

11 July 2018

To whom it may concern

Re: Victorian Senior Aboriginal Footy and Netball Carnival – Letter of support from Indigenous Eye Health (IEH) at University of Melbourne

The Victorian Senior Aboriginal Footy and Netball Carnival to be held on 13 and 14 October 2018 this in Ballarat is expected to be attended by a large number of the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This event provides an excellent opportunity for strengthening community engagement and participation, and encouraging collaboration for targeted healthy lifestyle awareness activities.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people however, up to 98% of vision loss and blindness is preventable with early detection and by following treatment.

The Carnival will help to promote IEH's national campaign 'Check Today, See Tomorrow' encouraging all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes to get a YEARLY eye check to prevent unnecessary vision loss and blindness. This message will be promoted through the Carnival's football and netball umpire uniforms, through guest appearances and interviews with Melbourne Football Club's Indigenous Eye Health Ambassadors, and through collaborative promotional and awareness activities with VACCHO, Diabetes Victoria, the Vision Initiative and other key stakeholders.

Indigenous Eye Health is very supportive of the Victorian Senior Aboriginal Footy and Netball Carnival and privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate, support and build on the existing work in Indigenous eye health to help Close the Gap for Vision.

We wish the 2018 Carnival every success!

Best wishes



Professor Hugh R. Taylor AC
Melbourne Laureate Professor