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## Media Release

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| <b>Date:</b> 7/08/2017   | <b>Pages:</b> 1 (Including Cover)        |
| <b>From:</b> Greg Wood   | <b>Position:</b> Chief Executive Officer |
| <b>Subject: Funding approved for 2017 Walk to School Program</b> |  |

During the month of October primary schools throughout Hindmarsh Shire will be encouraged to participate in VicHealth's Walk to School program. More than 300 students are expected to engage in activities that improve their health during the month long initiative. Hindmarsh Shire Council Mayor Cr Debra Nelson commented "This is a fantastic opportunity for families to encourage and develop healthy walking habits with their children at an early age".

The program has been set up as part of VicHealth's long-term plan to get more Victorians living a healthier and happier lifestyle; the campaign encourages primary students across Victoria to walk to and from school in October. VicHealth's Walk to School month highlights the benefits of walking for children, such as improved fitness, friendship, their confidence and the environment.

"Council is excited to again offer this program to all primary schools in our Shire. All participants will earn a ticket every time they walk, scoot or ride to school or to the bus stop. Each ticket represents something different, which will be revealed at the end of the Walk to School program with students able to win prizes. There is more than one prize to be won so walk as many times as you can!" said Cr Nelson.

Council has partnered with Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and Praise Christian Dance School to provide lunch time activities to encourage those students that have not had the opportunity to walk to school or the bus stop to become more active and engaged in the Walk to School program. Participating schools will be visited twice throughout the month of October.

For any further information contact Hindmarsh Shire Council's Community Development Officer Michelle Farinha on 03 5391 4444 or [mfarinha@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:mfarinha@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) to find out more about Walk to School, or visit [www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au).

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