

Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025

Explanatory Notes

FOR

Amendments to be moved during Consideration in Detail by The Hon Glenn Butcher MP Shadow Minister for Sport

Short title

The short title of the Bill is the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

During the inquiry of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee into the Bill, stakeholders raised concerns about insufficient focus on safety, women's sport, parasports and participation of regional athletes in the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill.

While discretion is available under the Bill for the Queensland Academy of Sport board to consider and act on these matters, the Opposition considers that safety (especially of children), regional participation, the inclusion of people with lived experience of disability, and transparency regarding the support offered by the QAS to women's sports and parasports should not be left to discretion.

In response, the Opposition proposes amendments as follows:

1. **Safety:** Establish a dedicated Harm Prevention and Safety Committee to advise the Board and require that the Harm Prevention and Safety Committee develop a child-friendly complaints mechanism and create a Charter of Athlete's Rights.
2. **Disability Inclusion:** Require that at least one Queensland Academy of Sport board member have lived experience of disability and embed creating partnerships with disability sports organisations into the Board's functions.
3. **Parasports Reporting:** Introduce annual reporting requirements by the board on the academy's priorities for parasports, the proportion of its budget dedicated to supporting parasports and the activities undertaken by the academy to foster parasports.

4. **Women's Sport Reporting:** Introduce annual reporting requirements by the Board on the academy's priorities for women's sport, the proportion of its budget dedicated to supporting women's sport and the activities undertaken by the academy to foster women's sport.
5. **Regional Participation:** Require the Board to report annually on its support for regional athletes and regional events.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve these objectives, amendments are proposed to various clauses as outlined below.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no known alternate ways of achieving the same policy objective.

Estimated cost for government implementation

There are no cost implications for the amendments as it will be achieved through existing budget arrangements.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendments are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The amendments have been developed after consultation occurred through the Queensland Parliament portfolio committee process.

Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions

The legislation and policy intent are specific to Queensland.

Notes on provisions

Amendment 1 amends the *Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025* to specify that the academy must establish partnerships with sporting organisations which represent parasports.

Amendment 2 amends the *Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025* to require that at least one member of the academy board must be a person with disability.

Amendment 3 amends the *Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025* to require the board to establish a Harm Prevention and Safety Committee to assist the board to protect children, athletes and other persons engaged in relevant activities from abuse and harm.

This amendment refers to “children, athletes and other persons engaged in relevant activities” because cl 9 (1)(b) refers to “Queenslanders who demonstrate talent” and in the case of emerging sports people these may not meet the definitions of either “athletes” or “children”.

Under *Amendment 3* the Harm Prevention and Safety Committee must develop a charter of rights and a complaints mechanism that is appropriate for use by children, but is not limited to these actions in assisting the board to perform its functions under section 13(1)(b).

Amendment 4 amends the *Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025* to require the board to include in its annual report a statement about how the academy has supported women’s sport and parasports during the financial year. That statement must include the academy’s priorities for women’s sport and parasports, the proportion of the academy’s budget expended on women’s sport and parasports, and the activities undertaken by the academy to foster women’s sport and parasports.

Amendment 4 also requires the board to include in the Annual Report statements about how the academy proposes to support women’s sport and parasports in the following financial year, including details of the academy’s priorities for those areas.

Amendment 4 also requires the board to include in the Annual Report a statement about how the academy has supported sport and athletes in regional Queensland during the previous financial year, including details of support for sporting events in regional Queensland, and support for athletes in regional Queensland, including to assist their participation both within and outside regional Queensland.

Amendments 5 and 6 amend the *Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025* to define the terms “regional Queensland” and “parasport”.