



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 26 October, 2016

Football groups to take community leadership role in tackling illicit drug use

Representatives from AFL NSW/ ACT, the region's football and netball leagues, governing bodies and community groups will meet with local authorities in Wagga Wagga today to discuss how they can better contribute to reducing the impact of illicit drug use in the local community.

AFL NSW/ACT is working with the AFL, AFL Victoria, local leagues and local authorities to develop community football educational programs, including an illicit drug education framework, that can be recommended to community football clubs.

The planning session in Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 26 October involves stakeholders from Melbourne, Sydney, regional Victoria and southern NSW, as well as local netball representatives.

AFL NSW/ACT's State Manager of Football Operations, Governance & Policy, Sam Chadwick said:

"The purpose of the planning session will be to reflect on policies and programs implemented across the country, in particular in regional Victoria where several initiatives have been implemented successfully," he said.

"Illicit drugs use is an issue affecting almost every Australian community and we have an opportunity to utilise the work undertaken by football bodies in regional Victoria and other parts of Australia to play a leadership in the broader local community.

"Earlier this month AFL Central Victoria secured a Victorian State Government Ice Action Grant, with funding to be used to implement educational programs at local clubs in the hope of curbing drug use in their community.

"This forum will allow us to better understand the current challenges in Riverina communities and to proactively identify means to provide local football and netball leagues and clubs with support and guidance.

"AFL NSW/ACT is committed to ensuring safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all involved in our game and acknowledge the important role football plays in the broader community when it comes to tackling social issues."

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