

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# LOGAN METRO FC LAUNCH LOGAN'S FIRST FOOTBALL ACADEMY

As preparations for season 2014 begin, Logan Metro Football Club is today proud to announce an exciting new initiative that will offer a pathway to club football to those who otherwise might not have one.

The Opportunities Academy will provide at-risk, migrant, and refugee under 18 players the opportunity to play club football potentially for the first time, and set them up to be part of the club's senior teams for years to come.

It will also provide great youth development coaches to help grow them as both footballers and people, with personal development a strong focus of the academy too.

The bold new initiative will transform Logan's sporting scene, with Logan City's slogan of being a 'city of opportunity' being lived out in its implementation.

The academy will also be completely free of charge for all members, with the club covering registration, insurance, uniform and other costs to ensure that finance isn't an obstacle to anyone getting involved.

Heading up the academy will be Matthew Hodak, who has spent many years playing football at a high level in Brisbane and developed many young footballers who have gone on to have successful careers in Australia and overseas.

"We want to find twenty talented players a year, and develop them to play for our senior teams as well as other bigger and better clubs, maybe even A-League teams," Mr Hodak said.

"There are a lot of players with untapped talent in Logan, and we want to find them and give them this opportunity."

LMFC president Samuel Escobar was similarly enthused about the club's newest venture.

"I was once a refugee and would have loved an opportunity like this," Mr Escobar said.

"Matt (Hodak) and head coach Pat will look after the on field side, and I want to nurture them off field to be great citizens of Logan."

"We want the Opportunities Academy to be an authentic football academy that finds and develops players for many years to come."

Open trials will be held on Saturday 25 January & Saturday February 1 from 3pm at the Logan Metro Sports Complex, with the aim of finding twenty academy prospects from Logan's raw talent that aren't playing at club level. More information is available at [www.loganmetrofc.com](http://www.loganmetrofc.com).

### **Further Enquiries:**

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