



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians
Minister for Youth and Sport

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Government invests \$50.6 million to back our athletes

The Australian Government is backing high performing athletes by investing \$50.6 million over the next two years to ensure Australia remains a world-leading sporting nation.

Minister for Youth and Sport, Senator Richard Colbeck, said the Government is committed to helping Australia's sporting sector impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“With the Tokyo 2020 Games rescheduled to 2021, the Olympics and Paralympics are likely to be one of the first major international sporting events to take place following the COVID-19 pandemic, with Australian athletes set to inspire the next generation of athletes,” Minister Colbeck said.

“This funding will support our Olympic and Paralympic athletes and coaches as they prepare for Tokyo, as well as the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.”

Australian Sports Commission (ASC) Chair John Wylie said it was fantastic news for Australian sport.

“The ASC and the AIS have been working hard to assist our sport partners through these challenging times, so this news is a huge boost for the athletes returning to training who, despite the obstacles, remain resolutely focused on achieving their dreams and making our country proud at the pinnacle of world sport,” Mr Wylie said.

AOC President John Coates AC also welcomed the funding.

“This is the certainty that our Olympic athletes and sports were looking for as they pick up the pandemic pieces and resume training for the Tokyo Games next year,” Mr Coates said.

Paralympics Australia President Jock O’Callaghan said: “We are grateful for the Federal Government’s ongoing commitment to high performance sport which has been underlined by this important announcement today.

“This new investment will enable our aspiring Paralympians to continue their preparations for Tokyo, Beijing and Birmingham with confidence and assurance.”

Commonwealth Games Australia President Ben Houston applauded the Government's decision.

"This funding provides certainty for our member sports, many of whom are facing significant challenges," Mr Houston said. "It's also a huge boost for our athletes.

"With the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and Commonwealth Games now back-to-back in 2021 and 2022, this funding will allow sports to ensure the best possible preparation for our teams in Tokyo and then Birmingham."

Minister Colbeck said the measure ensures core funding for our athletes and coaches is maintained at record levels and builds on the Morrison Government's recent investments to support athlete wellbeing and pathways for young aspiring Olympians and Paralympians.

"The Australian Institute of Sport will distribute the high performance grants to our national sporting organisations who will identify, train and develop their most promising athletes," Minister Colbeck said.

"The Government is aware many national sporting organisations have had to stand down staff and reduce their hours because of COVID-19.

"Without this investment to high performance funding, there is a significant risk our best coaches and high performance support staff will face an uncertain future."

Additionally, as part of the previously announced \$70 million *Supporting Sport and Physical Activity* election commitment, Minister Colbeck said more than \$3.9 million will be brought forward to invest in five projects to improve infrastructure at high performance facilities across Australia.

It forms a part of the \$11.5 million to support infrastructure upgrades at high-performance facilities.

"One of these recipients will be the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia, which will receive \$800,000 to improve training equipment available for aerial skiing and snowboarding," Minister Colbeck said.

Other recipients include Swimming Australia which receives \$725,000 to equip at least one pool in each state with the latest technology, including cameras and instrumented turning plates and Paddle Australia which will benefit from an allocation of \$1.25 million to improve its high performance facilities.

Minister Colbeck said the investments support the Australian Government's Sport 2030 objective of backing our best athletes, coaches and sporting bodies to develop a high-performance culture.

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