

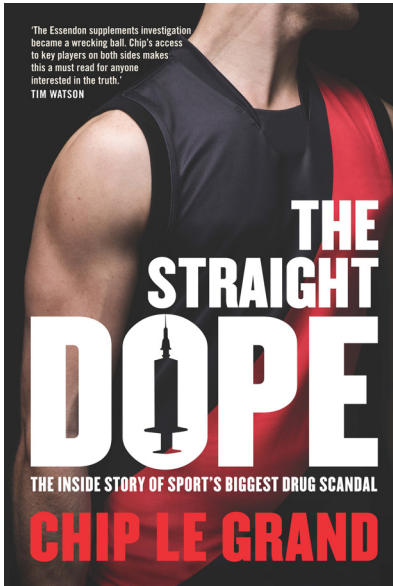
# MEDIA RELEASE

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Chip Le Grand will be available for interview from 24 June.

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## THE STRAIGHT DOPE

The Inside Story of Sport's Biggest Drug Scandal

by Chip Le Grand

*'The worst thing you can do in sport is cheat. It is a lesson we learn from the time we are old enough to kick a ball, dive into a pool, answer a starter's gun. Given the national obsession with sport, some might think it is the worst thing anyone can ever do in life. We reserve a particular loathing for sporting villains: Lance Armstrong and his boosted blood, Hansie Cronje and his bookmaker buddies, Maradona and his hand of God.*

*That said, there is cheating and cheating. Grabbing a handful of jumper when the umpire isn't looking, refusing to walk when you've feathered one through to the keeper—these are lesser forms, tolerated if not entirely accepted. Doping and match fixing—these are the capital crimes, the sins against sport from which no coach or athlete recovers. The great football doping scandal was pitched as a diabolical double ...'*—Chip Le Grand, *The Straight Dope*

The greatest drugs scandal in Australian sport goes well beyond who took what. What happened at Essendon, what happened at Cronulla, is only part of the story ...

From the basement office of a suburban football club to the seedy corners of Peptide Alley to the polished corridors of Parliament House, *The Straight Dope* is an inside account of the politics, greed and personal feuds that fuelled an extraordinary saga.

Clubs and coaches determined to win, a sports scientist who doesn't play by the rules, a generation of footballers held hostage by scandal and injected with who knows what, sport administrators hell bent on control, an anti-doping authority out of its depth, and an unpopular government that just wants it to end. For over two tumultuous seasons this was the biggest game in Australia, and for thirty-four footballers accused of taking a banned peptide, the scandal and uncertainty continues.

**Chip Le Grand** is a journalist who has written about sport, crime and politics for more than 20 years. His coverage of the Essendon drugs scandal won awards from the Melbourne Press Club and the Australian Sports Commission and was short-listed by the Walkley Foundation. This is his first book.

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