

## **MEDIA RELEASE 21 May 2018**

### **Sports Tribunal considers another Medsafe anti-doping case**

The Sports Tribunal has suspended amateur rugby league player Michael Strickland for a period of two years for purchasing a prohibited substance, clenbuterol, from an online website *NZ Clenbuterol* in 2015.

This is the Tribunal's fifth case and there are expected to be many more similar cases arising from Medsafe's investigation into an online steroid supplier called *NZ Clenbuterol*, which passed data to Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ) relating to athletes who had purchased prohibited drugs online.

Mr Strickland promptly admitted purchasing the product to aid weight loss but said he did not use it. He was unaware it was prohibited. Mr Strickland was provisionally suspended without opposition on 27 March 2018.

On 14 May 2018, a joint memorandum was provided to the Tribunal on behalf of Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ) and Mr Strickland. In the memorandum the parties proposed an appropriate sanction. The proposed sanction was based on relevant factors including the previous cases determined by the Tribunal.

In the memorandum the parties accepted Mr Strickland's violation was not intentional based on his reasons for wanting to purchase the clenbuterol, and his lack of knowledge about the substance. The presumptive two year period of ineligibility applied, and Mr Strickland did not seek to further reduce the period of ineligibility. As with previous cases, it was proposed the period of commencement should be backdated, given his timely admission and some allowance for the investigation delays.

Having considered all available material, the Tribunal imposed a two year sanction period backdated to commence from 27 May 2017.