

Media Release
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MINERS JOIN IN TOUCH LIFE FUN TO HELP THE HOMELESS

The local mining industry got its boots muddy for a good cause over the ANZAC long weekend with the inaugural *Touch Life* Touch Football fundraising event in the Hunter Valley.

The NSW mining industry, through the NSW Minerals Council, was a Gold sponsor of the event.

Touch Life was created by ex-Wallaby captain Nick Farr-Jones to raise money and awareness for homelessness, with all funds raised going to Wesley Mission to support their homeless services.

A large crowd turned out to watch the games, sing and dance along at the Saturday evening concert with Rikki Lee and Leo Sayer, and join in the family fun on Grand Final Celebrity Sunday.

Dr Nikki Williams, Chief Executive of the NSW Minerals Council and Nick Farr-Jones presented the Touch Life Cup to the NSW Mining team, which won the tournament, defeating wine industry representatives the Pleasant Mounters in an entertaining final.

"It has been fantastic to see the turnout for this event and of course I am very proud of such a strong show of support by our own industry," said Dr Williams.

Local mining companies Centennial Coal, Xstrata Coal, Peabody Energy and Integra Coal all entered teams in the tournament.

"Touch Life has been designed to make an impact on a problem which is central to the fabric of society - homelessness.

"All the teams played in fantastic spirit. Touch Life is a concept which has huge potential to become a fixture on the Hunter calendar and to do a lot for a very worthwhile cause in the process.

"As a representative of one of the biggest industries in the Hunter and across NSW, I believe it is extremely important that the corporate sector makes a contribution to issues such as this which affect the very fabric of our society.

"About 23 per cent of the homeless Australians in 2001 were families. This belies the common stereotype of homelessness - it can quite literally happen to anyone.

"I feel honoured to be a part of an industry which has so much history in the Hunter region. The Hunter itself is famous for a number of things – not just mining and the making of some of the world's finest wines, but also for its legendary generosity."

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