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WEBSITE RELEASE

Oakleigh Cannons Football Club prides itself on being an egalitarian, equitable and inclusive organisation. Regretfully behaviour occurred that was unintentionally disrespectful to women following the conclusion of our jumper presentation on the 27 of February this year. This behaviour is extremely far removed from our expectations and values.

On behalf of the entire O.C.F.C. board and myself we categorically and undeniably apologise for the disrespect caused by this incident and to women generally. More specifically we apologise to all the women in the O.C.F.C. family which includes volunteers, committee members, partners, players, daughters and coaches. Whilst unintentional it was totally disrespectful.

Furthermore it is worth noting that no children or persons under 18 were present. Nevertheless the environment of our club is that of predominately children and the function did nothing to reinforce values worth instilling in our young, values that are important to our club.

As such, we believe that an independent investigation is necessary and the appropriate body to conduct this investigation is our governing body F.V. (Football Victoria). Today on behalf of the club I made contact with the F.V. asking them to lead an investigation into the incident with our full co-operation and with the assistance of the City of Monash.

Further, it is our responsibility to provide a platform and the necessary resources to enable change in behaviour and attitudes. This honest education process will allow us to be totally sure that any reoccurrence of disrespectful attitudes, behaviours and mindsets is not only an unlikely scenario but an impossibility.

As a club we have certain aspiration and goals. Whilst many goals are important the following goals are now paramount.

- 1) The introduction of a Women's N.P.L. team by 2022.
- 2) An open-minded assessment of gender for our senior board resulting in gender equality.
- 3) The selection and appointment of a club ambassador who will work with council, the entire Oakleigh family and other stakeholders to foster attitudes that are commensurate with egalitarian values and attitudes. This is an immediate short term goal.

Finally we reinforce our regret and sincerely apologise for the disrespect, embarrassment and disregard that was shown to our women. This situation will NEVER occur again.

Stan Papayianneris
Club President