Good Sports: 4th December, 2012

National Good Sports Awards 2012 – Winners announced

North Clare Football Club, from South Australia, was last night hailed 2012 National ‘Club of the Year’ as part of the Australian Drug Foundation’s *Good Sports* Awards held in Melbourne. New South Wales’ Maitland Pickers Rugby League Club and Victoria’s Golden Square Football Netball Club were named runners-up.

The Awards aim to celebrate *Good Sports* clubs who have gone above and beyond in promoting the values of the program – which helps clubs provide safe and family-friendly environments through the responsible management of alcohol.

The *Good Sports* winners were announced during the Australian Drug Foundation’s Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Oration following the address by NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, who spoke about the amount of police time spent dealing with the consequences of alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Maree Sidey, Australian Drug Foundation’s Head of Community Programs, said that since joining *Good Sports*, North Clare Football Club, Maitland Pickers Rugby League and Golden Square Football Netball Club have continued to demonstrate their commitment to providing safe, responsible and family-friendly sporting hubs for their communities.

“South Australia’s North Clare stood out amongst a talented pool of nominated *Good Sports* clubs across the country, demonstrating how the *Good Sports* values have been embraced by the club in new and innovative ways,” she said.

“Since joining *Good Sports* in 2009, North Clare has become known as the area’s top club for juniors and families. As a result, the club is reaping the benefits, both financially through new sponsors and attracting new members across the region. Congratulations to the club on a fantastic achievement!”

As well as achieving top *Good Sports* accreditation in just three years, North Clare implemented a number of additional policies to encourage players and community members to focus on the game instead of alcohol.

“We are really proud of what’s been achieved with the *Good Sports* program for the North Clare Footy Club and wider community – winning the national award means all our hard work has really made a difference,” said David Pritchard, President North Clare Football Club.

“Since joining the program we have made significant changes around the club including sports drinks after a game before any alcohol is consumed, unlimited free water available at the bar, removing hotel sponsors’ logos from player jerseys and developing a partnership with a taxi company to ensure safe transport for all members.

“We are also always looking for new ways to educate our players and the community about drugs and alcohol. Recently we displayed a crash car at one of our home games to bring home the effects of drink-driving,” he said.

Congratulations to North Clare Football Club and all the community sports clubs recognised by the *Good Sports* Awards this year.

**Full list of 2012 national, state and regional *Good Sports* Awards winners:**

**2012 National Club of the Year**North Clare Football Club – SA

**2012 National Runners-up**Maitland Pickers Rugby League Club – NSW
Golden Square Football Netball Club – VIC

**2012 State Winners**Sunshine Heights Cricket Club – VIC Metro
Tyntynder Football Netball Club – VIC Regional
Mackay Hockey Association – QLD
Tuggeranong Hawks Football Club – ACT
Hillwood Football Club – TAS
Palmerston Raiders Rugby League Club – NT
North Clare Football Club – SA
Maitland Pickers Rugby League Club – NSW

**2012 Regional Winners**Garie Surf Life Saving Club – NSW Sydney
Singleton Rugby League – NSW Hunter
Tamworth Netball Association – NSW New England
Cooma Cats Australian Football – NSW South Eastern
Albury Thunder Rugby League Club – NSW South Western
Woodside and District Football Netball Club – VIC Gippsland
South Waverly Sandown Cobras Football Club – VIC Outer South
Glenroy Sports Club – VIC North West
Horsham Football Netball Club – VIC Wimmera
Tyntynder Football Netball Club – VIC Kerang and Greater Region
Latrobe Hockey Club – VIC Darebin
Nerang Mudgeerabah Cricket Club – QLD South
Bundaberg Senior and Junior Touch – QLD Central
Mackay Hockey Association – QLD North
Strathalbyn Football Club – SA Hills Fleurieu
Imperial Football Club – SA Mallee
Holmesdale Tennis Club – SA Adelaide
North Clare Football Club – SA Wakefield

\*WA joined the program in September 2012. Clubs in WA will be eligible for the Awards from next year.