



24 May 2017

## **Local football clubs go smoke free and tell smokers to butt out**

Local football clubs are teaming up with local councils, sporting groups and Peninsula Health to stamp out smoking at junior and senior levels ahead of World No Tobacco Day on 31 May.

Peninsula Health, St Kilda Football Club, Good Sports, Frankston City Council and Mornington Peninsula Shire are working with AFL South East and its leagues – Frankston District Junior Football League (FDJFL) and Mornington Peninsula Football Netball League (MPFNL) to become smoke free.

Frankston District Junior Football League has gone completely smoke free, banning smoking at all football grounds during organised underage sporting events.

“This has provided young people, families and the community with a smoke-free sporting environment, reducing players’ and spectator’s exposure to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and helping discourage young people from taking up smoking,” said Andie Murphy, Health Promotion Practitioner at Peninsula Health.

All senior clubs including Seaford, Pines, Frankston YCW, Mornington, Red Hill, Edithvale Aspendale, Pearcedale, Dromana and Crib Point will launch their new hard line on smoking at the Quit Challenge Round on 3 June by banning smoking everywhere at their clubs, except for one designated area.

“Going smoke-free and banning smoking in all areas except one is a significant achievement for these senior clubs,” said Ms Murphy.

“I congratulate all of the clubs for signing the Frankston Mornington Peninsula Smoke Free Charter and working to create a healthier environment for their players, supporters and the community.”

In some pockets of the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston region, smoking rates range from 21%-30% compared to the Victorian average of 13%.

Seaford Football Club President Dale O’Neil said the club is committed to making the footy a fun and safe day out for families and the local community.

“Footy and smoking isn’t a good mix – it’s not good for players or supporters to be around which is why we signed onto the smoke-free charter and implemented a designated smoking area,” said Mr O’Neil.

St Kilda Football Club Senior Coach Alan Richardson praised the clubs who have signed onto the smoke-free initiative and encouraged other local footy clubs to follow.

"One of the best things about football is how it can bring communities together," said Mr Richardson.

"That being said, we all need to contribute to make the footy a place everyone can enjoy safely. Join us and play your part in making local football a smoke free environment."

The Mornington Peninsula Junior Football League has been smoke free for one year now and it has been very successful according to league President Andrew Souter.

"There has been a noticeable difference with no one smoking around the grounds on game day and at training which is great to see," said Mr Souter.

"It has been amazing to see the junior football community get behind this great initiative."

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Councillor Bev Colomb congratulated the local clubs for taking these significant steps and recognising the importance of health and wellbeing within the sporting and broader community.

Frankston City Mayor Councillor Brian Cunial said the clubs involved are setting a great example for other clubs across the state.

"Council supports this fantastic initiative that will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of all people attending sporting events," said Frankston City Mayor, Cr Brian Cunial.

**The efforts of all these clubs and the importance of creating smoke-free environments will be celebrated at the Quit Challenge Round 3-4 June.**

### **Quit Challenge Round**

Media and members of the public are welcome to attend.

### **Saturday 3 June**

Mornington Peninsula Nepean Football League

Seaford Football Club – Seaford Road

Frankston City Mayor, Handball competition, Women's Football Ambassadors, St Kilda Football Club representatives

## **Sunday 4 June**

Frankston District Junior Football League

Seaford- Junior Football Club – Belvedere Reserve

Mornington Peninsula Junior Football League

BlueScope Oval – Hastings

*Quit Smoking Support is available through Peninsula Health. For a face-to-face appointment at Frankston, Rosebud, Mornington or Hastings call 1300 665 781.*

## **Media Contact**

Jessica Mills

Peninsula Health Media

[JMills@phcn.vic.gov.au](mailto:JMills@phcn.vic.gov.au)

0419 868 824