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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **A-League giant Melbourne City supports multicultural soccer tournament**

*Picture caption: Dandenong won the Bendigo Community Health Services multicultural soccer tournament in 2015.*

A-League giant Melbourne City FC has thrown its support behind the annual Bendigo Community Health Services multicultural soccer tournament on Saturday.

Cal Gully's Truscott Reserve will host the tournament from 9am to 3pm with Eaglehawk Soccer Club supporting BCHS in preparing the venue.

BCHS has built the tournament from six to 16 teams in three years.

Teams representing Karen and Afghani communities from Bendigo, Dandenong and Shepparton will play against community organisations including Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, headspace Bendigo, Bendigo fire brigade, Victoria Police, City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo District Aboriginal Co-operative, Bendigo Old Gold soccer veterans and United Cricket Club.

Melbourne City will host two soccer clinics during the tournament to cater for open age players and children keen to learn more about the sport.

BCHS CEO Kim Sykes said the organisation was excited that a team as renowned as Melbourne City would support the multicultural tournament.

“Our staff have worked very hard to build this tournament into the success it's become and the interest and support of an A League club such as Melbourne City is such a tremendous reward for that work and the status of the event,” Ms Sykes said.

“We are sure the players and children will be very keen to learn from the Melbourne City representatives on Saturday and the club will have many new fans by the end of the day.

“A huge thank you to Melbourne City for making our tournament even more special – let’s hope this is the start of a long and successful partnership.”

Bendigo Mayor Rod Fyffe will present the winner’s medals at 3pm.

The Karen community will prepare food for sale during the tournament.

Dandenong won the tournament in 2015.

**Media contact:**

Rod Case

Director, Media and Communications

Bendigo Community Health Services

(03) 5448 1629

0418 147 560

[rodcase@bchs.com.au](mailto:rodcase@bchs.com.au)