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Scoring fun in the workplace

As the football season kicks off around the nation, workers are bringing the excitement and passion to work through office tipping competitions.

A national Newspoll survey found that three in four workers believed their workplace tipping competition improved morale.

Surprisingly, the survey also found that many workers believed winning an office tipping competition could help advance their career.

The survey of almost 500 full-time workers across Australia found that one in 10 full-time employees believed their boss or CEO would look more favourably on the person who excelled in a footy tipping competition.

Nick Stanton, managing director of Financial Management Works, believes office tipping competitions are not about impressing the boss, but about friendly competition among workers and superiors.

"Some people may be scared to beat the boss, but in our office it's

much more of a fun thing," he said.

Heath Kilgour from Australia's largest free online tipping site, footytips.com.au, which commissioned the research, said: "Footy tipping is the great organisational leveller. It doesn't matter if you're the CEO or the intern, everyone is considered equal and important.

"Footy tipping improves workplace morale because it's a clear sign from management to employees that we're all equal.

"Footy tipping is one of the last bastions of egalitarianism in the workplace," Mr Kilgour said.

A workplace footy tipping competition boosts morale by creating a friendly, relaxed workplace, the survey found.

Sixty nine per cent of respondents thought office tipping was a good way to meet people and forge bonds, especially when starting a new job.

"Office footy tipping is an integral part of the workplace because it's all about encouraging personal relation-

ships and inclusion," Mr Kilgour said. "It enables people to strike up a conversation without discussing work or workplace politics."

Mr Stanton said his office's tipping competition created animated chatter among colleagues.

"It gets fairly competitive, but everyone gets excited on a Monday morning when the weekend's results are up, and also on Friday afternoons when everyone is entering their tips."

Mr Stanton has run an office footy tipping competition for 15 years across both AFL and NRL codes.

"The girls tend to shy away from it," he said.

But Mr Kilgour disagrees: "Most men think that the office tipping competition is dominated by men.

"That is not true. Men and women's average scores are consistently close, so no gender can claim to be the best tipper."

— LIZ ACKROYD



Foot forward Nick Stanton, managing director of Financial Management Works, believes footy-tipping contests boost morale