

Old Perth Road, PO Box 61, Bassendean WA, 6054 t: 08 9279 8700 | f: 08 9378 3109 | ABN: 97 835 019 730

## www.swandistrictsfc.com.au

Swan Districts Football Club recognises that on our journey towards reconciliation, for healing to occur, there must be truth telling. Our shared truth.

Subsequently, over a considerable period of time the Swans Aboriginal Advisory Committee (SAAC) led a process to hear and to understand the experiences of past Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players at Swans and whether they experienced racism while involved at the club.

Racism is a significant part of our country's history, and we anticipated this process would likely bring to the surface instances from the past which as a club we would not be proud of.

Our engagement with past players has confirmed that there have been experiences of racism at Swans in our past.

It is with deep regret this occurred, and we sincerely apologise to all individuals who have been racially vilified during their time at Swans. Having listened to our past players we will work with them to ensure the behaviours of the past are not repeated. We are committed to strengthening our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

We remain committed to building a culture that does not condone racism, nor racial vilification in any form. As a club, Swan Districts values our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and want to work together for all players and community members to ensure our past is not repeated.

The Swan Districts Football Club sincerely thank those players who have come forward and acknowledge your courage and bravery knowing there is an emotional toll in revisiting your personal experiences.

We appreciate that the experiences you have described will have had an impact on you personally as well as on your relationship with the Swan Districts Football Club. We understand that this process may take some time and consideration. However, we would be grateful for you to be a part of the healing process led by the SAAC.

As part of the healing process, the SAAC, together with our Swans board and executive will be holding a gathering around a yarning circle at the Karlup Centre in Midland at 5.30pm on Tuesday 28th February 2023.

We invite our past and current players, staff, officials and volunteers who are interested in attending to please contact Jeff Dennis on ceo@swandistrictsfc.com by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of our SAAC who have carried the weight and responsibility of guiding Swans as part of this truth telling process.















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Our SAAC will continue to advise and provide direction to our club on the path towards healing.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hodyl President Jeff Dennis

Chief Executive Officer

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Cheryl Thomas SAAC









