

# **ASSESSING SPORTING CLUBS' INTEREST IN TAKING ACTION ON ILLICIT DRUGS**

## **Authors:**

GEOFF MUNRO<sup>1</sup> and JULIE RAE<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Program Development and Evaluation, Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Melbourne, Australia

Presenter's email: [geoff.munro@adf.org.au](mailto:geoff.munro@adf.org.au)

## **Introduction / Issues**

Community based sporting clubs are increasingly regarded as a site for health promotion. While clubs have access to programs such as Good Sports, which has shown success in reducing problematic drinking, less is known of the sporting clubs' level of interest in addressing illicit drug use.

## **Method / Approach**

We collected data from 461 club players, members and officials at 18 sports forums throughout Victoria in 2014 – 2015 to ascertain their awareness of illicit drug issues and to identify factors that would enable or deter clubs from formally addressing illicit drug matters.

## **Key Findings**

While a minority of respondents (15.8%) thought their club had a “drug problem”, a majority (83.2%) of respondents thought their club needed an illicit drug policy. Major barriers to formal action were deficiencies of drug knowledge and time, while major enablers for policy development comprised information, templates, and support.

## **Discussions and Conclusions:**

There is high interest among members and club officials in illicit drug issues and they are open to their community sports clubs addressing them if they have the requisite forms of support.

## **Implications for Practice or Policy (optional):**

Assisting local sporting clubs to develop illicit drugs policies offers a unique opportunity for meaningful community education about illicit drugs in a familiar, multi-generational setting.