

Club Start up Kit – Foreword

The greatest strength of Australian Football is the community football clubs throughout Australia that continue to provide opportunities for people of any age, gender, race, ethnic or language group or religion to participate in our great game. These clubs continue to thrive through the dedication and efforts of thousands of volunteers and administrators who sacrifice many hours for the health and growth of our game.

Australian Football has more than 650,000 participants at grass roots level, with children as young as five years of age beginning the game in the AFL Auskick program. The AFL Commission, recognising the importance of developing and assisting grass roots football, established the AFL Game Development Department to develop the game. It is responsible for the development, administration and implementation of quality national programs to assist with the well being of football in every part of the country. It recognises there will be a continuing need for establishing new football clubs in order to meet local community requirements including social needs. Developing a new football club is an involved process, one that needs to be carefully planned in order for the club to survive and succeed in the long term.

It is with great pleasure that the AFL provides this resource to assist communities and their volunteers with the establishment of new football clubs. The *AFL Club Start up Kit* has been developed as a practical resource for administrators and other volunteers to assist with the administration of football clubs throughout Australia at the grass roots level. The kit contains many useful sections ranging from forming a committee to developing club policies and practices. I am sure you will find this kit helpful, informative and an essential resource for your club.

Good luck with the development of your new football club. Your contribution and involvement in community football is valued and is integral to the ongoing success of our great game of Australian Football.

Andrew Demetriou
Chief Executive Officer
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