



John Sidoti
Minister for Sport
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Seniors
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW NSW CITIZENS TAKE TO FOOTY FIELD

Today 300 new citizens enjoyed their first moments as Australians as the guard of honour for the players at the AFL GIANTS Welcome Game against Carlton, following their citizenship ceremony.

Minister for Multiculturalism and Sport John Sidoti said coupling the citizenship ceremony with an iconic sporting event was a fabulous introduction for the newest Australian citizens.

“Sport is a unique part of our identity as Australians, and a powerful way to promote inclusion, participation and community spirit,” Mr Sidoti said.

“Hundreds of new Australian citizens today had an unforgettable experience as they formed the guard of honour as the GIANTS ran onto the field, were part of the half-time festivities and experienced kick-to-kick after the game.”

“Today was a great opportunity to celebrate our diverse community and welcome new Australian citizens.”

AFL NSW/ACT Chief Executive Officer Sam Graham said the AFL is committed to promoting cultural diversity and working with new and emerging communities.

“Australian Football is a uniquely Australian game, so what better way to welcome 300 new citizens to our country than a day at the footy?” Mr Graham said.

“Thanks to our partnership with the NSW Government, the Welcome Game is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the many multicultural communities involved in AFL, and extend a warm welcome to all new citizens and communities who will be involved in our game in the future.”

GIANTS CEO David Matthews said the Welcome Game showcases the cultural diversity of Western Sydney.

“Western Sydney is one of the most culturally diverse regions in the country and we’re delighted to be celebrating this at the Welcome Game,” Mr Matthews said.

“The Welcome Game acknowledges the contribution diverse communities have made to our game for generations and introduces hundreds of new Australians to our great game.”

The NSW Government, through Multicultural NSW, will invest \$480,000 over four years into the AFL NSW/ACT to support the game become a stronger driver of inclusion, participation and cultural diversity.

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