

Essendon Player Were Used As Guinea Pigs

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) is presently investigating whether Bombers players were a part of a virtual clinical trial of the banned substance AOD-9604, which is not approved for human use.

Meanwhile, Essendon admitted that they would not know the complete extent of what all happened at the AFL club during their controversial supplements program until the anti-doping investigation of ASADA is completed. It would be deeply distressing and disturbing if shocking allegations that their players were used as guinea pigs for the [anti-obesity drug](#) AOD-9604 were found to be correct, the Bombers say.

The AFL club said the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority is probing if some players were put on the banned drug and their performance is measured against players who were not using it. In a statement, Essendon said the club has no knowledge of any clinical trial and, if this is found to be true, it is deeply distressing and disturbing, and goes to the heart of what may have been perpetrated at our club. It was further revealed through the statement that there is information that Essendon still do not have as a club and it is looking to the ASADA investigation to uncover the full extent of what happened at the club.

Meanwhile, Essendon skipper Jobe Watson admits he believes he was administered AOD-9604 last year and said it was cleared for his use by club medical staff. According to reports, players including Watson were given the banned anti-obesity drug at a volume and frequency far exceeding that of clinical trials.

A source familiar with the ASADA inquiry remarked that the World Anti-Doping Agency is shocked by some of the substances going around Essendon and some of the NRL clubs and some of those drugs had not been thought of in a sporting context before. It was also remarked that we've got a playing generation of guinea pigs.

AFL deputy chief executive officer Gillon McLachlan said the AFL will not comment on claims and speculation related to the case out of respect for the ongoing ASADA-AFL investigation. McLachlan added that we understand the intense interest in the matter, but the integrity of the process must be respected and urged everyone to remain patient and to allow the investigators to do their work and to reach their conclusions based on all the evidence available.

In another development, a new legislation ([Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment Bill 2013](#)) has been passed that provides new powers to the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) to compel individuals to assist ASADA's investigations. The legislation was drafted on the recommendation of esteemed Judge James Wood following the review into Cycling Australia, said former Minister for Sport, Senator Kate Lundy.

Senator Lundy said doping has no place in sport and it is incumbent on the Government to provide ASADA with the right tools to investigate allegations of doping and added that this legislation won't force individuals to self-incriminate in interviews, interviewees will now have to produce documents,

materials and things relating to anti-doping investigations and the legislation will also force those people who work with athletes at the fringes, but not directly employed by clubs, to attend ASADA interviews.