athlete who may still have products containing methylhexaneamine purchased prior to 1 August 2012, to dispose of these accordingly. It issued a warning on its website that since 2010 athletes had been banned from using the following methylhexaneamine-containing supplements - Jack3d, White Lightning, Hemo Rage, OxyELITE Pro and Thermo Jet.