

# Media Release

Date: 04.07.2014



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## Melbourne University and Demons join forces in NT

Melbourne Football Club will continue its work with eye experts at the University of Melbourne in the Northern Territory this weekend, spreading the 'clean faces, strong eyes' anti-trachoma message in Indigenous communities.

Trachoma is an infectious disease of the eye and eyelids and it has been linked with poor living conditions in dry and dusty environments. It remains the world's leading cause of preventable blindness.

Professor Hugh Taylor, Head of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne (IEHU) said the support of the Melbourne Football Club (MFC) had added an extra dimension to their work.

"Football is very popular in NT and we are able to harness the popularity of the Demons with getting our 'clean faces, strong eyes' messages out to children and young people,"

"We are very grateful for this support and the way the AFL players get behind health and well-being messages. They have visited schools and remote communities, run footy clinics and appeared in TV and radio announcements to reinforce these important health promotion messages" he said.

The Demons have supported the cause in recent years and this weekend as they play again in Darwin, they will continue to spread the trachoma prevention message, Peter Jackson CEO of the MFC said.

"We're pleased to be spreading the 'clean faces, strong eyes' message and to help the prevention of trachoma. It is an important cause and the players are keen to be involved."

Mr Jackson said it was a great opportunity for the players to meet the local community during Melbourne's visit to Darwin, which includes Saturday night's clash against the Fremantle Dockers at TIO Stadium.

"Milpa" the trachoma goanna is the 'clean faces, strong eyes' mascot and will be at the football match on Saturday.

Professor Hugh Taylor will be in Darwin from Friday lunchtime till Sunday lunch time and is available for interview on 0417 017 037.

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