



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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AWARDS NIGHT KICKS WINNING GOAL

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, congratulated all Australian Football Award winners at the gala event held at Sheraton on the Park, Sydney.

“2011 marks the third year the Awards have been held to recognise coaches, officials, volunteers and players, from the grass roots through to the professional levels of Football in Australia and all involved are to be congratulated,” Mr Annesley said.

In the Professional awards category, the winners included:

- Footballer of the Year (Male) - Matt McKay (Brisbane, Queensland)
- Footballer of the Year (Female) - Elise Kellond-Knight (Brisbane, Queensland)
- Under 20 Footballer of the Year (Male) - Matt Ryan (Blacktown, NSW)
- Under 20 Footballer of the Year (Male) - Caitlin Foord (Wollongong, NSW)

In the non-professional awards category, the winners included:

- Junior Team Of The Year - Woden Valley Soccer Club Redbacks (Canberra, ACT)
- Senior Team Of The Year - Canberra Street Soccer (Canberra, ACT)
- Male Coach Of The Year - Brett Wallin (Wollongong, NSW)
- Female Coach Of The Year - Jamara Maza (Melbourne, Victoria)
- Referee Of The Year - Richard Naumovski (Canberra, ACT)
- Volunteer Of The Year - Mark Roden (Maroochydore, Queensland)

The Australian Football Awards followed this morning’s launch of the 2011-12 season of the Hyundai A-League, held at the iconic Sydney Football Stadium.

As part of the launch, Football Federation Australia (FFA) invited fans to join a once-in-a-lifetime football family photograph, alongside stars from the 10 Hyundai A-League clubs, Qantas Socceroos and Westfield Matildas.

“Football is the largest registered participation sport in NSW, with more than 240,000 football players, 800 football clubs and 40,000 community volunteers and the NSW Government has invested more than \$1.7 million in football programs, projects and facilities across the State to assist in the growth of this great sport,” Mr Annesley said

“I wish everyone involved in the Hyundai A-League a great 2011-12 season and believe its opening match in Melbourne this Saturday featuring international stars Harry Kewell (Melbourne Victory) and Brett Emerton (Sydney FC) highlights the continued growth of the competition,” Mr Annesley added.