

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 26 JUNE, 2012

Victorian Multicultural Commission congratulates AFL Multicultural Team of Champions

The Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Mr Chin Tan congratulates the AFL on their inaugural initiative to nominate a Multicultural Team of Champions as part of the AFL's annual Multicultural Round to be held this weekend.

The Multicultural Team of Champions is made up of both current and historical players who were either born overseas or have a parent who was born overseas, dating back to 1896.

Mr Tan said "I congratulate the AFL on this great, sporting initiative. It clearly demonstrates the diversity of Australia's champion football players and the important role Australia's migration and diversity plays in not only providing football sporting greats, but also in the creation of truly great Australian athletes.

"Aussie Rules is an institution to thousands of Australians with fans from both established and new and emerging communities flocking to see a game every weekend.

"The sense of belonging, pride and social camaraderie provided by following a football team or sporting hero is a universal experience. It can help to break down social barriers as well as providing inspirational role models for those who are new to our country.

"The AFL's recognition of diversity through its Multicultural Team of Champions will help to filter this message down through the ranks and into local football, promoting the value of acknowledging your cultural heritage as well as being proud Australians.

"This is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate both our great sporting traditions and our multicultural diversity."

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