**MEDIA RELEASE**

23 January 2017

**Hobart Council supports North Melbourne schools program**

The Hobart City Council has voted to sponsor a three-year North Melbourne Football club program for local primary and secondary schools.

The Council pledged $150,000 over three years to the program, which will target students in grade 3 to year 9 in more than 25 schools across the City of Hobart.

The four-week Next Generation schools program includes boys and girls and promotes football skills, healthy eating and working in teams.

The club will be calling for expressions of interest for interested schools to become involved in the program.

City of Hobart Lord Mayor, Alderman Sue Hickey, said the program is focussed on public schools and giving children the chance to be involved in healthy activities.

“The North Melbourne Football Club has a strong track record of working with the community to encourage children to participate in sport, develop healthy lifestyle habits and learn valuable teamwork skills,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Council support for the program opens it up to schools and children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to be involved, not only in Hobart, but across Tasmania.

“The players are role models for many children, and often have more impact than standard physical education classes.”

The Council also approved $15,000 of “in kind” support over three years.

The three-year grant will be subject to performance criteria and an annual review.

**For interview** -Alderman Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor: 0427 351 987

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