
Footy club apologises after blackface storm erupts

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A Frankston football and netball club that came under fire on Sunday over blackface photos says it will educate its players about discrimination.

In a statement posted on the Frankston Bombers Facebook page on Sunday afternoon, a spokesperson said the club was "extremely regretful of the situation".

The club held an "iPod Shuffle" themed dress-up event on Saturday night and posted photos of players dressed in blackface costume on its Instagram account.

Shepparton Indigenous rapper Adam Briggs shared a photo on social media and said he was sick of sporting teams posting insensitive racist photos.

"Shout out to @FrankstonBomber for their 'Racist Night' and door prize for most #Blackface," Briggs' post said.

"It's 2016, if people would spend more time educating themselves rather than defending their right to be racist idiots, then we'd have a lot less problems," he told Fairfax Media.

The club said it wanted to "assure supporters, sponsors and the wider community that the club is in no way racist and unreservedly apologises for any offence that has been caused. Our club is run by a group of local volunteers, who seek nothing more than to provide a supportive, well-intentioned and beneficial environment for local footballers and netballers.

"We understand our actions ... have caused offence and division and for this we apologise."

It said it was committed to an education program relating to "vilification and discrimination to ensure we learn from this and come out of it a better and more educated club".

Premier Daniel Andrews said the behaviour was "not in the spirit of football and not in the spirit of Victoria".

"They ought to have a look at themselves and no doubt they have," he said.

The post said the club had received abusive and threatening communication about the blackface photos. The matter is being investigated by AFL South East.

Briggs said he received an expletive-ridden voicemail from someone believed to be linked to the Frankston club at about 10.59pm on Saturday. He has posted the voicemail on his Facebook page.

"I'm short and I'm fat and people take the piss all the time," the voicemail said in part. "And we're at a function where it's called an iPod shuffle night and people come dressed as people and that's what they f---ing do."

Briggs, who has called out sporting teams in the past over blackface costumes, said there was no excuse. "There's such an ignorance and it's such an audacious thing to post it on your social media for everyone to see."

Australian basketball superstar Liz Cambage tweeted: "here we go again @FrankstonBomber", with photos of the offending photos.

The "here we go again" referred to how Cambage, whose father is Nigerian, slammed a separate incident in February, when Opals teammate Alice Kunek painted her face black for a dress-up day.

On that occasion, a photograph of Kunek dressed as rapper Kanye West for the Melbourne Boomers' 'Silly Sunday' celebrations, was posted on social media, promoting Cambage to tweet: "Blackface is disgusting. I honestly have no words."

The sporting club has removed all images from social media.