

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MULTICULTURAL ROUND KICKS OFF AT THE 'G THIS WEEKEND

Merging Victoria's passionate football culture with Victorians from more than 200 countries and 135 faiths, the AFL's multicultural round highlights the importance of sport as a vehicle for bringing people together.

Praising the AFL's leadership at the Multicultural Team of Champions announcement at Crown today, Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) Mr Chin Tan said families could enjoy a range of cultural activities outside Victorian grounds this weekend.

"The VMC is proud to partner the AFL for the annual multicultural round because regardless of the colours on the jumper or scarf you wear to the game, we're all proud and passionate Victorians," Mr Tan said.

"As you approach the MCG or Etihad stadiums this weekend, you can stop and get into the dancing spirit with performances by community organisations representing Victorians who were born in China, Lebanon, Sudan, India and Malaysia.

"Setting the beat for the battle on the field, West African drummers will get hearts racing even before the first bounce of the ball."

Mr Tan said Victoria is one of the most diverse states in Australia, with more than 230 languages spoken, and almost half of all Victorians born overseas or with at least one parent born overseas.

"The AFL has, for some time, taken the initiative to include and promote broad participation, particularly of Australia's Indigenous players," he said.

"We commend them on their further leadership with the establishment of the Majak Daw Squad and the Ahmed Saad Squad to recognise future champions from different cultural backgrounds.

"The VMC is pleased to continue our work with the AFL to bring the same level of expertise, energy and commitment to ensuring that every one of the Victoria's communities is represented on the playing field, at clubs of all levels and in the grandstands."

Multicultural game day activities kick off in Victoria on Friday 12 July when the Magpies take on the Crows at the MCG, followed by the Blues and Saints game at Etihad Stadium on Saturday 13 July, and concludes with the Bulldogs clash against the Bombers on Sunday 14 July at Etihad Stadium.

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