

MEDIA RELEASE: 16 August 2021

What Can Allies Learn From the Taylor Walker Incident?

The news of AFL player Taylor Walker's alleged racist comment at a local football match was extremely dispiriting to practical reconciliation and allyship experts Carla Rogers and Aunty Munya Andrews.

The reaction of many in the Indigenous community, including former teammate Eddie Betts, reflected the disappointment that even someone with experience of the damage racism causes and access to endless education resources could still make such a comment in 2021.

However, there was one minor positive to take out of the affair, which is that it was reported.

Reporting racism in any form, from a single verbal comment to systemic issues, does still take enormous courage, they said.

“Where we need to be is that every organisation, sporting or otherwise, has systems in place to allow this type of reporting to take place and ensure it's supported.”

“When we are training workplaces and communities to be culturally safe, we teach them the R3 System: Reflect, Relate and Reconcile.”

- **Reflect:** Identify the issue
- **Relate:** Ask yourself how you would feel about it
- **Reconcile:** Assess the best course of positive action and take it.

“While we can't speak to the exact process this particular person went through, the result is what we hope to arrive at. Some sort of positive action taken to address the racist behaviour.”

“We hope that it's empowering to others that they can take positive action to address racism in Australia and not be victimised for it. That needs structural, social support to be in place.”

Aunty Munya Andrews and Carla Rogers are available for interview on their approach to creating safer, more inclusive places to work and practical techniques for all workplaces to employ.

Carla Rogers and Aunty Munya Andrews are available for interviews.

Media Contact: Carla Rogers

Ph: 0428 628 190

Email: carla@evolves.com.au

