

## DEALING WITH A CRITICAL INCIDENT

A critical incident is an extraordinary situation typically causing a significant impact on the football club / league, its members and the wider community. No two incidents are the same however some examples might include:

- Death of a player, club member or someone well-known to the club
- Alleged or actual abuse, assault or vilification directed to or perpetrated by a club member
- Significant immediate property or financial loss associated with the club

Dealing with a critical incident is incredibly challenging for organisations with full-time employees. It is even harder for volunteer led football clubs / leagues. It is important however to know that a club that is dealing with a critical incident is not alone - help is available.

### Help is available

To assist clubs in times of crisis, please note:

- The [Critical Incident Response Guide for use by Community Australian Football Clubs](#) is a detailed step by step guide to help you through the situation with suggestions for action at each stage (first 24 hours, first week, long term). Use of this resource guide is encouraged.
- Clubs are also encouraged to reach out to their League, local AFL office or through the State / Territory AFL body for help as required. Help will differ based on the unique situation and the experience of the club individuals handling the response, however may include things such as:
  - Helping the club to work through the initial stages; and
  - Specialist support / advice at any stage of the response (whether immediate or required in coming weeks) - *e.g., media, mental health support, counselling support, insurance, grant applications etc.*

### More resources

A range of resources that may be useful are available on the AFL's community football dedicated website [play.afl/ClubHelp](http://play.afl/ClubHelp):



[play.afl/ClubHelp](http://play.afl/ClubHelp)



Incident response webpage

Other related pages on the ClubHelp site:

[Concussion Management](#)

[Conflict Resolution](#)

[Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Risk Management & Insurance](#)

[Safeguarding Children](#)

