

16 December 2020

Statement:

**Indigenous Doctors and Indigenous Psychologists welcome AFL announcement regarding
vaccination protocol for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players**

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) welcomes the announcement today of a series of recommendations following a review into the required vaccination protocol for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players entering Queensland as part of the AFL's Return to play Protocols.

In its release, the AFL reiterated its apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players, staff and their families for distress caused by its handling of the Government requests for pneumococcal vaccinations ahead of entering Queensland to play earlier in 2020.

"AIDA raised concerns regarding the vaccination protocol when it came to our attention. We welcome the AFL's apology on this matter" AIDA President, Dr Tanya Schramm said.

Further, AIDA welcomes the opportunity to work in consultation with the AFL, the AFL Players Association (ALFPA), the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) and other Indigenous education experts to develop a cultural awareness and safety training program.

"This is an important development for the cultural safety of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AFL players", said Professor Pat Dudgeon, AIPA board member.

Both AIDA and AIPA believe this work will show the way for all sporting codes to support and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players' health, social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and cultural safety.

The AFL's announcement can be found here:

<https://www.afl.com.au/news/529538/review-of-vaccination-protocol-for-all-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-players>

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