

MEDIA STATEMENT – For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional Sport Victoria have released their Insights from Supporting Regional Clubs Research - Interim Report

Regional Sport Victoria (RSV) is the peak body which supports nine Regional Sports Assemblies (RSAs) across Victoria. The network of RSAs cover a population of over 1.45 million rural and regional Victorians and over 6,500 community-based sport and recreation clubs.

Regional Sport Victoria along with eight Regional Sport Assemblies have been conducting one-to-one conversations and surveys with representatives from regional sport clubs, leagues and associations across Victoria.

The detailed data set includes the 400 conversations that have occurred to date and highlights the current mood of grassroots, community-based sport, and recreation as they face the task of operating in a “COVID-normal” society.

From this research RSV and the RSAs have been able to identify key areas of concern and preliminary findings that will help to shape their ongoing support and guidance to the sector.

The report is now available on their website <https://www.regionalsportvictoria.org.au/insights-from-supporting-regional-clubs-research/>

Quotes attributed to Cassandra Hadson, General Manager of Regional Sport Victoria:

“This interim report highlights that the COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated existing challenges that community sport clubs across regional and rural Victoria face. Clubs continue to rank member and volunteer retention as a significant challenge, with 30% of respondents reporting a decrease in their volunteer numbers over the previous 12 months”.

“These challenges, coupled with the current uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions, and the role that volunteers will play in managing restrictions, and placing volunteers under significant stress. 17% of respondents state that they had serious mental health concerns for the individuals within their sporting clubs, and this is a real concern”.

“Regional Sport Victoria hope that these early insights can inform stakeholders within the sector, ensuring that we provide the most relevant and appropriate support to community club volunteers, at a time when they need it most”.

A final report is expected to be released in December 2021

ENDS

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