**(COUNCIL NAME) supports local families to walk, ride and scoot to school**

[COUNCIL NAME] council will join VicHealth in its mission to get kids walking, riding and scooting to school as part of the health promotion foundation’s annual Walk to School program.

Every October, Walk to School encourages families to get active on the trip to and from school to help kids build healthy habits for life.

[Council] will work with local primary schools to deliver a range of activities to support more families to walk, ride or scoot to school this October thanks to [xx funding amount] funding from VicHealth

To support the program, the council will [INSERT EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES EG. run competitions for participating schools, organise park and walk events, host healthy breakfasts at local primary schools and develop safe walking maps with schools].

[Mayor/council spokesperson] said VicHealth’s Walk to School program is a free, easy and fun way for kids to get active and build healthy habits for life.

“[Council] is delighted to support Walk to School in [area] to encourage more kids to be active on the way to and from school,” [name] said.

“Our kids are healthier and happier when they’re active every day, and walking to school is a great way to get their activity in.

“We want to make walking to school easy and attractive for families, by [add your initiatives here e.g. running competitions for participating schools, organising park and walk events, holding healthy breakfasts at local primary schools etc] during the month of October.

“Last year [x number] local schools participated in this great VicHealth initiative, and we encourage more primary schools to get involved this year to make Walk to School bigger and better.”

Acting VicHealth CEO Dr Lyn Roberts AO said each year the Walk to School program continues to grow with more and more schools taking part with fantastic results.

“Walking, riding or scooting to and from school every day is an easy way to make physical activity part of kids’ daily life which is why our Walk to School program is so important,” Dr Roberts said.

“Last year more than 140,000 kids from over 750 schools across Victoria took part in Walk to School, travelling the equivalent distance of two return trips to the moon.

“Helping our kids to get active is so important for their health and wellbeing, which is why it’s great to have the support of [COUNCIL NAME] to get more local kids walking, riding or scooting to school.”

Local schools who take part in Walk to School will be in the running to win some fantastic prizes, including a footy clinic at their school hosted by an AFL or AFLW player.

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

**Media Enquiries**

Council media contact

Insert here

VicHealth media enquiries

Rachel Murphy, Senior Media Advisor P 03 9667 1319 E [rmurphy@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:rmurphy@vichealth.vic.gov.au)