

FECCA applauds football club for intercultural program

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today congratulated Port Adelaide Football Club for the roll-out of the club's Power Intercultural Program.

The program, involving over 200 students from eight schools, is being supported by private donors OTR, OAK Plus and the AFL as well as the Department of Home Affairs.

"FECCA sees this as a ground-breaking program which aims to harness the power of sport to promote inclusion and build social cohesion by recognising the positive contribution of different cultures," the Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said today.

"We congratulate the AFL and donors as well as Home Affairs for their support."

The three-week program, presented by current and past players as well as the AFL's Multicultural Ambassadors, delivers sessions to the school students covering personal identity, culture and resilience.

"We look forward to other clubs and other sporting codes embracing this concept."

Ms Patetsos said that in another role, as Chair of Power Community Limited, she was delighted to see the appointment of 15 year old Zahraa al-Sarraf, as 'CEO for a day' of Port Adelaide Football Club.

"Power Community Limited seeks to drive real social and economic opportunity for young people through programs that create education and employment," Ms Patetsos said. "What a great experience for this young girl to be the face of our wonderful multicultural society and to celebrate its contribution to Australia through sport."

During her time in the CEO's chair today, Zahraa will hold a meeting with players, another with the coach and host a press conference to launch the 2018 Power Intercultural Cup, a trophy being contested tomorrow in an AFL match featuring the Power Intercultural Program students.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the broader community.

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