

# THE FINAL QUARTER

a SHARK ISLAND PRODUCTIONS film

[www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au)

## Screening and Discussion Guide



# QUOTES ABOUT THE FINAL QUARTER

**“We want *The Final Quarter* to be seen by school kids across the country, and we urge all Australians to commit to watching it.”**

The AFL Players Association’s Indigenous Advisory Board

**“It’s absolutely brilliant. I felt an absolute tension that really only the best film making gives you.”**

Gerard Whateley, AFL 360, foxsports.com.au

**“The documentary is a powerful portrait of a three-year period, not only in the vexed public life of Goodes, but in the Australian media and society.”**

Jake Niall, The Age

**“It is a great opportunity for us to reflect on what was a very, very painful part of the game’s history.”**

Tanya Hosch, AFL General Manager Inclusion and Social Policy

**“It is a powerful work that stirs deep emotions.”**

Garry Maddox, Sydney Morning Herald

**“Adam Goodes documentary is confronting but everyone should watch it”**

Mark Robinson, Herald Sun

**“Darling’s film holds a mirror to one of the most shameful moments of our game’s history ... but it also gives us another chance for self-examination, which is all that Goodes asked of us.”**

Craig Little, The Guardian

**“It has been an emotional response. It is a very powerful film. A great thing for a lot of Australians to see.”**

Gillon McLachlan, AFL CEO in The Australian

**“The film *The Final Quarter* impacted every part of my being. It shines a light and turns the mirror. Everyone should watch this film with an open heart and an open mind.”**

Brett Kirk, former Sydney Swans captain via Twitter

**“You don’t have to care about football for this movie to hit home.”**

Tom Clift, junkee.com

**“Such is the power of *The Final Quarter* that, in the immediate wake of its premiere, the AFL and all 18 clubs issued a joint apology.”**

Blake Howard, flicks.com.au

**“*The Final Quarter* is inspiring, with a message that each of us will be remembered ultimately for two things: what we say and what we do.”**

Luke Buckmaster, film critic, The Guardian

# SUMMARY

## THE FINAL QUARTER

Adam Goodes was a champion AFL footballer and Indigenous leader. In the final years of his career, the cheers turned to boos. Using archival footage only, this film reveals the incidents that provoked heated media commentary and divided the nation.

- To show the film at your school, registered sporting club or not-for-profit community group go to [www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au)
- After registering, you can live stream the film, or request a free DVD
- There are links to teaching and learning resources, and a guide to help you screen the film

This guide will help you to plan ahead for your screening, promote your event and set up an inclusive post-screening discussion.

- Please be mindful that the film can raise difficult issues, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people who may have also experienced discrimination; and/or young people
- It's important to understand these sensitivities and think about supporting people who may be deeply affected by the film, both in the lead-up to the screening and after. The screening guide provides more detailed suggestions about how to create a safe environment
- If possible, consider engaging representatives of your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be part of the screening or discussion
- Set ground rules for discussion that are respectful, polite and take into account different views

### We have included a list of questions that may help facilitate post-screening conversation. These include:

- What did you think about the style of the film, made from archival sources?
- Was it an effective way to tell Adam Goodes' story?
- What emotions did the film raise for you?
- What did you learn?
- What was most surprising?
- How do you feel about Adam Goodes' experience in the final years of his career?
- What role did the media play in the booing of Adam Goodes?
- What is casual racism?
- Have you seen or experienced racism?
- Would you respond differently to racism after watching the film?

# CONTENTS

1.	ABOUT THE FINAL QUARTER	6
1.1	SYNOPSIS	6
1.2	A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, IAN DARLING	7
2.	EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN	9
3.	PLANNING A SCREENING	11
3.1	PLANNING AHEAD	11
3.2	PROMOTING YOUR SCREENING	11
3.3	ON THE NIGHT/DAY	11
4.	SCREENING DISCUSSION GUIDE	14
4.1	CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT	14
4.2	POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION	15
4.3	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	16



ADAM GOODES ON RACISM:

*"It's something that I've grown up with and it's happened in junior ranks and you know it happened at high school. It happened when you walked around the streets in your community.*

*It happens when you're just going to the shop to buy some milk to have breakfast.*

*But here you've finally made it, you've done something good for yourself, you made it to the AFL. Then it happens again and you just think 'when's this ever going to end?'"*

Adam Goodes, Open Mike, Fox Footy, 2012

# 1. ABOUT THE FINAL QUARTER

## 1.1 SYNOPSIS

Adam Goodes was a champion AFL footballer and Indigenous leader.

In the final three years of his playing career he became a lightning rod for a heated public debate and widespread media commentary that divided the nation.

He publicly called out racism, was named Australian of the Year, was accused of staging for free kicks, and performed an on-field war dance celebration.

The cheers became boos as football crowds turned on him.

Using only archival footage aired at the time, the film holds a mirror to Australia and is an opportunity to reconsider what happened on and off the football field.



Photo by Phil Hillyard, copyright NewsPix

## 1.2 A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, IAN DARLING

The treatment of Sydney Swans footballer Adam Goodes during the last three years of his playing career deeply affected me.

Here was a champion footballer, outstanding Indigenous leader and 2014 Australian of the Year, being booed by fans at stadiums across the nation.

I was disturbed by it, as it seemed to be racially motivated. But I was also confused and didn't fully understand what had provoked the crowd's behaviour.

As a filmmaker, I'm drawn to strong characters and what their individual stories can tell us about who we are as Australians. I wanted to know more about why, and how, Goodes had come to be at the centre of this storm that led to such heated debate and divided the nation.

I decided to search for answers. Editor Sally Fryer and I looked at more than 100 hours of footage broadcast over a three-year period from 2013 to 2015. Across Australia, there was no more talked about sports person than Adam Goodes.



Photo by Wayne Taylor, copyright Fairfax

*As a nation, we haven't finished the conversation about racism Adam Goodes asked us to have.*

We decided to make *The Final Quarter* entirely from archival material, an approach I'd never taken before. But I believed it would enable us to get closer to the truth.

I felt it was important to hold up a mirror to the nation, to listen again to what was said and what had been heard.

While the booing of Adam Goodes deeply troubled me, I approached the making of this film with an open mind.

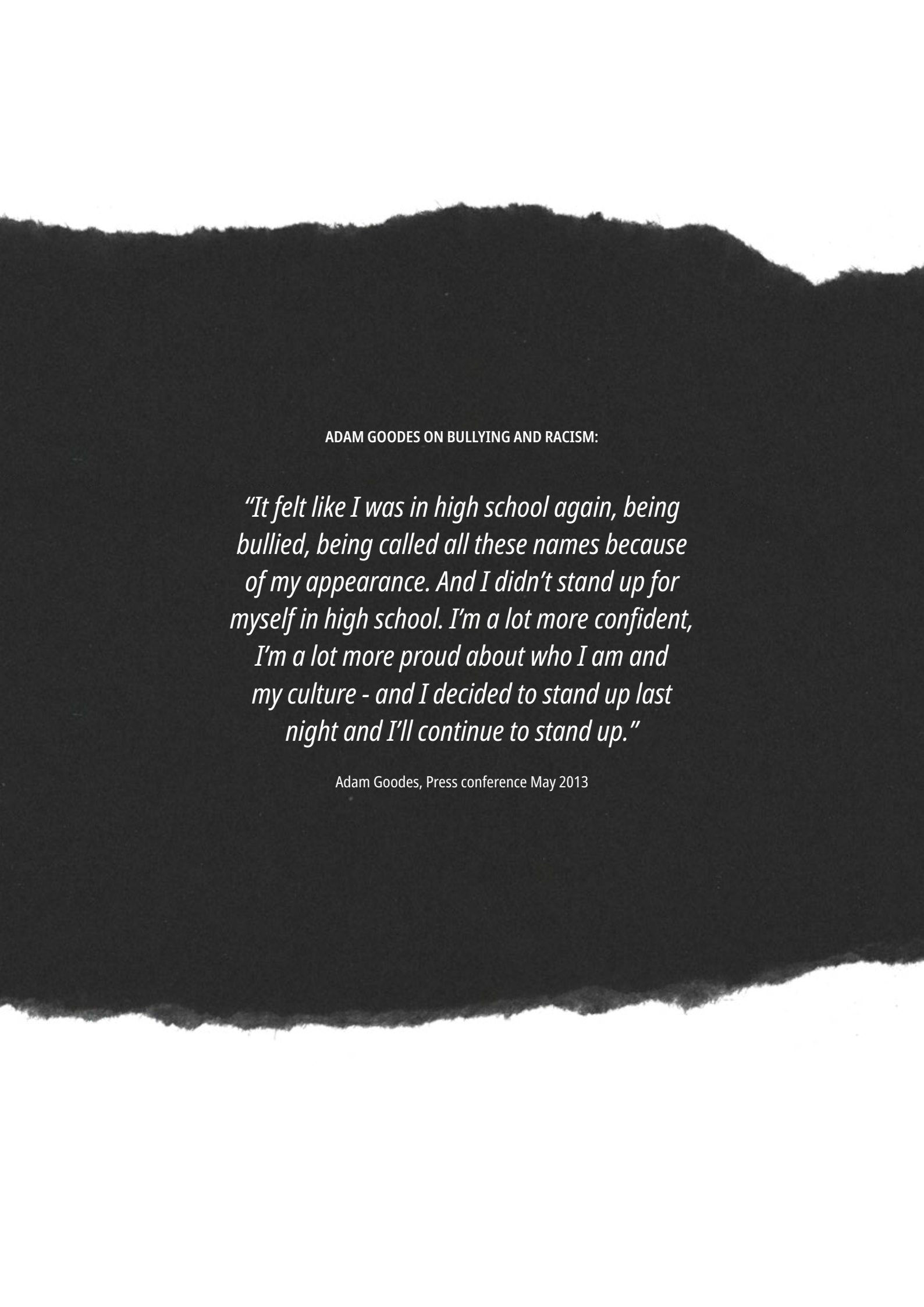
I felt it could be a window into aspects of Australian life we seldom want to talk about. I didn't want the film to lecture or accuse. I wanted the audience to see for themselves what had happened and come to their own conclusions.

With this film I want to encourage us to examine ourselves and explore the levels of racism in all of us - whether overt or unconscious. I want it to prompt us to reconsider what really happened to Goodes, and what was in the heart of those in the media who condemned him, and those in the stands who booed him.

As a nation, we haven't finished the conversation about racism Adam Goodes asked us to have.

My aim is the same as that expressed in Goodes' Australian of the Year acceptance speech, when he said, "The real reward is when everyone is talking to their mates, to their families and to their children, having those conversations and educating others about racism. What it looks like, how hurtful and how pointless it is, and how we can eliminate it."

**Ian Darling, Director**  
*The Final Quarter*  
June 2019



ADAM GOODES ON BULLYING AND RACISM:

*"It felt like I was in high school again, being bullied, being called all these names because of my appearance. And I didn't stand up for myself in high school. I'm a lot more confident, I'm a lot more proud about who I am and my culture - and I decided to stand up last night and I'll continue to stand up."*

Adam Goodes, Press conference May 2013



## 2. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

*The Final Quarter* is a philanthropic project.

Shark Island Institute is donating the film and teaching and learning resources to every school, not-for-profit community group, registered sporting club and corporate partners via our website [www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au)

Sporting clubs and not-for-profit community groups can use the film for their own fund-raising purposes (and for their own education programs). Screening fees will be waived for approved organisations and for education institutions.

Shark Island Productions is also donating all proceeds from broadcast, theatrical and online sales and screenings of the film to a number of non-profit Indigenous community organisations.



Photo by Adam Pretty, copyright AFL images

The film, and all teaching and learning resources and screening guide material, is freely available in Australia to every school, not-for-profit community group, registered sporting club and corporate partners via our website

[www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au)

ADAM GOODES - AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR:

*"The real reward is when everyone is talking to their mates, to their families and to their children, having those conversations and educating others about racism. What it looks like, how hurtful and how pointless it is, and how we can eliminate it."*

Adam Goodes, January 26 2014

# 3. PLANNING A SCREENING

## 3.1 PLANNING AHEAD

- To access free streaming of the film, you'll need to create an account at [www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au) and register your organisation
- If you need a DVD of the film for your screening, please contact us at [impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](mailto:impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au) and we'll send you a disc
- If you want to screen in a cinema, please contact us well in advance at [impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](mailto:impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au) to ensure we can supply the film in the format the cinema requires
- If you want to use the film for fund-raising purposes, please send details to [impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](mailto:impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au) for approval

## 3.2 PROMOTING YOUR SCREENING

To help with promotion, *The Final Quarter* website provides a digital marketing kit, which includes an invitation flyer and posters. These are available at [www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au)

- What is your strategy to promote the screening?
- Decide how you will use social media
- You could invite people via email or a Facebook event
- Display posters around your workplace, school or sporting community
- If it's a fund-raising event, disclose how the funds will be used
- Ask your community/club membership and any panellists to share your social media posts
- Contact local media outlets and ask them to interview you or a community member about the screening

## 3.3 ON THE NIGHT/DAY

- Do a technical check. Make sure the film is playing and the sound is working
- Play it LOUD
- Make sure you can darken the room
- Introduce the film and its context but don't give the story away. Let the audience watch with no expectations and save discussion for afterwards



Photo by Andrew White, copyright AFL Images

## Below are some tips to help you plan your screening, whether it be in an education, sporting, community or workplace setting.

- Think about technical arrangements. How are you planning to screen the film? Do you need a TV/DVD player? A projector? Speakers?
- Make sure the venue you choose can be darkened
- How are you planning to seat film viewers?
- How will you introduce the film?
- Do you need to organise a host to briefly explain the context, and why the film was made?
- At the start of the event it's appropriate to do an 'Acknowledgment of Country' (for anyone) or a 'Welcome to Country' (for traditional owners only) to pay respect to the Aboriginal people of that land. For more information see: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Welcome-to-and-Acknowledgement-of-Country.pdf>
- Think about your audience and how that audience can get the most from the film
- We have found it's important to have a post-screening discussion about the film
- Think about how you can facilitate a safe and inclusive post-screening conversation
- Have you considered engaging representatives of your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be part of the screening or the discussion?
- The discussion can either be formal, with invited panel members and a Q and A style format, or more informal with audience members having a more relaxed conversation
- You may suggest breaking up into small groups after the screening before coming back together for the discussion
- If you decide to have a panel discussion, it is important to think about having a diverse panel, and who will be interesting, knowledgeable and/or passionate in speaking about the issues around *The Final Quarter*
- You could think about inviting people who work for organisations involved in Indigenous advocacy; sporting bodies; community leaders; or people who have lived experience of the issues in the film
- When you've chosen your panellists, encourage them to watch the film before the event, and speak with them about discussion points and questions that might arise
- Have you considered using the film as a fund-raising event? This is an option we support and there are no screening fees, but please contact us at [impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](mailto:impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au) for approval
- Do you need to create a ticketing system?



Photo by Michael Willson, copyright AFL Images

ADAM GOODES THOUGHTS ON AUSTRALIA DAY:

INTERVIEWER: *"And where do you stand on the issue of Australia Day being called 'Survival Day, Invasion Day?'"*

ADAM GOODES: *"For me it has been a journey up until this point. So, there was a lot of anger, a lot of sorrow for this day and very much the feeling of Invasion Day. But in the last five years, you know I've really changed my perception of what is Australia Day, what it is to be Australian and for me it's about celebrating the positives, that, you know, we are still here as Indigenous people.*

*Our culture is one of the longest surviving cultures in the world, over forty thousand years, and that is something that we need to celebrate and all Australians need to celebrate. And if there are people out there thinking that today's a great day for Australia, well it is. It's a day we celebrate you know over two hundred and twenty five years of European settlement and that's who we are.*

*Right now, that's who we are as a nation. But we also need to acknowledge our fantastic history, Aboriginal history of over forty thousand years and, and just know that some Aboriginal people out there today are feeling a little bit angry, are feeling a little bit soft in the heart today - because of that - and that's okay as well."*

Adam Goodes, Australian Of The Year, January 2014

# 4. SCREENING DISCUSSION GUIDE

## 4.1 CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

It's important to think about how members of your audience might react to the film.

As the organiser, it's important you've viewed the film before screening it, especially if the audience includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people who may have also experienced discrimination; and/or young people.

- *The Final Quarter* addresses difficult and distressing issues such as racism and bullying
- Some of the issues may be very personal and cause audience members to become emotional, upset, and/or angry
- The film raises themes that may be confronting, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Be aware of how audience members may respond to the content and how you might support them both in the lead up to the screening, and immediately after
- People in the audience will have a range of views, and be mindful that some may have been part of AFL crowds that booed Adam Goodes
- Make it clear *The Final Quarter* does not seek to accuse or judge, but asks us all to have an open mind and consider our actions
- The audience should listen and watch respectfully and learn together as a community
- Consider whether you should have a support person or counsellor at the screening and/or flyers available with contact details for support people/organisations, for example: Lifeline **13 11 14**, Beyond Blue, or other local services such as GPs, education support officers, Aboriginal health service or culturally appropriate counsellors



Photo by Ryan Pierse, copyright Getty Images

## 4.2 POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION

*The Final Quarter* is a powerful film that provokes strong emotions.

Adam Goodes said when he was Australian of the Year that talking about racism can be difficult, but he wanted us all to have conversations about its impact and how to eliminate it.

*The Final Quarter* provides a platform for people to discuss racism, how it affected Adam Goodes and how it impacts our nation.

- It may be appropriate to set ground rules for the discussion that ensure mutual respect and understanding between the members of your audience
- At the end of the film some people may want to sit quietly with their own thoughts and emotions; some people may be more comfortable talking in small groups before coming together for a broader discussion about the issues
- Be respectful and understand each person has their own beliefs and values
- Value diversity. Each person has their own views, experiences and opinions
- Listen politely. Each person has a right to contribute without pressure or intimidation
- Be brave in sharing experiences, ideas and opinions
- Appreciate privacy. Each person has the right to uphold their privacy
- Act responsibly. Share feedback with thoughtful consideration and a positive attitude towards others

The topics covered and the depth of discussion will depend on the make-up of your audience.

Think about questions and discussion points that are relevant to your audience, for example whether that is a junior sporting club made up of teenage footballers, or a community group of senior citizens.

**It may help to pose a series of questions to get your group talking. For example:**

- What did you think about the style of the film, made from archival sources?
- Was it an effective way to tell Adam Goodes' story?
- What emotions did the film raise for you?
- What did you learn?
- What was most surprising?
- How do you feel about Adam Goodes' experience in the final years of his career?
- What role did the media play in the booping of Adam Goodes?
- What is casual racism?
- Have you seen or experienced racism?
- Would you respond differently to racism after watching the film?



Photo by Mark Metcalfe, copyright AFL Images

## 4.3 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To accompany *The Final Quarter*, these additional resources may be useful

- The Australian Human Rights Commission released a guide to conducting [conversations about racism](#) to accompany the release of *The Final Quarter*.
- Read Reconciliation Australia's Guide to Using Respectful and Inclusive Language and Terminology for [education settings](#) and [workplaces](#).
- Australian Teachers of Media Study Guide with learning suggestions for yrs 7 - 11

These resources can all be found at [www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au/education](http://www.thefinalquarterfilm.com.au/education)

We hope your screening is constructive.

If you have any questions, please send an email to:

[impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au](mailto:impact@thefinalquarterfilm.com.au)

Photo by Andrew White, copyright AFL images



ADAM GOODES ON THE WAR DANCE:

*"It's not something that people should be getting their backs up against the wall about. Is this the lesson we want to teach our children that when we don't understand something we get angry and we put our back up against the wall, 'oh that's offensive'? No. If it's something we don't understand let's have a conversation, understand what, what was Goodesy doing?*

*If we're telling our people out there that you can't represent your culture or represent where you come from, in a round that is specifically about acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, what are we saying?"*

Adam Goodes, press conference May 2015

**Outreach and Education funding generously supported by:**

The Caledonia Foundation, Mark and Louise Nelson, Will and Jane Vicars, Paradise Family Foundation, John Sevier and Rebecca Gorman, Gretel Packer, Hogan Family Foundation, Wilson Asset Management, Darin Cooper Foundation, Doc Ross Family Foundation, The Snow Foundation, Christopher and Dilla White, Warwick and Ann Johnson, Nick And Sandra Fairfax, Nelson Meers Foundation, South Coast Foundation, John and Libby Fairfax, Mim and Michael Bartlett, Anonymous Donors, and Documentary Australia Foundation.

THE FINAL QUARTER, A Thirty Seven Films Production In Association With Diamond Docs, A Shark Island Productions Film

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