

Mill Park Football Club

Respect & Responsibility – Statement of Intent

Rationale

We, the Mill Park Football Club hereby commit to the objective of the AFL's Respect and Responsibility Policy to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for women and girls at all levels of Australian Football.

By committing to this goal, we understand that;

Violence against women is a violation of a woman's right to physical and psychological integrity, to liberty, and all too often, to her right to life itselfⁱ. It is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm to womenⁱⁱ.

We acknowledge that;

- In Australia and around the world, 1 in three women will experience violence at some point in their lifeⁱⁱⁱ;
- That violence against women is the leading cause of death, disability and illness in young Victorian women aged 15 – 44^{iv};
- One in five Australian women reported being subject to sexual assault at some time in their adult lives^v; and
- Four in five Australian women who experienced sexual violence knew their attacker^{vi}.

We understand that violence against women is a major public health and safety issue in Australia, and therefore affirm that our club understands its, and the wider football communities role in preventing violence against women before it occurs.

We further recognise that violence against women is caused by;

- Unequal power relations between men and women and belief in rigid gender roles;
- Holding a masculine sense of entitlement;
- Belief in the male right to control relationships; and
- Promotion of these beliefs through social structures, such as sporting clubs^{vii}.

We underline our commitment to challenging these behaviours and attitudes that can cause, contribute to and condone violence against women.

We understand that creating environments where women feel safe, welcome and inclusive is both an individual and collective responsibility. In order to achieve this, we commit to;

- Having an equal representation of women and men in senior leadership positions;
- Actively recruiting women and girls to coaching roles
- Ensuring that all elements of the Member Protection Policy are adhered to at all times;
- Communicate and enforce relevant Club and League Codes of Conduct;
- Actively engage with the White Ribbon Campaign, or equivalent;
- Adherence to our Responsible Service of Alcohol obligations; and
- Enforcing Club and League Codes of Conduct, where applicable.

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Statement Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.

Signed: Club President

Signed: Club Secretary

Date:

Date:

ⁱ Amnesty International USA, Violence against Women Information, accessed from <http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women/violence-against-women-information>

ⁱⁱ United Nations, 1993, Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women, Article 1. Accessed from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations Secretary General's Campaign, 2006, Unite to End Violence against Women Fact Sheet, accessed from <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf>

^{iv} Vichealth, 2004, The health Costs of Violence: Measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence: A summary of findings, accessed from <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Publications/Freedom-from-violence/The-Health-Costs-of-Violence.aspx>

^v ABS, 2005: Reissue. Personal Safety Survey: Australia, accessed from <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0>

^{vi} Ibid

^{vii} Australian Government (FaHCSIA), 2010, National Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children: Including the First three-year Action Plan, Accessed from http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/national_plan.pdf