



# **“A Testing Time for Athletes”**

## **Sports Drug Testing Bill 2001**

**Legislative Assembly  
Exercise LA PS  
(Second Reading)**

**Adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office from the  
original text of the Western Australian Parliamentary  
Debates, 2001.**

## ***“A Testing Time for Athletes”*** **TEACHER’S NOTES**

### **Introduction**

2001 saw the introduction and passage of legislation of a bill linked to the education and testing of Western Australian state sporting representatives for the use of banned substances that gave unfair advantage in competition. The Bill, introduced by the Sport and Recreation Minister at the time, Mr Alan Carpenter, allowed for the testing of athletes for performance-enhancing drugs but also included a funding provision to WA sports organisations in order to educate their state representatives as to the health and legal implications of drug-use linked to aiding sporting performance.

The purpose of the bill was to grant powers and functions on the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) to test State competitors in WA. The legislation provided for the collection and testing of samples to identify the presence of scheduled drugs or doping methods. Competitors under 18 years of age also needed to be tested, but not before permission from their parents was granted.

Both ASDA and the state government’s philosophy was to “protect the value of sport” and deter the use of banned doping practices in sport through education and advocacy services.

It was significant that a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly in 2001 were former top-level sports people who represented Western Australia or Australia in representative competition during the height of their careers.

Reference is made by a number of Members as to the importance of educating young people about the dangers of drug-taking and instilling in them moral awareness to compete fairly and avoid the temptation to “stay ahead of the pack” by accessing banned substances.

This Bill debate does not refer to the testing of particular club and association-based sports such as AFL, A-League Soccer, Net Ball League or NBL as those sportsmen and women are not, strictly speaking, state representative competitors.

The text of this role-play has been adapted from the Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) record of the second reading debate in the Legislative Assembly (the Lower House). It is designed for use during the class visit to Parliament and aids in explaining the key workings of the Parliament. However, the script and glossary can also be used by the class teacher as a springboard or adjunct to programs aimed at achieving outcomes set out in the Society & Environment Learning Area of the Curriculum Framework.

### **Preparation for Role Play**

It is important that the background information contained in the Introduction and the listed glossary terms be discussed with the students. It is particularly important that roles be allocated and rehearsed prior to the visit to Parliament so that the students can read them with confidence and understanding. This not only avoids potential embarrassment on the part of the reader, but also enables those students who do not have roles to better understand and follow the debate.

## Glossary

**(Concepts, vocabulary within context of this exercise)**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| bill   | a proposed or draft law   |
| condemn  | strongly disapprove of something  |
| commend  | give approval and support to something<br>- (base word in <i>recommend</i> )  |
| motion   | a formal proposal – an application for a ruling   |
| performance-enhancing  | improving your sporting ability   |
| adjourn  | to close a session of discussion  |
| Aye  | the old-fashioned word used for voting “Yes” in Parliament  |
| face the consequences  | to accept what happens to you - especially the punishments or penalties.  |
| obsessed   | to give something too much time or attention beyond what is normal or appropriate.  |
| level playing field  | to create a fair situation or environment for everyone.   |
| Introduction and first reading                               | the House formally grants permission to a Member to introduce a Bill and then the Clerk reads the long title of the Bill.   |
| Second reading <b>speech</b>                                 | a second reading of the Bill in the House at which time the principle or purpose of the Bill is summarised and explained by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary who is introducing it.        |
| Second reading <b>debate</b>                                 | the debate of a Bill by members of the House where they express their views and may hint at changes or amendments they would like to make.  |
| Consideration in Detail<br>[not occurring in this role play] | a committee stage (and not technically a debate) where the Bill is considered clause by clause and changes can be suggested through a motion and then voted on.                                   |
| Third reading<br>[not occurring in this role play]           | the formal final reading of the Bill’s long title by the Clerk in readiness for it to be delivered with a message to the other House of Parliament, seeking agreement and acceptance of the Bill. |

CAST DATA SHEET  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES EXERCISE  
"A Testing Time for Athletes"

Mr Peter McHUGH  
**Clerk** of Legislative Assembly

Hon. Jamie Edwards  
**Member for Greenough**  
Party affiliation: Liberal

Hon. Fred RIEBELING  
**SPEAKER**  
Member for Burrup  
Party affiliation: Labor

Mr Terry WALDRON  
**Member for Wagin**  
Party affiliation: National

Hon. Alan CARPENTER  
**Minister for Sport & Recreation**  
Member for Willagee  
Party affiliation: Labor

Ms Allanah MacTIERNAN  
**Member for Armadale**  
Party affiliation: Labor

Mr John BRADSHAW  
**Member for Murray-Wellington**  
Party Affiliation: Liberal

Mr Matt BIRNEY  
**Member for Kalgoorlie**  
Party affiliation: Liberal

Ms Katie HODSON-THOMAS  
**Member for Carine**  
Party affiliation: Liberal

Additional roles allocated on the day:

Mr Peter WATSON  
**Member for Albany**  
Party affiliation: Labor

2 **Hansard Reporters**  
1 **Sgt-at-Arms**

Mr Arthur MARSHALL  
**Member for Dawesville**  
Party affiliation: Liberal



## **Drugs in Sport**

### **“A Testing Time for Athletes”**

The following role-playing exercise is based on the original text from the Parliamentary Debates of the 36th Parliament of Western Australia, Legislative Assembly 2001. It has been adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office to suit the needs of students.

**Best results occur when the roles are allocated and rehearsed beforehand.**

#### **SPORTS DRUG TESTING BILL 2001**

#### **SECOND READING**

(3 May 2001 and 13 June 2001)

**Clerk:**

The Sports Drug Testing Bill 2001. A Bill for an Act to allow drug testing of persons representing Western Australia in sport.

**The Speaker:**

The Minister for Sport and Recreation.

**Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

Mr Speaker, the State Government condemns the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs in sport. It is dangerous to the health of competitors and against the spirit of sport.

The government recognises the need to take strong and positive action. Western Australian athletes should compete free of performance-enhancing drugs. The purpose of this legislation is to give the Australian Sports Drug Agency the power to drug test State competitors. The legislation will provide for -

- the collection of samples from State competitors;
- the testing of those samples for drugs; and
- powers being given to the drug agency to release results of those tests.

The State Government will provide funds for an education program over the next 3 years. This will help athletes, coaches and sports associations to understand the dangers of drugs in sport,

This Bill will make sure that drug-testing of competitors is the same for all athletes representing Australia. I commend the Bill to the House.

**All Members:**

Hear, hear!

**Member for Murray-Wellington:**

Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Murray-Wellington.

**Member for Murray-Wellington:**

Mr Speaker, I move that the debate be adjourned.

**The Speaker:**

The question is that the debate be adjourned. Those in favour say 'Aye'.

[ *most members say 'aye'* ]

Those against say 'No' [ *nobody says 'No'* ]

I think the 'ayes' have it. The 'ayes' have it.

**(Second Reading Debate Resumes 13 June, 2001)**

**Member for Dawesville:**

Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Dawesville.

**Member for Dawesville:**

Mr Speaker, the Opposition supports the Sports Drug Testing Bill. I would like to say that it was originally our idea when in government. I am pleased, though, that the new Government has already presented it to the House.

The trouble starts when athletes competing at world events see what other athletes are doing to become successful. The temptation is to experiment with different drugs to stay ahead of the pack. In 1998 the Chinese swimming team visiting Perth for the World Championships brought drugs into Australia. That caused a worldwide argument.

We must continue to set high standards and have Western Australian athletes winning because of their own preparation and skill and nothing else.

**Member for Dawesville** [continues] :

The only question is, should sporting associations pay for the \$550 drug test? Perhaps the government can reduce or even share the cost?

We do not intend to make any changes. We support the Bill.

**Member for Wagin:**

Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Wagin.

**Member for Wagin:**

Mr Speaker, the National Party views the Bill as extremely important. It is pleasing to see that the legislation is in line with the other states.

We must not be blind to the fact that drugs are present in sport. I for one certainly remember a well-known case where an athlete was banned and shamed for using performance-enhancing drugs.

**Member for Albany:** [interrupts]

I think it was a state cricketer.

**Member for Wagin:**

Yes it was, but I will not go into any detail. The important thing is that we must tackle the people who trade in drugs. Drugs damage individuals, but we must also be aware of the damage they can do to sport. The reputation of a sport can influence whether parents encourage their children to play that sport.

**Member for Wagin** [continues]:

Hopefully this testing will uncover very few drug cheats. But, if sports people are caught they will have to face the consequences. I seek the minister's word that the education programs mentioned will be provided across all sports.

We fully support this Bill.

**Member for Greenough:**

Mr Speaker

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Greenough.

**Member for Greenough:**

Mr Speaker, I am happy to speak on this issue. It is sad to think that sport is no longer played for fun. It seems that money and drugs control sport. Money can lead to cheating and I immediately think of a South African cricketer who fell from a great height -

**Member for Armadale:** [interrupts]

That's what happens when people become obsessed with competition - like your side of politics.

**Member for Greenough:**

The minister probably knows plenty about being obsessed.

Far worse than greed though, is the evil nature of drugs which can totally change people's mental and physical health. For young people the damage caused by drugs can remain forever.

Fortunately most young people recognise how wrong it is to take performance-enhancing drugs. Hopefully they will not be tempted to buy such drugs. There will always be those who do break the rules.

It is absolutely necessary to stamp out the evils of drug abuse in sport. With that in mind, I fully support this Bill.

**Member for Carine:**

Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Carine.

**Member for Carine:**

Mr Speaker, I place on record my support for this legislation. We should all support the concept of athletes participating in a drug-free environment. We need to provide a level playing field where drug testing will stamp out any drug cheats.

One of my concerns is that athletes be made fully aware of the risks of using pain-killers and medications for colds, flu and hay fever. These drugs can contain banned substances and give a positive test result.

**Member for Carine [continues]:**

I am pleased that the Minister has promised an education program to help athletes understand issues like this.

I support the Bill.

**Member for Kalgoorlie:**

Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Kalgoorlie.

**Member for Kalgoorlie:**

Mr Speaker, it is well recognised that drugs do improve performance. For example anabolic steroids will build muscles for weight-lifters. Other drugs remove water from the body to make you lighter. This would be good for rowers. But both can lead to dangerous side effects and later ill-health.

**Member for Kalgoorlie :**

I note that people under 18 need the permission of their parents before they can be tested. What would be the situation if a parent refused to give that permission?

I commend the Bill to this House. It is good legislation, and is long overdue.

**Member for Albany:**

Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:**

The Member for Albany.

**Member for Albany:**

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill. But I need to say that if people think Western Australian athletes are not on drugs they are kidding themselves. This Bill will certainly weed some of them out.

As the member for Dawesville pointed out the Chinese tried steroids on their female swimmers and we saw the size of their bodies change dramatically.

**Member for Murray-Wellington [interrupts]:**

That happens in here too - bodies change rapidly!

**Member for Albany:**

That is due to the kitchen, not steroids. The main thing we must focus on is the youth. If we can educate young athletes early we will produce successful Olympic teams with no drug cheats.

**The Speaker:**

The Minister for Sport and Recreation.

**Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

Mr Speaker, I thank the members from all parties for their support. It is great that this House includes, a former Wimbledon tennis player in the member for Dawesville; a former Western Australian and South Australian league footballer and state cricketer in the member for Wagin; and a former Olympic runner in the member for Albany. I do not know the sporting talents of others, I'm sorry to say.

**Member for Kalgoorlie [interrupts]**

I played state juniors.

**Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

It is very helpful, the member for Kalgoorlie, that a broad range of top sportspeople have been able to comment on this Bill.

I appreciate very much the support of members of this Chamber. I commend the Bill to the House and move that it be read a second time.

**The Speaker:**

The Question is that the Bill be now read a second time. Those in favour say 'Aye'.

**All members:**

Aye.

**The Speaker:**

To the contrary, 'No'.

*(No response)*

I think the 'Ayes' have it. The Ayes have it.

**Clerk:**

The Sports Drug Testing Bill 2001. A Bill for an Act to allow drug testing of persons representing Western Australia in sport.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE SECOND READING IS NOW CONCLUDED.**

**THE HOUSE DECIDED TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE THIRD READING WITHOUT DEBATE AND THE BILL WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**