



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **South Sudanese Australia Community Football Day Kicking Goals for Mental Health Awareness**

The South Sudanese Australian community is combining its passion for Australian Rules Football with pressing community objectives.

The inaugural South Sudanese Australia Community Football Day will not only provide entertainment but important community engagement with a particular focus on unity, cultural understanding and critically, mental health awareness.

The Day will take place on Sunday, 8 October starting at 10am at the Trevor Barker Oval in Sandringham. Entry is \$5, with tickets available [online](#).

The day is structured around three key football matches featuring South Sudanese Australian Rules footballers: Under 18, Open Women, and Open Men. The day is not merely a sporting spectacle; it is an initiative for the entire South Sudanese community in Melbourne and members of the general public to come together in solidarity.

Participants will include CJ Jiath, Tom Jok, Mac Andrews, Majak Daw and Akec Makur Chuot just to name a few.

NextGen Unite Founder and Chair, Mamuch Chuol said that the South Sudanese Australia Community Football Day is a platform to highlight the pressing mental health needs within the South Sudanese community.

“This isn’t just a day of football; it’s an initiative to start important conversations and unite disparate sections of the South Sudanese Community,” said Mr Chuol.

“We believe the more that we talk about our mental health challenges, the more we can create a supportive environment for those silently suffering in our community.

“We aim to raise awareness about mental health issues prevalent within our community and highlight the available support and resources.”

More than just a game, this event embodies deeper community aspirations. It serves as a platform to demonstrate the vibrant integration of the South Sudanese community into Melbourne and highlight the positive contributions and achievements of South Sudanese individuals within the Australian society.

According to prominent youth outreach worker and community activist, Les Twentyman events like this are a great way to break down barriers, unite and display the best in people.

“I urge anyone who can support this worthy cause as a corporate sponsor, volunteer or spectator - to do so,” said Mr Twentyman.



Attendees will be treated to vibrant cultural performances, food stalls and various activities celebrating the South Sudanese heritage.

Join us for a day of thrilling football action! Bring your family and friends to cheer on your favourite team in the spirit of unity and goodwill.

The South Sudanese Australia Football Day committee extend their gratitude to:



ENDS

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