

17 April, 2018

## Labertouche Primary School takes out Walk to School challenge

Labertouche Primary School students have taken out the top prize – a footy clinic with their AFL and AFLW heroes – for being the regional winner of VicHealth’s Walk to School program.

AFL legend Neville Jetta and AFLW star Katie Brennan travelled to Labertouche Primary School today to run a unique footy fun experience to celebrate the students’ efforts during the month-long program held in October last year.

Labertouche Primary School had the highest participation rate in the South-Eastern Victorian region with over 97 percent of students walking, riding or scooting to school during the program. Students learnt footy skills and were given AFL merchandise as a reward for their outstanding results.

Baw Baw Shire Council Mayor Cr Joe Gauci congratulated the staff and students at Labertouche Primary School for their extraordinary achievement taking out the top spot for Victoria’s South-East region.

“Well done to everyone involved! It’s great to see so many kids in Baw Baw Shire staying active and healthy and we thank you for setting such a positive example for other local schools to follow”, said the Mayor.

“We’re so proud to be able to support ‘Walk to School’ month and encourage our local community to keep up the good work into 2018 and beyond.”

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter commended the students, teachers and parents at Labertouche Primary School who did an exceptional job walking, riding and scooting to and from school for Walk to School.

“It’s increasingly important to get schools and families involved in programs like Walk to School to help kids learn how important it is to be active and healthy,” Ms Rechter said.

“The proportion of Victorian children walking to school has declined dramatically in recent decades, from around 50 per cent in the 1970s to less than 20 per cent today so we need to continue to encourage kids to build this healthy habit.

“I congratulate the students from Labertouche Primary School for putting their best foot forward and getting active to and from school.”

Every October, VicHealth’s Walk to School program encourages primary school kids to walk, ride or scoot to and from school. In 2017, VicHealth partnered with the AFL Players’ Association to encourage even more kids to get walking, riding and scooting to and from school to build healthy habits for life.

Labertouche Primary School is one of four Victorian school winners which were chosen based on their school’s Walk to School results.

### Media Contacts –

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For more information on Walk to School visit [www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au/](http://www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au/)

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### **Note to Editors**

*Since 2006, every October, VicHealth's Walk to School program encourages primary school kids to walk, ride or scoot to and from school.*

*In 2017, almost 150,000 Victorian primary school kids from more than 750 schools took part in Walk to School, travelling more than 1.6 million kilometres throughout October. VicHealth is hoping to make 2018 bigger and better.*

### **Fast facts about Walk to School:**

- The number of Victorian kids walking to school has declined dramatically in recent decades. In the 1970s, almost 50% of Victorian children walked to school, compared with only 20% in 2011.
- VicHealth research shows that more than 60% of Victorian parents want their child to walk to school more regularly.
- Parents in rural and regional Victoria are less likely to have the option to walk their child to school than those in metro areas.
- Childhood obesity levels are on the rise. Only one in five children aged 5-17 years get the recommended amount of physical activity every day.
- By 2025, one in three children will be overweight or obese.
- Kids who are regularly physically active are more likely to continue to be active as they grow up.

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