



# MESSAGE FROM RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

#### **Leah Armstrong, Chief Executive**

I am very pleased to welcome the AFL to the over 500 organisations across Australia to have a Reconciliation Action Plan.

On many levels sport – in particular Australian Football – has a critical role to play in the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Sport, education and good health are what can really make a difference to individual and community wellbeing.

Sport has an even greater role to play when it comes to reconciliation. Sport provides rich and wide common ground. It is also a great leveller. And sport never exists in isolation – it reaches deep into communities through its supporters, players, volunteers and administrators.

That is why we are delighted to have the AFL make this significant set of commitments to reconciliation. As has already been seen, the AFL has great capacity to carry the Australian community on the reconciliation journey.

On behalf of Reconciliation Australia I commend the AFL not only on this its first RAP, but for the many years of actively encouraging the participation of Indigenous Australians to the game.

We look forward to hearing the progress of the AFL.





#### MESSAGE FROM AFL CED

#### Gillon McLachlan

The positive impact Indigenous Australia has had on Australian Football cannot be underestimated. The game is simply richer and more exciting due to the long history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation at every level of the game.

A critical role of the AFL is to promote inclusion and diversity in Australian Football. When it comes to Indigenous Australia this means having programs to not only promote participation in the sport, but programs to raise awareness across the community of Indigenous culture and life. These programs are also in place to ensure that Indigenous people help run, grow and generally benefit from our game.

The AFL has a significant commitment to and experience with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In 2008 the AFL developed an Indigenous Framework to outline its philosophy and detail its programs that underpin support for Indigenous Australia. The Framework included an Indigenous employment strategy.

This commitment has delivered significant success. The establishment of flagship programs has provided a focus on strengthening connections with Indigenous communities and has also seen benefits in player development and broader employment outcomes across the AFL industry.

Of course, much remains to be done. The development of our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is the next logical step for the AFL to build on what has already been achieved and is designed to formalise and promote our ongoing commitment to Indigenous people and their communities.

This RAP details some significant undertakings for the AFL. I look forward to reporting on our progress and in particular how we are continuing to develop an inclusive and diverse sport of which we can all be proud.



#### MESSAGE FROM AFL CHAIRMAN

#### Mike Fitzpatrick

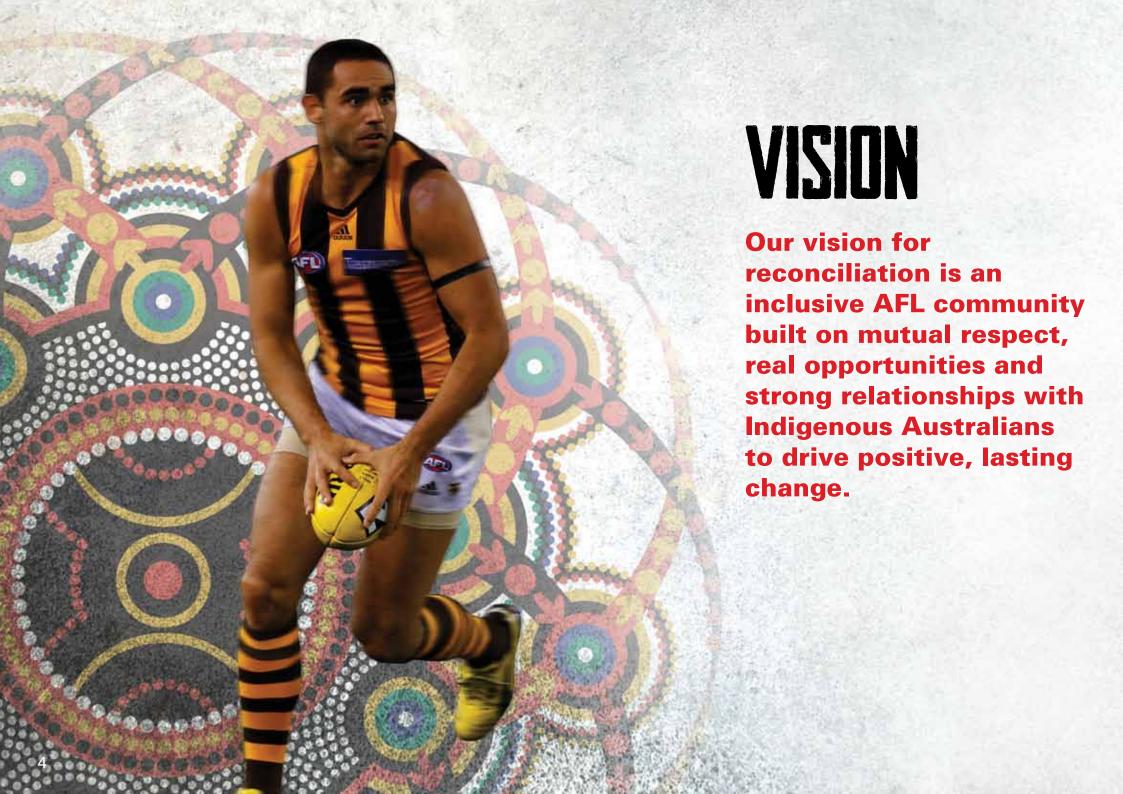
It gives me great pleasure to introduce the AFL's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan. Australian Football owes a great deal to Indigenous Australia, and the governing body believes the game has a vital and enduring role to play in the goals of reconciliation.

We all know the benefits sport can bring for the individual and the community. This RAP is about ensuring Indigenous Australians can realise such benefits no matter location or ability, age or gender.

This RAP is a positive document for the AFL. It is however an opportunity to once again reinforce that there is no room for racism or discrimination in our game or anywhere for that matter. Unfortunately this is something we continue to confront. As such, several important actions in this RAP are designed to raise awareness and build pride in the contribution of Indigenous Australia to our sport and the community.

Success for the AFL in this area has a number of measures: more Indigenous employees, umpires, coaches, administrators and players at all levels; greater exposure to Indigenous customs and traditions for our fans, members, administrators and players; and the opportunity to pursue business and cultural opportunities between the AFL and Indigenous Australia.

In short I believe that Australian Football should be a game which gives more to Indigenous Australia than the other way round, and this Reconciliation Action Plan is designed to achieve just that.



### THE AFL

The AFL is the best-attended sporting league in Australia, with over 6.3 million people attending a game in the 2013 premiership season. With more than 750,000 members, 650 employees and annual revenue of over \$500 million in 2013, the AFL plays a significant and important role in Australian sport.

A core area of focus of the AFL is to grow the diversity and inclusiveness of the game, particularly with Indigenous Australia. The AFL actively promotes initiatives which raise awareness, and promote inclusion and diversity across Australian Football. We want our game, at every level, to be a sport that welcomes everyone.

As the national body for Australian Football, the AFL manages and administers the 18 team professional competition and provides strategic direction and national objectives for the sport, focused on community engagement, participation and talent. At a community level, the game is played by almost 950,000 people across Australia, including 90,000 Indigenous Australians, while around 130,000 people participate in the game in countries around the world.

# **KEY ACTIONS**

Australian Football is the sport of choice for Indigenous Australians. This is highlighted by the fact that 90,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are engaged with Australian Football and make up:

- · 6% of total AFL participants;
- 3% of AFL employees; and
- · 9% of current AFL Players.

This is a strong representation from Indigenous people who make up 2.7% of the Australian population.

#### The key aims of this Reconciliation Action Plan for 2014 – 2016 are to:

- Improve participation: Increase the overall level of Indigenous Australians who participate in our game as players, coaches and umpires;
- Build partnerships: In partnership with the Recognise campaign, support the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian constitution;
- Create employment opportunities: Refresh the AFL Indigenous employment strategy to increase the number of Indigenous employees across the AFL industry; and
- Acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous culture: Continue to build understanding and respect for Indigenous customs, values and traditions through education and the AFL's ongoing focus on the Indigenous Round celebrations.

To support the achievement of the key aims within this RAP, an AFL National Indigenous Advisory Group will be established to provide strategic advice, guidance and support on Indigenous affairs.

# ICONIC MOMENTS

Sir Doug Nicholls.

First Aboriginal person and only VFL/AFL player to be knighted.

Winmar:
"I'm black and proud of it."

Winmar's gesture, described as a "powerful statement", an "anti-racist symbol" and one of the "most poignant" images in Australian sport, has been credited as a catalyst for the movement against racism in Australian Football.

# Reconciliation and Australian Football



#### Adam Goodes

2014 Australian of the Year, dual Brownlow Medallist, dual premiership player, four-time All-Australian, member of the Indigenous Team of the Century. I have been asked to write a few words about the significant role Australian Football is playing for Indigenous Australia.

It is an important topic, but I wonder if the time has come for it to be put the other way around – what role does Indigenous Australia play for Australian Football? This way round puts it on Indigenous people to be clear about what we expect and what we can contribute.

Indigenous participation in Australian Football has never been better. There are programs and pathways in place to work with Aboriginal people and no shortage of ideas from the football community to do more. It is terrific to see the positive impact the sport is making wherever I visit.

The programs are essential, but there is more to do, and it's not necessarily about more programs. It's actually about the thing that limits us all.

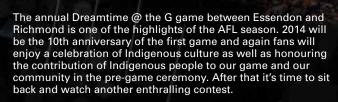
Let me put it this way; you can't be the most brilliant footballer the game has ever seen if there is anyone in the crowd who thinks racist thoughts. You are limited from the start by what people think of you. We need the pathway programs for sure, but we also need to remove any trace of the barrier which says you are inferior because of your skin colour.

For me personally it is great to see that things are changing. There is a clear track ahead and it is coming from Indigenous Australians and the AFL not taking each other for granted. It is coming from Indigenous people – at all levels – being clear on what we expect and what we can deliver.

We have a long and proud history with the game, and I am proud of my involvement with the game. I am here to do everything I can to be a role model, inside the sport, outside the sport, for Indigenous Australia and Australia. I take it seriously but at the end of the day it is up to all of us.



players the chance to represent their country and experience the chance to share their diverse backgrounds. The side was coached by former Sydney Swans champion Michael O'Loughlin.





#### **Jason Mifsud**

AFL Head of Diversity, proud member of the Gunditimara people

"Football does more than allow you to discover others, it allows you to discover yourself. That's why the game is so important to Indigenous people."



**Chris Johnson** 

**AFL National Talent Diversity** Manager, proud member of the Gunditjmara people

"Anyone who has seen Aboriginal kids play football know it is much more than a game to them."



#### **Belinda Duarte**

Director of the Korin Gamadji Institute, proud member of the Wotjobaluk people

"It is all about culture, leadership and pathways, and working with the AFL helps us to deliver all three."



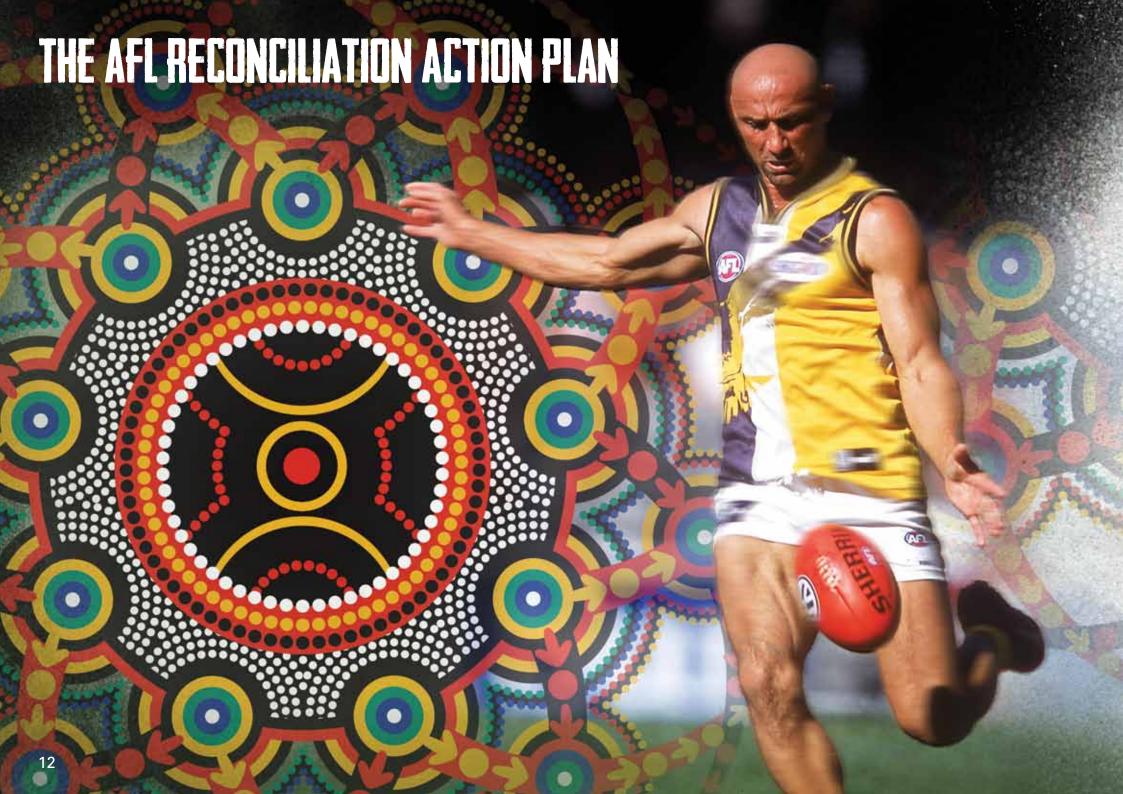






Strong relationships between Indigenous Australia and the AFL will ensure that opportunities to participate in all areas of the game are available to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Area of focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
Governance	Establish a RAP Working Group to actively monitor RAP implementation and to track progress	Head of Diversity	From Sept 2014	RAP Working Group established and meeting quarterly
Strategy and advice	Establish an AFL National Indigenous Advisory Group to provide strategic advice, guidance and support on Indigenous Affairs	Head of Diversity	By Sept 2014	Advisory group established with representatives across sport, corporate Australia and the community. At least two meetings held in the year following establishment
Football participation	Work with the AFL State affiliates to expand the remote competition program in northern Australia	Head of Diversity	By Dec 2016	At least one new program in place to support the goal of increasing total Indigenous participation
	Work with AFL State affiliates to identify new development pathway projects	Head of Diversity	By Dec 2016	At least one targeted engagement project in place to support the goal of increasing total Indigenous participation
Support for talented players	Design and implement a program to monitor the number of Indigenous players transitioning into talent pathway programs	Head of Diversity; General Manager Football Operations	By Dec 2015	Program designed and implemented
	Develop a national mentoring framework for talented Indigenous players and employees to assist with retention	Head of Diversity; Head of Human Resources; General Manager Football Operations	By Dec 2016	Mentoring framework designed and implemented for players and employees





By building respect for Indigenous customs, values and traditions within the AFL community the AFL can build pride in the contribution Indigenous Australia has made to Australian Football, help reduce racism and discrimination, and be a better custodian of the game for the Australian community.

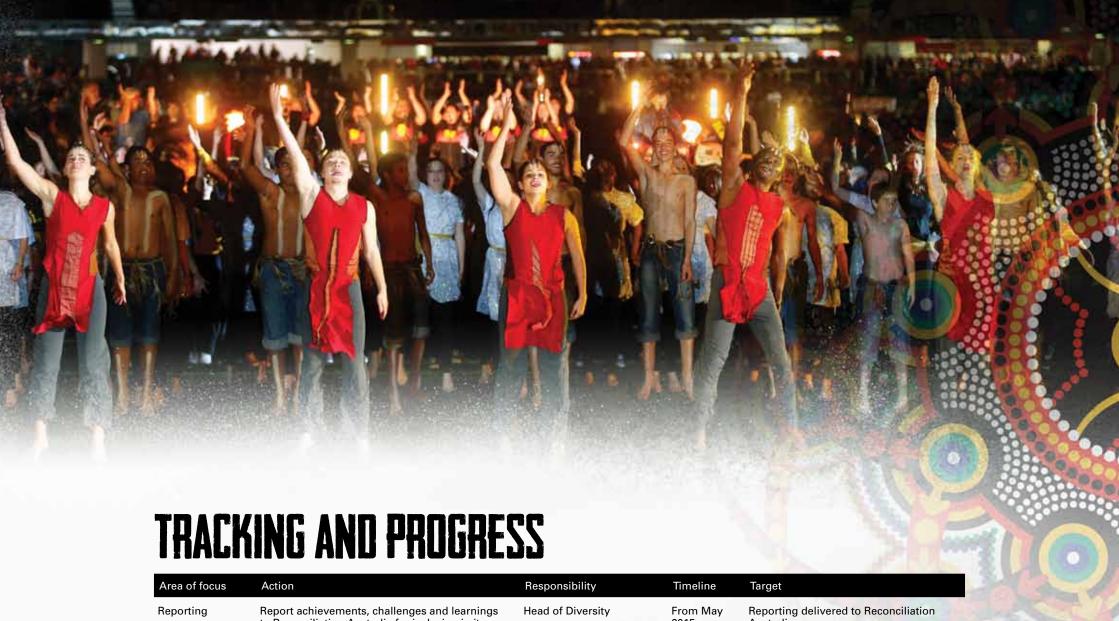
Area of focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
Partnership with Recognise campaign	Formalise a partnership with the Recognise campaign and publicly endorse why the AFL supports this important initiative	Head of Diversity; General Manager People, Customer & Community	By Sept 2015	Awareness raised for Constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
Cultural awareness and education	Development of a suitable cultural awareness and education program for the AFL community	General Manager People, Customer and Community	By Dec 2015	A suitable cultural awareness and education program identified and sessions regularly conducted across the AFL community
				In particular, provide opportunities for RAP Champions and leaders to participate in training
	Grow the community engagement activities during the Indigenous Round including Dreamtime @ the G	General Manager People, Customer and Community	Sept 2015	Year on year improvement in engagement in the Indigenous Round in all States
	Celebrate, support and encourage all AFL employees, in particular Indigenous employees, to engage in significant cultural activities such as Reconciliation and NAIDOC week events	Head of Diversity; Head of Human Resources	By July each year	Events organised and all employees actively encouraged to participate in local Reconciliation and NAIDOC week events
	Explore the option of providing AFL leaders with first hand experiences in Indigenous programs and communities to further develop respect and understanding	Head of Diversity; Head of Human Resources	Sept 2015	Opportunities identified and at least one experience completed
	Work with AFL's corporate and broadcast partners to identify joint reconciliation and awareness raising initiatives	General Manager People, Customer and Community; General Manager Commercial Operations; General Manager Media	Sept 2015	Regular events held to share RAP experience and identify opportunities with AFL partners
	Conduct formal Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country ceremonies at major AFL events	General Manager People, Customer and Community	Sept 2015	Welcome to Country ceremonies conducted at major AFL events
	All AFL offices to display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag and/or acknowledgement statement	General Manager People, Customer and Community	From June 2015	Flags and/or statement displayed at all AFL offices

# THE AFL RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

By using the strength and reach of the AFL, we will partner with Indigenous communities to deliver leadership, education, employment and business outcomes across Indigenous Australia.

Area of focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
Employment	Refresh the Indigenous employment and development strategy with the aim of increasing the number of Indigenous employees across the AFL	Head of Diversity and Head of Human Resources	By Dec 2014	Updated strategy completed and endorsed. Increased percentage of Indigenous employees across the AFL
Indigenous Coaching and Umpiring	Develop and deliver a targeted strategy that engages, develops, transitions and retains Indigenous coaches and umpires	Head of Diversity; General Manager Football Operations; AFL Coaches Association CEO	By Dec 2014	Strategy developed, endorsed and enacted
Learning and Leadership	Support the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre, providing children from remote communities with health and education programs and adults with career planning and leadership development	General Manager People, Customers and Community	Sept 2015	Program of support agreed and implemented
Health and wellbeing, education and employment	AFL NT to continue to have a strong presence through our 10 remote NT community projects that aim to improve the health and wellbeing, education and employment prospects of Indigenous Australians	General Manager AFL NT, General Manager People, Customer and Community	Sept 2015	AFL NT's ongoing support provided to our 10 remote community projects to drive positive health, education and employment outcomes
Evaluation	Develop an evaluation framework to measure the impact of Australian Football in Indigenous communities	Head of Diversity	By June 2015	Evaluation framework developed in partnership with an appropriate third partyv
Procurement	Identify key category areas for Indigenous supplier engagement and preferred suppliers	General Manager People, Customers and Community; Chief Financial Officer	By June 2015	Review and reform procurement strategy, policy and processes so that supplier diversity principles can be incorporated
				Preferred suppliers identified, purchasing levels increased



Area of focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Target
Reporting	Report achievements, challenges and learnings to Reconciliation Australia for inclusion in its Annual Impact Measurement Report.	Head of Diversity	From May 2015	Reporting delivered to Reconciliation Australia
	Prepare and publish a yearly progress report in the AFL Annual Report	Head of Diversity	From May 2015	Reporting completed as part of the AFL Annual Report

# LIST OF PLAYERS

#### **Current Indigenous Players in the AFL**

Name	Club	
Eddie Betts	Adelaide	Player
Cameron Ellis-Yolmen	Adelaide	Player
Jared Petrenko	Adelaide	Player
Charlie Cameron	Adelaide	Rookie
Ashley McGrath	Brisbane	Player
Jeffrey Garlett	Carlton	Player
Andrew Walker	Carlton	Player
Chris Yarran	Carlton	Player
Tony Armstrong	Collingwood	Player
Peter Yagmoor	Collingwood	Rookie
Courtney Dempsey	Essendon	Player
Shaun Edwards	Essendon	Player
Leroy Jetta	Essendon	Player
Patrick Ryder	Essendon	Player
Brady Grey	Fremantle	Player
Jonathon Griffin	Fremantle	Player
Stephen Hill	Fremantle	Player
Michael Johnson	Fremantle	Player
Alex Pearce	Fremantle	Player
Danyle Pearce	Fremantle	Player
Josh Simpson	Fremantle	Player
Michael Walters	Fremantle	Player
Allen Christensen	Geelong	Player
Joel Hamling	Geelong	Player

Name	Club	
Bradley Hartman	Geelong	Player
Steven Motlop	Geelong	Player
Mathew Stokes	Geelong	Player
Travis Varcoe	Geelong	Player
Zachary Bates	Geelong	Rookie
Harley Bennell	Gold Coast	Player
Jarrod Harbrow	Gold Coast	Player
Sean Lemmons	Gold Coast	Player
Jack Martin	Gold Coast	Player
Brandon Matera	Gold Coast	Player
Steven May	Gold Coast	Player
Timmy Sumner	Gold Coast	Player
Curtly Hampton	Greater Western Sydney	Player
Zach Williams	Greater Western Sydney	Player
Nathan Wilson	Greater Western Sydney	Player
Jed Anderson	Hawthorn	Player
Shaun Burgoyne	Hawthorn	Player
Dayle Garlett	Hawthorn	Player
Bradley Hill	Hawthorn	Player
Cyrile Rioli	Hawthorn	Player
Derek Wanganeen	Hawthorn	Rookie
Domanic Barry	Melbourne	Player
Jay Kennedy-Harris	Melbourne	Player

Name	Club	
Neville Jetta	Melbourne	Rookie
indsay Thomas	North Melbourne	Player
Daniel Wells	North Melbourne	Player
Brendon Ah Chee	Port Adelaide	Player
Karl Amon	Port Adelaide	Player
Jarman Impey	Port Adelaide	Player
Jake Neade	Port Adelaide	Player
Chad Wingard	Port Adelaide	Player
Shane Edwards	Richmond	Player
Terry Milera	St Kilda	Player
_ance Franklin	Sydney	Player
Adam Goodes	Sydney	Player
_ewis Jetta	Sydney	Player
Jamie Bennell	West Coast	Player
Josh Hill	West Coast	Player
Malcolm Karpany	West Coast	Player
Sharrod Wellingham	West Coast	Player
Murray Newman	West Coast	Rookie
Brett Goodes	Western Bulldogs	Player
_iam Jones	Western Bulldogs	Player
Koby Stevens	Western Bulldogs	Player

# INDIGENOUS TEAM OF THE CENTURY

Chris Johnson (Fitzroy, Brisbane)

**Darryl White** (Brisbane)

Bill Dempsey (West Perth)

Gavin Wanganeen (Essendon, Port Adelaide)

Adam Goodes (Svdnev)

Norm McDonald (Essendon)

Peter Matera (South Fremantle, West Coast)

Maurice Rioli (South Fremantle, Richmond)

Michael Long (Essendon)

Nicky Winmar (South Fremantle, St Kilda, Western Bulldogs)

Stephen Michael (South Fremantle) Syd Jackson (East Perth), (Carlton)

Chris Lewis (Claremont, West Coast) Michael O'Loughlin (Sydney)

Jim Krakouer (Claremont, North Melbourne, St Kilda)

**Graham Farmer** (Captain) (East Perth, Geelong, West Perth) Andrew McLeod (Adelaide)

Barry Cable (Perth, East Perth, North Melbourne)

Michael McLean (Footscray, Brisbane)

**Byron Pickett** (North Melbourne, Port Adelaide, Melbourne)

Michael Graham (Sturt)

David Kantilla (South Adelaide)

Ted Kilmurray (East Perth)

Peter Burgoyne (Port Adelaide)

Barry Cable (former coach of North Melbourne)

Glenn James

# ĒF FI INDICENDE

#### ADELAIDE

Designer Andrew McLeod Inspiration AFC's journey, bringing the community together, warrior culture, recognition

#### BRISBANE

Designer Hogarth Arts
Inspiration Wetland dreaming: the
travelling story, meeting people,
passing on culture

#### CARLTON

Designer Emma MacNeill Inspiration Hunting for victory, life and team, and fans near and far

#### COLLINGWOOD

Designer Dixon Patten
Inspiration Barrawarn (Magpie),
partnership and overcoming
challenges

















#### HAWTHORN

Designer Jirra Lulla Harvey
Inspiration Hawthorn as it once was:
towering gum trees, bush canopy,
meeting places along the Birrarung

#### MELBOURNE

Designer Ursula Napangardi Hudson Inspiration Vaughan Springs Dreaming. Reflects MFC's strong links with the Northern Territory

#### NORTH MELBOURNE

Designer Sarrita King
Inspiration Everyone: the supporters
and the players coming together at
the one place

#### PORT ADELAIDE

Designer Valerie Ah Chee Inspiration Aboriginal players, family and support, strength from connection to culture

#### ESSENDON

Designer Thomas Day 3rd Inspiration Prized possum skin cloaks, Essendon's story, the traditional game of Marn Grook

#### FREMANTLE

Designer Richard Walley with Roger Hayden Inspiration Three boomerangs: weapon, musical instrument and home. Ocean, Fremantle and shelter

#### GEELONG

Designer BJ O'Toole
Inspiration The Kulin Nations,
meeting places, coming together,
playing for Geelong and returning to
their communities

#### GOLD COAST

Designer Luther Cora
Inspiration Red, orange and yellow
– people, beach and sun. Black and
white hands for reconciliation

#### GREATER WESTERN Sydney

**Designer Chris Edwards** 

Inspiration Hunting grounds: hunting as one, covering the ground using a snake technique, come back with a greater result





#### RICHMOND

Designer Mick Harding
Inspiration Recognition as the first
peoples, strength and resilience, our
people and stories





#### ST KILDA

Designer Marcus Lee with Carolyn Briggs Inspiration Boon Wurrung (first people of the Saint's home), Bunjil, Kulin Nation creator and spiritual leader), spear (reconciliation)





#### SYDNEY

Designer Lisa Sansbury
Inspiration Indigenous communities
of Sydney coming together around
the harbour and estuaries





#### **WEST COAST**

Designer Peter Farmer
Inspiration Waalitj (Wedge Tailed
Eagle) ready for attack. Water tracks
of the Noongar Dreaming Story





#### **WESTERN BULLDOGS**

Designer Anzack Newman Inspiration Journey to playing football. Desert people, Torres Strait and coastal people



#### **About this artwork**

The artwork design features a centralised Australian Football field surrounded by the 18 circular symbols representing all of the AFL clubs. The emu tracks symbolise the pathways from grassroots footy to the MCG, the voyage of players coming together and the journey towards reconciliation. This original artwork design was created for the AFL Reconciliation Action Plan by Marcus Lee.



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