

# SENATOR JANET RICE

Greens Senator for Victoria



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Mr Grant Hehir  
Auditor-General  
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Via email: [grant.hehir@anao.gov.au](mailto:grant.hehir@anao.gov.au)

7 February 2020

Dear Mr Hehir

Re: Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream Program

We refer to recent media reports in relation to the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream Program ("[Coalition quietly spent another \\$150m sports grant fund during election campaign](#)", Guardian, 7 February 2020).

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities [Portfolio Budget Statement 2019-20](#) indicates that the stream was a component of the Community Sport Infrastructure program (Table 2.3.2, p. 47), with funding of \$150m allocated over four years. However recent statements by the Government indicate that the program was not open to grants, with projects selected as election commitments.

Media reports similarly indicate that funding through the program were allocated predominantly on a political basis, rather than using a merit-based approach. In particular, it appears that a number of significant announcements were made during the election period.

Community-based sporting clubs and associations are an integral part of our society, and the integrity of sport should be encouraged by sound and transparent governance structures.

We ask that you please investigate the decision-making process under this program, and the conduct of any relevant parties in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Senator Janet Rice**

Australian Greens spokesperson for Sport

**Senator Larissa Waters**

Australian Greens Senate Leader, Spokesperson  
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