



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Healthy sporting clubs recognised with Good Sports awards

The Assistant Minister for Health, Fiona Nash, today congratulated the winners of the Good Sports Awards which recognise sporting clubs that promote healthy lifestyles and reduce excessive alcohol consumption.

Organised by the Australian Drug Foundation, the Good Sports Programme helps clubs to better manage alcohol use and reduce the harm that excessive drinking can cause.

“Clubs are provided with free support and accreditation to help them change their culture and provide an environment that is family-friendly and focuses more on participation and less on drinking,” Minister Nash said.

“This can help clubs increase their membership numbers and ensure people in communities throughout Australia have access to sporting clubs that are safe and healthy.

“In particular, the programme works to ensure clubs are aware of, and adhere to, their responsible service of alcohol requirements.”

Minister Nash presented the National Good Sports Club of the Year Award to the Moree Boomerangs Rugby League Football Club.

“After partnering with the Good Sports Programme, the Moree Boomerangs has taken many important steps to make healthy changes,” Minister Nash said.

“The club has now completed Responsible Service of Alcohol courses and has implemented a code of conduct to prevent anti-social behaviour. It provides free food and water and a courtesy bus for patrons at its functions, and its canteen now provides healthier eating options. Smoking is also not allowed in dressing sheds or near benches.

“The Boomerang’s success at implementing these positive changes reflects their on-field success, with its A Grade and under-18s teams winning premierships last year.”

In the 2014/15 Budget, the Australian Government committed \$19 million to extend the Good Sports Programme for a further four years so even more clubs can make a change for the better.

For more information on the Programme, please see: <http://goodsports.com.au/>

Media contacts: Minister Nash’s office – Greg Doolan, 0433 345 323