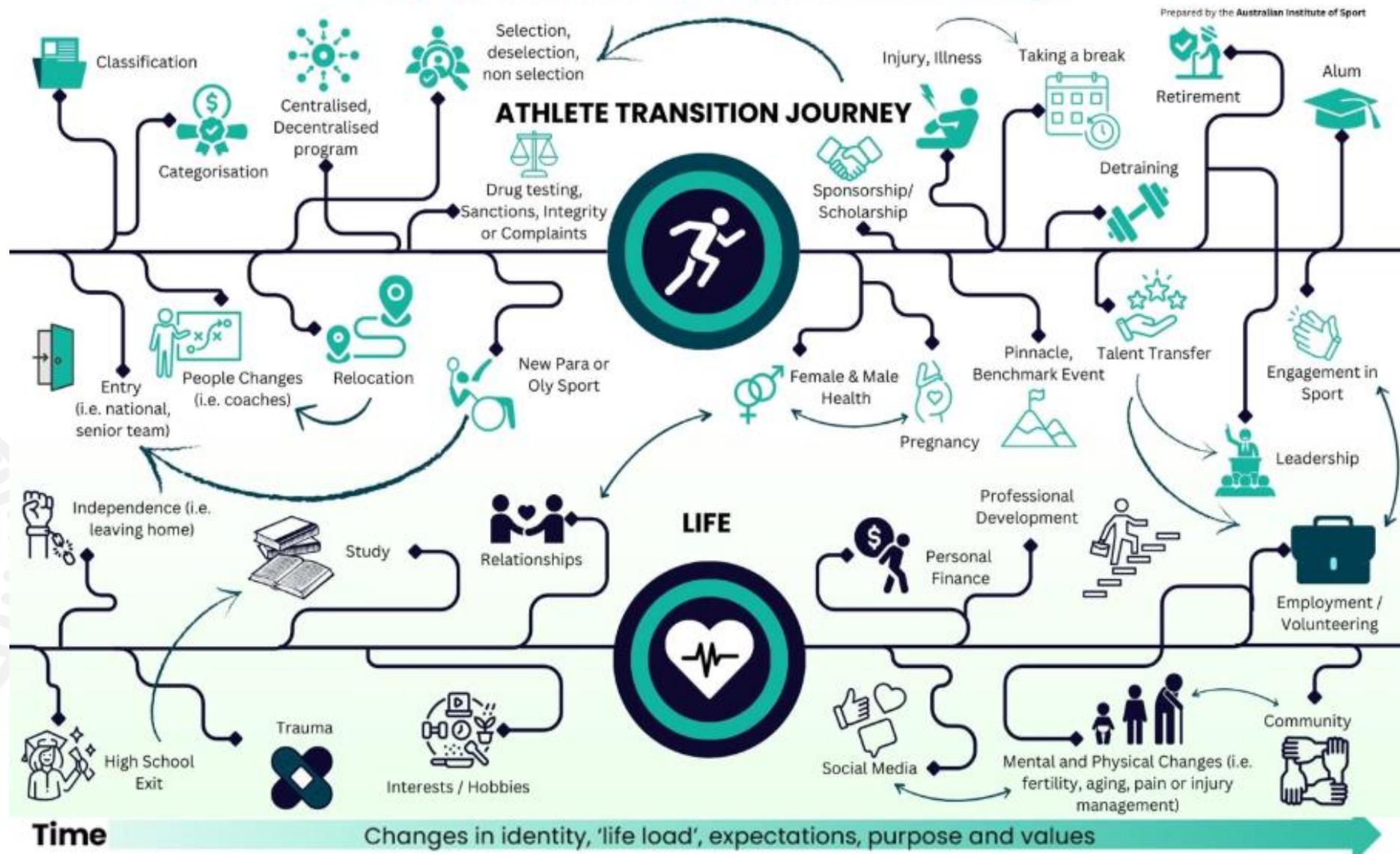




UniSport conference presentation

May 2025

Athlete Transition Journey



Transitions often happen in nonlinear, simultaneous, or recurring ways. Each athlete's journey is unique, with athletic and life transitions frequently conflicting, overlapping and influencing performance, and overall wellbeing.



The Australian HP System's Win Well strategy

OUR VISION

We win well to inspire Australians

Our Mission

We are united in our pursuit to build an inclusive and sustainable sporting system that is:

- **Performance driven** | we win when it matters and we win well, because we know that performance and wellbeing go hand in hand
- **Athlete focused** | we deliver holistic athlete development and have clear pathways and transition periods
- **Exceptionally led** | we lead with vision, integrity and accountability to create environments where people thrive
- **Purposefully collaborative** | we work together towards shared outcomes and recognise and strengthen collaboration at all levels of the System

Success needs to continue to climb post 2032, and our time starts now.

Our Core Values

Excellence + Belonging + Courage + Connection

Our united pursuit will be delivered through four priority areas:

Performance delivery

Enabling our top athletes to perform when it matters.

Athlete performance pathways

Identifying, developing and supporting High Performance athletes of the future to progress towards the podium and beyond.

World-leading knowledge + practice

Using world-leading knowledge, innovation and practice to ensure our athletes, coaches and performance support work as high functioning performance teams.

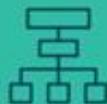
Outstanding people + organisations

Building highly capable organisations that attract, develop and retain diverse talent and maximise human potential across the High Performance workforce.

Enabled by...



World-class coaching



Clear roles + responsibilities



Inclusive design



Resources to achieve quality outcomes

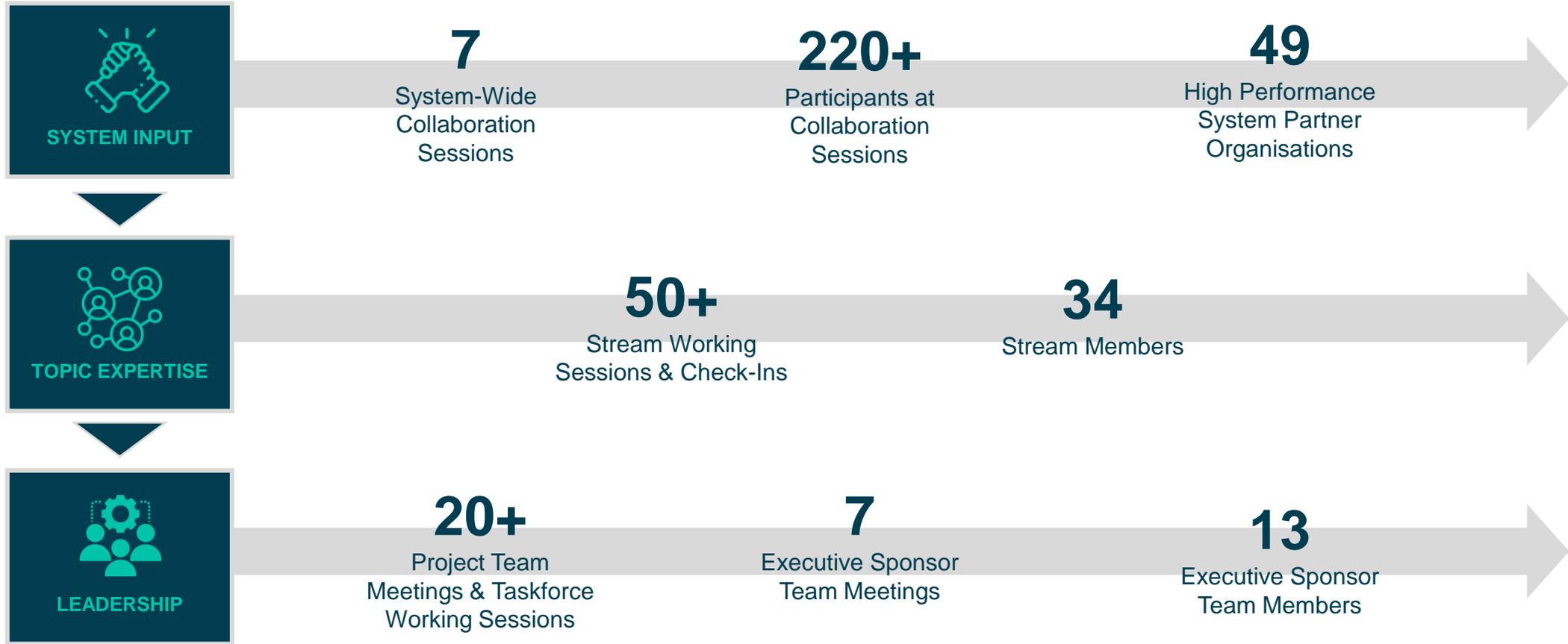


Values + behaviours



Strategy monitoring + evaluation

Co-designed by the Australian HP System



Why change?

**1**

Feedback from tertiary institutions:
EAEN Advisory Group & sector survey

2

Alignment with Win Well & Play Well:
a systems & ecological approach

3

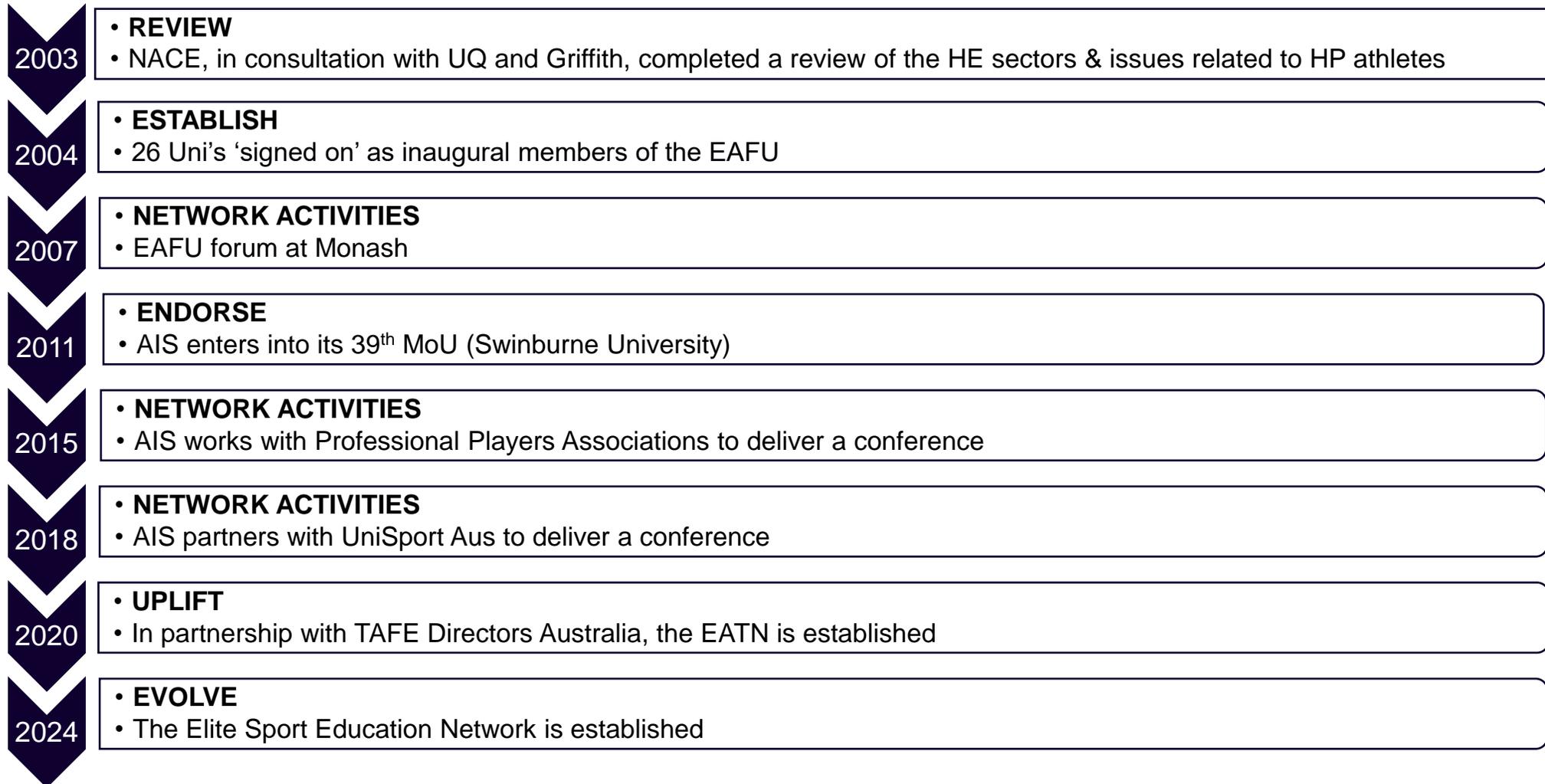
Alignment with AW&E Network:
building a genuine *Community of Practice*

4

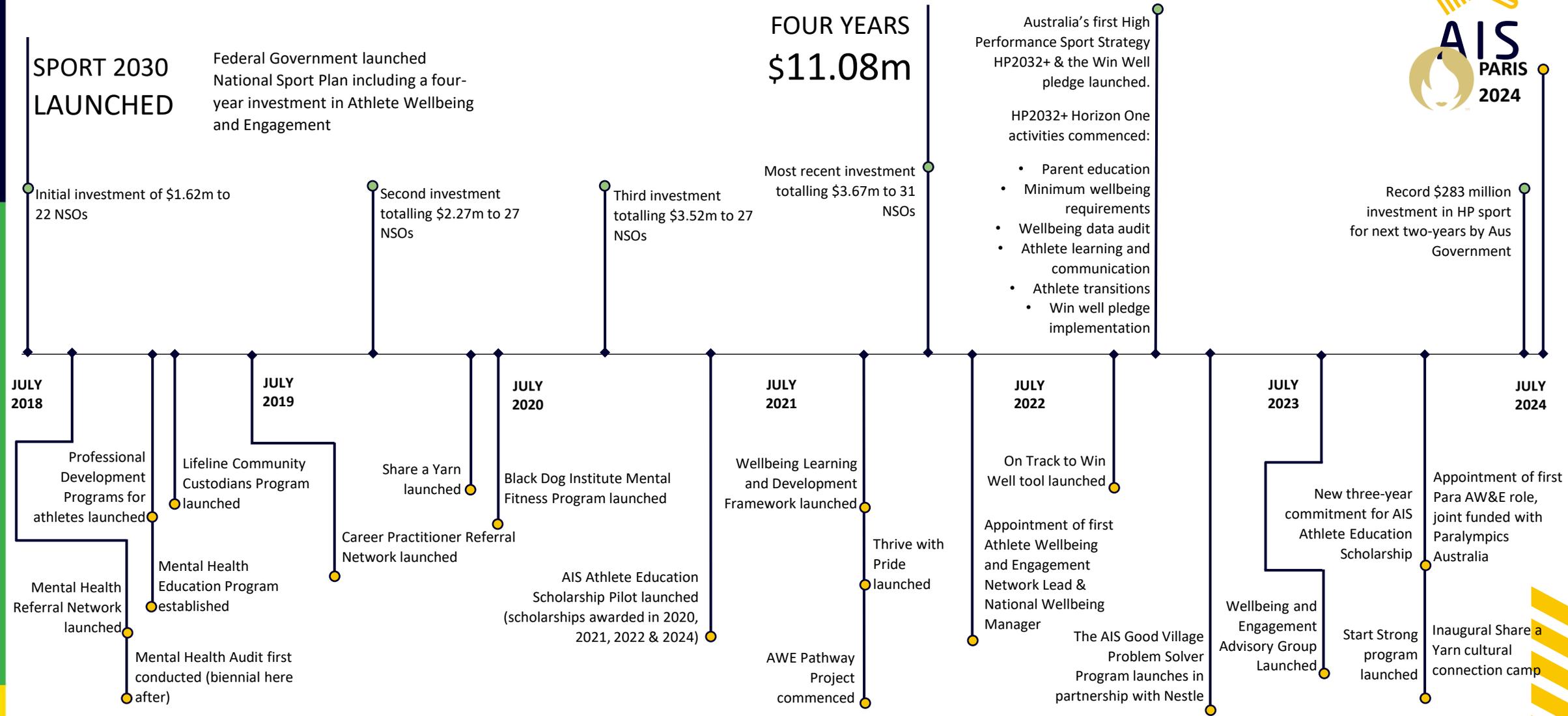
Australian-specific research into the student-athlete experience:
barriers to study and engagement
across able & para-athlete cohorts



TIMELINE: Education Network



CASE STUDY 1: Wellbeing and Engagement Timeline



Current HP student-athlete landscape

What we know....

General student population

- Average HECS debt is \$24,000
- It takes 9.3 years to repay debt
- HECS debt commences once the student's RI is above the min. threshold for compulsory repayment (currently \$46,620)
- Anecdotally, some athletes use their dAIS payments to pay off HECS debt

Cost of living

- Annual cost of living (2022) is \$44,196
- Gold Medal athlete profile (Able) is \$55,000
- Podium Potential athlete profile is \$8,000 or 18% the annual cost of living
- Under the current funding model, only 20% of costs are fully covered

Engagement in tertiary education

Of the 460 able-bodied athletes in Paris:

- 95 were engaged in PT study
- 29 were engaged in FT study
- 16 athletes deferred their studies

Of the 160 para-athletes in Paris:

- 34 were engaged in PT study
- 11 were engaged in FT study

.....but our evidence- base is poor

Investing in Athletes to Win Well



CASE STUDY 2: AIS Education Scholarships

CONTEXT:

Since 2020, the AIS, in partnership with the John & Myriam Wylie Foundation have provided over \$473,000 in education scholarship funding to student-athletes

PRIORTY 1: Growing the scholarship pool

PRIORTY 2: Create scholarship opportunities for coaches & officials

PRIORTY 3: Improve the evidence base

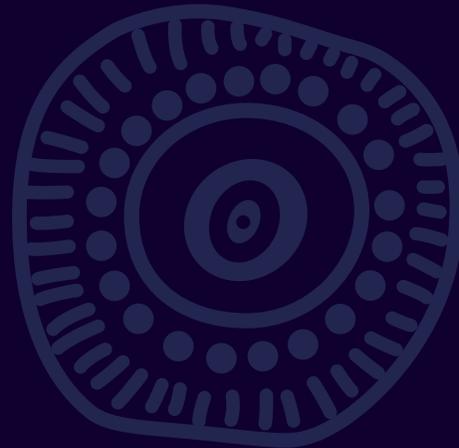
Scholarships per Institution – 2020-2024

Institution	No. of education scholarships
ACHPE	3
ACU	7
ANU	7
Bond University	1
CQU	2
CSU	4
Curtin University	9
Deakin University	16
ECU	1
Flinders University	6
Griffith University	18
JCU	1
La Trobe University	4
Monash University	3
QUT	6
RMIT	3
TAFE QLD	1

Institution	No. of education scholarships
University of Adelaide	9
University of Canberra	4
University of Melbourne	9
University of Newcastle	3
UNSW	10
University of Notre Dame	5
University of Queensland	9
University of South Australia	7
University of Southern Queensland	1
University of the Sunshine Coast	1
University of Tasmania	1
UTS	3
University of Western Australia	4
University of Western Sydney	2
University of Wollongong	1
Victoria University	1
TOTAL	162

Q&A

Thank you!





Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

