



THE PLAYERS' TRUST



AFL PLAYERS' PRESIDENT

Professional football has changed incredibly over recent years and continues to evolve at a rapid rate. It's easy to become consumed by the game and forget that there is indeed life after footy.

As leaders of our modern era, it's important that we focus on the opportunity to leave a legacy once our time in the game has ceased. We recognise the significance of looking after the players that have gone before us and we are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of players as a collective.

Past player research shows that 64% of past players remain affected in their current daily life from a previous AFL injury, with 60% of these requiring ongoing medical treatment.

Therefore, with the contribution of all players, the Players' Trust has been formed. A support mechanism for former players facing hardship after they have finished their careers in the AFL, one of the main goals of the Players' Trust is to provide real and valuable assistance to its former members.

The AFL Players' Association provides a range of benefits, services and programs that have been designed to assist in your life after football.

This booklet outlines the process and eligibility criteria involved in the Players' Trust and serves as a starting point in obtaining information about the fund. It's important to gain an understanding of what's available to you - you never know what's around the corner.

Luke Ball
AFL Players' President

“The AFL Players' Alumni is designed to provide benefits to past players and recognise their contribution to our game.”

- Simon Madden, AFL Players' Association
Board Member



THE ALUMNI PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?

The Alumni is not just a banner; it's a lifelong support network. The strength and services of the Alumni (formally known as AFL Past Player Association) will continue to grow as our great game of AFL grows.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO BECOME A MEMBER?

It costs a one off fee of \$50 (\$25 for pensioners) and you qualify if you have played one AFL/VFL game during your career.
(Applies to players who have been retired or delisted for more than 8 years)

76 %

of past players experienced serious injuries in elite football.

Of those who reported serious injuries

64 %

are still affected in daily life by their previous VFL/AFL ailments.

Of those who reported serious injuries

60 %

require on-going treatment for old football injuries.

6 %

have treatment costs covered by their old VFL/AFL club or the AFL Players Association.

PILLARS OF ALUMNI

01

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Bulk billing for medical consultations

Members are able to receive timely, bulk billed, consultation, diagnosis, advice on treatment, referral and support on muscular skeletal issues and any ongoing injuries or illnesses related to their football career, regardless of their financial situation, through the AFL Medical Officers Association.

Reimbursement of Health Insurance Excess Fee

Regardless of the health fund, members are able to obtain a refund of any excess fee paid (up to \$500 per year) relating to hospital stays or procedures.

Geoff Pryor Hardship Fund

As life doesn't always work out the way it was intended, financial support for medical services may be supported through the Geoff Pryor Hardship Fund.

02

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Professional Development Courses

Complimentary professional development courses for members are available throughout the year.

03

FINANCIAL PROSPERITY

Financial Services

Access to the services of qualified financial advisers who are experienced in both the football and business worlds.

The AFL Players' and AFL Industry Superannuation fund

Ability to become a member of a large group superannuation plan and its associated buying power, enabling members to access to discounts and other concessions.

04

FELLOWSHIP

Reconnecting Friendships

Opportunity to attend events throughout the year which brings together friends and teammates from different eras

Club Past Player Events

Sponsorship of club past player events and functions.

Monthly E-newsletter

Regular communication to all past players to keep members up to date with current events within the Alumni network.

THE PLAYERS' TRUST

PURPOSE

The Players' Trust seeks to bring together the support mechanisms for past players who are facing hardship due to injury or ill health.

The Players' Trust will build upon the existing mechanisms of support that the AFL has extended to past players and will specifically involve:

- i. The Geoff Pryor Hardship Grants of assistance of up to \$5000 for player hardship cases; and
- ii. A more extensive benefit (which may be in the nature of a grant of financial assistance or the provision of or access to additional services or benefits) for those past players who suffer significant temporary or long term hardship.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to be considered for assistance from the Players Trust, a past player:

- i. must have played at least 1 game in the AFL/VFL Competitions;
- ii. must be a member of the AFL Players Alumni program; and
- iii. be affected by a significant hardship that materially impacts upon the past player's ability to engage in normal life pursuits whether of a temporary or long term nature; or
- iv. be affected by a condition which requires treatment and/or rehabilitation, where such intervention and/or rehabilitation imposes a financial burden beyond reasonable financial means of the player; or
- v. a spouse or dependent of the player is affected by a major traumatic event which necessitates medical, psychological and/or financial support to the player, his spouse or a dependent.

THE PLAYERS' TRUST COMMITTEE

The Players' Trust Committee ("the Committee") will have the discretion to determine whether or not the application is approved, what level of support would be appropriate in the circumstances and whether or not conditions, if any, apply to the grant of assistance. In considering any application, the Committee will have regard to any guidelines developed by the Committee in consultation with the Board of the AFL.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

The following factors will be considered by the Committee assessing any application:

- i. the extent to which the current hardship arose out of or is related to a football related injury or illness or the degeneration or aggravation of a football injury or illness;

- ii. the extent to which the football related injury or illness, degeneration or aggravation of the injury or illness may adversely affected the ability of the player to pursue other employment or other career opportunities;
- iii. the extent to which the football related injury, illness or degeneration or aggravation has adversely affected the ongoing general health and fitness of the former player;
- iv. the extent to which the current hardship is attributable to factors beyond the control of the player;
- v. the extent of the hardship the player is experiencing;
- vi. the present financial means and circumstances of the player; the financial capacity and sustainability of the Trust to provide discretionary benefits to players on an ongoing basis;
- vii. any other factors which, in the opinion of the Committee, are
- viii. reasonable and relevant in determining whether a grant of assistance should be made to the player.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

The amount of grant assistance or the provision of any services or benefits provided to a player will be at the complete discretion of the Committee. No funds will be paid directly to any applicant rather the assistance will be directed to facilitating the provision of appropriate services and needs required to address the particular hardship.

As part of the evaluation by the Committee of any application, a player or relevant person will be required to co-operate with medical specialists and other professional advisers to whom the player or relevant person/s are referred.

CONCLUSION

It is anticipated that a particular focus of the Player's Trust will be to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that every player has access to reasonable medical and like services so that players' lives are not disadvantaged due to injuries or illness caused or related to playing football. Unlike other forms of employment players do not have access to workers compensation benefits, except in very limited circumstances. The Trust has been set up and developed by the AFL to assist in filling the gap and to provide players with a safety net, which may meet the medical needs of the players.

THE PLAYERS' TRUST APPLICATION PROCESS

01 APPLICATION FORM

Submit application form and supporting documents directly to AFL ALUMNI Manager.

02 PROCESSING OF CLAIM

ALUMNI Manager will follow up directly with the applicant or nominees (if applicable) who submitted the application to acknowledge receipt of application and if any other documentation is required to support the application.

03 ASSESSMENT OF CLAIMS

The Players' Trust Committee will have the discretion to determine whether or not the application is approved, what level of support would be appropriate in the circumstances and whether or not conditions, if any, apply to the grant of assistance. As part of the evaluation by the Committee of any application, a player or relevant person will be required to co-operate with medical specialists and other professional advisers to whom the player or relevant person/s are referred.

04 PROVIDING THE FUNDING SUPPORT

Following assessment of the claim, the applicant will be contacted by the ALUMNI Manager. No funds will be paid directly to any applicant rather the assistance will be directed to facilitating the provision of appropriate services and needs required to address the particular hardship.



THE PLAYERS' TRUST APPLICATION FORM

The Players' Trust seeks to bring together the support mechanisms for past players who find themselves in circumstances of hardship in their lives which the past player has difficulty in dealing with those circumstances.

All submissions to the ALUMNI Manager program are confidential and only disclosed to support personnel who will assist the applicant with their submission.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DETAILS - AFL PLAYERS' ALUMNI MEMBER (THE APPLICANT/S)

Name: _____

Address: _____

DOB: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Club(s): _____

Occupation: _____

Partner: _____

Dependents: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

SECTION 2: AFL CLUB PAST PLAYER ASSOCIATION NOMINEE DETAILS (PRESIDENT AND DELEGATE ONLY) - IF APPLICABLE

Nominee 1: _____ Position: _____

Nominee 1 Signature: _____

Nominee 2: _____ Position: _____

Nominee 2 Signature: _____

☐ I or we the nominees acknowledge that we have fully assessed the need for support for the nominated applicant and submit this application on his behalf and accept responsibility that all the information provided is correct to the best of our knowledge.

SECTION 3: REASONS FOR APPLYING

This section MUST include the following detail:

- What is the issue?
- Length of time required for support?
- Type of treatment required?
- Who will be providing the support?

SECTION 4: FUNDS REQUESTED

This section MUST include the following detail:

- The total amount of funds requested.

* Have you previously been provided funds from your former AFL Club, Club Past Player Association, Community, Government or Financial Institution? If so, how much?

SECTION 5: PRIVACY

Please refer to the AFL Players' Association website for the Geoff Pryor Health & Wellbeing Fund criteria at www.aflplayers.com.au

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP FORM

JOIN
NOW

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO: LEVEL 2, 170 BRIDPORT STREET, ALBERT PARK VIC 3206

Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

VFL/AFL PLAYING HISTORY:

1. VFL/AFL Club(s): _____

Games: _____ Final Year: _____

2. VFL/AFL Club(s): _____

Games: _____ Final Year: _____

3. VFL/AFL Club(s): _____

Games: _____ Final Year: _____

Which AFL Club Past Player Association are you most connected with? _____

If you're not a member of an AFL Club Past Player Association, would you like to be sent their membership form? ☐ YES ☐ NO

COST OF MEMBERSHIP:

2013 retiring or delisted player	\$693.00	2013 retiring or delisted rookie	\$484.00
Retired player before 2011	\$50.00	Retired player before 2013 (pensioner)	\$25.00

This fee is payable only at the commencement of the Membership and entitles the applicant to membership and all applicable Alumni Membership benefits until the membership is terminated by the AFL Players' Association or the Player in accordance with the rules of the AFL Players' Association.

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Credit Card (Please tick)

Type of card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD CCV:

Credit Card Number:

Expiry: /

Cardholders Name: _____

Cardholders Signature: _____

PAY BY CHEQUE:

Please make cheques payable to AFL Players' Association.

Signed by the applicant: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Applicant referred by: _____

Print Name: _____

Contact Number: _____ Past Player Association: _____

AUTHORISATION:

I acknowledge and agree that the information will only be used in accordance with AFL Players' Association Privacy Policy. For further information on the AFL Players' Association Privacy Policy contact the Privacy Officer at the AFL Players' Association.

PLAYERS' TRUST COMMITTEE



PETER BELL -
CHAIRMAN

- 286 AFL Games for Fremantle and North Melbourne (1995 - 2008)
- Dual Premiership Player (1996 - 1999)
- Four time Best and Fairest Winner (2000,2001,2003,2004)
- Fremantle Captain (2002 - 2006)
- President AFL Players' Association (2003 - 2008)
- Radio Host - 'Afternoons with Peter Bell' on 6PR in WA



MIKE SHEAHAN

- Sports Journalist who specialises in Australian Rules Football
- Chief Football Writer and Associate Sports Editor - Herald Sun (1994 - 2011)
- Panelist on Fox Footy program, On the Couch
- Radio Broadcaster on 3AW
- Former host of Channel Seven Football program, Talking Footy
- The Media centre at AFL House in Melbourne is named in his honour



GERARD HEALY

- 211 VFL/AFL Games for Melbourne and Sydney (1979 - 1990)
- Four time Best and Fairest Winner (1984,1986 - 1988)
- Brownlow Medalist (1988)
- Three time All Australian (1986 - 1988)
- Qualified Physiotherapist
- High profile media personality - Network Seven Commentator, 3AW Radio Host, Fox footy commentator and co-host of On the Couch.



IAN DICKER

- Managing director of Ansell (1974 - 1989)
- President of the Hawthorn Football Club (1996 - 2004)
- Chair of the Victorian Aboriginal Development Group
- Owner and Chairman of Steritech PTY LTD (Melbourne based medical sterilisation company)
- Head of Victorian Bushfires Reconstruction and Recovery Authority 2010



PAUL HENDERSON

- Monash University - Bachelor of Law
- Clerk of Courts - Law Department Victoria (1975 - 1985)
- Senior Fellow - University of Melbourne Masters Law (2010 - 2011)
- Principle Lawyer - Medical Law, Slater & Gordon (19856 - Present)
- County Court Liaison Committee



GARETH ANDREWS

- 167 games for Richmond and Geelong Football Clubs (1965 - 1975)
- Co-Founder of the AFL Players' Association
- Richmond Premiership Player (1974)
- Richmond FC - Football Manager and CEO (1978 - 1979)
- Geelong Football Club Board - Vice President (1998 - 2013)
- Founder of LifeAgain (inspiring Men during difficult times)



BILL KELTY

- Industrial Officer for the Federated Storemen and Packers' Union (now part of the National Union of Workers)
- Secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (1983 - 2000)
- AFL Commissioner (1998 - 2013*)
- Companion of the Order of Australia (2008)
- Linfox Group Director



DR ANDREW DAFF

- Graduated with honours from Monash University Medical School (1986)
- Head Doctor - Melbourne Football Club (1991 - 2011)
- Head Doctor - Victoria State of Origin Team (1994) and International Rules Series (2001,2002)
- Executive Member AFL Medical Officers Association
- Founding member of Epworth Sports and Exercise Medicine Group.



@AFLPlayers



AFL Players



afl_players



www.aflplayers.com.au