



The AFL Journey

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On any scale the Disability Speaks "AFL Today" event on Saturday was an overwhelming success.

You know that and laugh when someone else tries to take credit

In its fifth year the Disability Speaks "AFL Today" program continues to expand and people with disability are the winners.

Inclusion, education and respect drive our vision.

The new Adelaide Oval complex provides a unique facility and a wonderful opportunity to expand genuine disability inclusion opportunities.

Starting Saturday with the great page 3 story in the Adelaide Advertiser the lead in was sensational (click link below).

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/sport/afl/lets-have-an-afl-round-for-disabled-people-says-port-adelaides-jack-hombsch/story-fnia6ojc-1226961848177>

Then the 80 people in attendance including the Premier had just a great day, in a wonderful facility.



The Disability Speaks campaign is the first high profile public campaign in SA uniting the disability and AFL communities to encourage the AFL to adopt an annual Disability Inclusion round.

We are aware others have tried both privately and via AFL channels without luck. We are also aware that in other states such lobbying is ongoing and we intend to network to leverage that potential opportunity at the appropriate time.

The Disability Speaks vision is about an AFL campaign, strictly non-political and widely supported by the SA, AFL and disability communities.

At this stage we are delighted with the support we have received in the first 60 days

1. SA Premier Jay Weatherill who has been a wonderful ambassador
2. The issue has been formally raised with AFL CEO in writing via our Premier
3. The Premier will also raise this issue with the Victorian Premier seeking his support
4. The Adelaide Crows via Chair Rob Chapman and CEO Stephen Trigg have been publicly and privately highly supportive
5. Very excitingly the Crows have committed to a "SA Disability Day" next year
6. Port Power via CEO Keith Thomas have been a strong public advocates
7. Port Powers sponsorship and event management last Saturday, was a massive effort (and promised again going forward)
8. The Adelaide Advertiser has once again shown compassion and enthusiasm supporting people with disability
9. The Adelaide Oval SMA has indicated ongoing support and genuine enthusiasm for supporting long term disability inclusion
10. And 3-4 other local established disability groups are uniting to develop this program with a combined committee
11. And Disability Speaks again delivered and ran a great event Saturday

Our sponsors including Scott Salisbury Homes, Coca Cola, Balfours should be widely applauded.

The final touches are now being put in place to have an effective and energetic local AFL committee to further support this program.

Anyone interested in being involved should email disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net

We look forward to announcing this interim committee shortly so that dialogue with the AFL and local football organizations can be coordinated.

We look forward to the ongoing support of so many who have already shown genuine excitement for this new AFL focussed program.

And we will keep you posted.

The AFL Journey has just started.

The worst case scenario we think more and more people with disability will be able to enjoy the football inclusively under this program.

And that on its own would be a wonderful outcome.

The AFL inclusion week remains a dream and we will continue to chase that in a united non-political manner.

Wish us luck.

David Holst

Chair - Disability Speaks Steering Committee & Chair, Intellectual Disability Association of S.A (IDASA)

Mob. 0418 555 683

Web. www.disabilityspeaks.com.au

Email. disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net



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