



# EQUALITY SERIES

HOMOPHOBIA- Video and Education Resource



# INTRODUCTION

The AFL 'Equality' video series and resources have been developed by the Cultural Strategy & Education unit within the AFL to assist community football clubs around Australia in providing education to their players on key social issues. The series consists of 4 clips and accompanying resources. Each clip features a football or sport related personality discussing a social issue that has impacted them personally. The Equality Series includes the following clips:

- **HOMOPHOBIA** – Jason Ball
- **MENTAL HEALTH** – Simon Hogan
- **GENDER EQUALITY** – Peta Searle
- **RACIAL VILIFICATION** – Joel Wilkinson

The clips and accompanying resources can be found on the AFL Respect and Responsibility webpage alongside the tabs that relate to the corresponding social issue. Within each tab, you will find a resource that provides information on how to present the education in your club, key questions to discuss, the key messages to get across and a fact sheet on the selected topic.

The clips featured in this series are being used to educate and raise awareness across the AFL industry on the impact that discrimination and vilification can have on individuals and their families.

# USING THE RESOURCE

## OPTION 1: YOUR OWN EDUCATION

**PURPOSE:** To develop your own understanding and knowledge on these topics

**PREPARATION:** Download clips and AFL social inclusion and equality resource which can be found on the AFL Respect and Responsibility website.

**MATERIALS:** Laptop/PC

**TIMING:** 10-15 minutes per topic

**FORMAT:** Watch the clip yourself. Think about the questions and read over the fact sheets to develop your own understanding of the issue

## OPTION 2: PLAYER EDUCATION (RECOMMENDED)

**PURPOSE:** To educate players within your own club

**PREPARATION:** Download the clip/s and Equality Resource (topic of your choice)

**MATERIALS:** TV and/or projector, laptop, screen/blank wall, speakers, butchers paper and markers

**TIMING:** 15-20 minutes per topic including clip and discussion

**FORMAT:** Show clip to the group and run activity/discussion as per the accompanying resource





## PLAYER EDUCATION: HOW TO RUN A SESSION IN YOUR CLUB

- Decide which clips you want to show.
- Read over the fact sheet, discussion points and key messages of the clips you have chosen and familiarise yourself with the content. Think about the questions you may get asked.
- Prepare any materials you need in advance – e.g. paper, pens, butcher’s paper and markers.
- Organise a space for the session. Make sure it is private and without distractions, such as the club rooms.
- If you think you need some support, request assistance from a local community worker/social worker/school teacher etc. to assist.
- Allow enough time to work through each session. At least 20 minutes is recommended per clip. 5 minutes to show the clip and 15-20 minute discussion time. Also allow enough time for questions from participants.

# RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES

It is very important to ensure that you have relevant support services referral information and phone numbers to pass onto your participants. National support services are listed under each topic in this resource but you may want to identify local support services in your area.

## **When facilitating the sessions:**

Begin the session with a group agreement around respect. Four or five group rules are usually enough and may include;

- Confidentiality –nothing leaves the room
- Listening and not interrupting
- Showing respect for other people's comments and opinions
- Using third person -not telling personal stories
- Choose how much to participate -it's ok to pass on questions or opt out

## **FACILITATOR TIPS**

- Continually throw questions to the group. If, as a facilitator, you are asked a question, don't always answer it yourself. Throw the question to the group, and allow that to spark or continue to drive discussion
- Occasionally somebody might say something that stops you in your tracks. It is important to stay calm and address the comment with respect. If possible, try to suggest an alternate viewpoint or throw it to the rest of the group. It is important not to enter into a public argument.
- If you get a question that you don't know the answer to, don't panic. Admit that you don't know the answer. You do not want to lie or invent information that isn't true, as you lose all credibility. Reassure the person that you will follow up with them regarding the question after the session and that an answer will be provided in due time.
- At the end of the session provide an opportunity for participants to follow up with yourself to provide information regarding support services, referrals and websites.

**YOU ARE NOW READY TO PLAY THE CLIP AND BEGIN YOUR SESSION**

# DISCUSSION POINTS

## HOMOPHOBIA

### QUESTIONS

- Why do you think there is not an openly gay footballer in the AFL?
- How do you think your club would respond if one of your team-mates was gay?
- What challenges do you think a gay AFL player would have to deal with?
- What do you think about Jason's comments about the way it makes him feel when people say things like 'that's so gay'?

### KEY MESSAGES

- Indirect discrimination/vilification is just as hurtful as direct discrimination/vilification
- Using terms such as 'that's so gay' as a negative response to something can make LGBTI people feel ostracised.
- Think before you speak, you never know who might be overhearing your comments.
- Sport can be a challenging environment for the LGBTI community, mainly due to the derogatory language that still exists in some sporting environments.



## STATISTICS

- Homophobia is an irrational hatred of homosexuality, disapproval or fear of homosexuality, gay and lesbian people, or their culture.
- 8.6% of men in Australia report same-sex attraction
- Almost half of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender people hide their sexual orientation or gender identity in public for fear of violence or discrimination.
- Sport in Australia can sometimes be a challenging environment for the LGBTI community as research has shown that many athletes and coaches feel it necessary to conform to the heterosexual 'norm' to maintain team and coach relationships.
- Homophobic taunts are sometimes used in the sporting arena to 'motivate' athletes, demean players, opposing spectators and sport officials which is why education around this issue is so important.



# SUPPORT SERVICES

ORGANISATION	PHONE	WEBSITE
NO TO HOMOPHOBIA		<a href="http://www.notohomophobia.com.au/">http://www.notohomophobia.com.au/</a>
GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD	1800 184 527	<a href="http://www.switchboard.org.au/">http://www.switchboard.org.au/</a>
VEOHRC	1300 292 153	<a href="http://www.humanrightcommission.vic.gov.au">http://www.humanrightcommission.vic.gov.a u</a>
RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA	1300 364 277	<a href="http://www.relationships.org.au/">http://www.relationships.org.au/</a>

LUBRICATE NEEDLE  
INFLATE TO 69 kPa.

HERB