

Craig Foster AM

Former Soccerroo, Broadcaster, Adjunct Professor, Author, Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist

Following a decorated football career as Australia's 419th Soccerroo and 40th Captain, Craig Foster has become one of Australia's most respected sportspeople as a broadcaster, social justice advocate and human rights campaigner.



Craig represented Australia in the junior National Team at age 15 in the first FIFA Under 16 World Cup in China, 1985 where he was selected in the FIFA Team of the Tournament. He would later go on to represent Australia at senior level on 29 occasions including as Captain.

Following retirement, he quickly became one of Australia's most respected sports broadcasters with an 18-year, triple Logie-winning career with Australia's multicultural broadcaster, Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) as part of The World Game (TWG) team which included six male FIFA World Cups and four FIFA Women's World Cups as well as the UEFA Champions League, English Premier League and domestic competitions. Today, Craig covers the UEFA Champions League, Europa and Conference Leagues for Stan Sport Australia.

A member of the Australian Multicultural Council under the Department of Home Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship division, Craig works across a vast range of social programs from First Nations rights and self-determination, homelessness and domestic violence, climate action and gender equality and is particularly well known for his refugee advocacy.

He is an Ambassador for Amnesty Australia, the Affinity Intercultural Foundation and Addison Road Community Centre including their #RacismNotWelcome campaign for Local Councils across Australia, Pushing Barriers, an Australia Committee member with Human Rights Watch, Advisory Council member of the Australian Human Rights Institute, UNSW and a Director of the Crescent Foundation.

He is a Strategic Advisor a former Chairman and CEO, Life Member and PFA Champion of Professional Footballers Australia (PFA), Australia's representative body of the Soccerroos, Matildas and professional players around the world, former Director of the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and has led a number of sport and business missions abroad with the NSW and Australian Government including the Sports collaboration with Brazil at MERCOSUR with then Australian Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd.

His humanitarian activism extends to several, high profile campaigns including #SaveHakeem to

free Bahraini refugee Hakeem al-Araibi from a Thai prison for which he was a Finalist for the Australian Human Rights Commission Medal and which is captured in the book 'Fighting for Hakeem' and an award-winning documentary 'The Defenders' which premiered on Prime Video in June 2023, #GameOver to call for the resettlement and freedom of over 400 refugees and asylum seekers indefinitely detained by Australia in PNG, Nauru and in Australian hotels (Alternative Places of Detention) for over seven years and #PlayForLives which is a humanitarian response by sport to the COVID-19 pandemic which began in Australia and expanded internationally.

In 2020, Craig fasted during Ramadan with high profile members of the Australian Muslim community as an act of solidarity between religions and cultures as part of Australia's multicultural cohesion and in 2021, fronted the #RacismNotWelcome campaign with the Inner West Multicultural Network of Sydney to confront, challenge and eradicate racism in Australia's local communities through collaboration with Local Government Areas (LGA's) including the City of Sydney.

He is a former columnist for the Sun Herald, author and writes for the Guardian, The Age and other publications, holds a Professional Coaching License in football, won a National Championship and helped guide dozens of Australia's finest young female and male talents, many of whom graduated to Australia's National Teams.

The Australian Financial Review recognised Craig as a 'True Australian Leader', the Sydney Morning Herald as one of the 'People that Defined 2019', he was the recipient of the 2020 NSW Government Humanitarian Award for his work with sport and human rights, was awarded the Australian Muslim Council 2020 Abyssinian Medal and was a finalist for the NSW 2021 Australian of the Year.

In 2021, Craig became a Member of the Order Of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours List which he dedicated to, and shared with his refugee friends and former Manus Island detainees, Moz Azimitabar and Farhad Bandesh, and Hakeem al-Araibi as well as all refugees seeking safety around the world.

In 2021, working with trusted Members of the Australian Parliament, Craig used his sporting and political connections to secure the safety of many Afghans.

This included the evacuation of around one hundred predominantly female Afghans from Kabul including the Afghan National Women's Football Team and Taekwondo athletes, Afghanistan's several Paralympians who went on to compete at the Tokyo Paralympic Games weeks later and a group of fifteen girls who hid while the Taliban searched for them and ultimately found safety in Australia and are the subject of the moving film, 'Die. or Die trying: Escaping the Taliban.'

Craig holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Master's Degree in International Sports Management and a Postgraduate Degree in Football Management.

Somehow, Craig was nominated as one of Australia's Best Dressed Men despite spending his life in ripped jeans and board-shorts and still plays football for the Waverley Old Boys Over 35's in the

Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, Australia where he tries to relive old glories.

Craig was recognised as Australian Father of the Year in September 2022 for his human rights and humanitarian work that impacts kids from many different cultural backgrounds and, aside from his three, amazing biological children, for his support of 15 young Afghan girls who refer to him as their 'Australian dad' after being evacuated from Kabul in September, 2021 and in October 2022 for 'Distinguished Service to Immigration' by the Migration Institute of Australia.

Today, Craig advises on athlete activism for some of Australia's most prominent sportspeople and is an Adjunct Professor of Sport and Social Responsibility with Torrens University, Australia where he has developed an online course called 'Sport for Good' which teaches athletes and sport practitioners how to utilise sport for social justice and is the current NSW Australian of the Year for 2023.

In November, 2022, Craig was elected to the National Committee of the Australian Republic Movement of which he has been a supporter since his younger days as a National Team player, and was co-chair Chair until May 2024.

In June, 2023, the film "Freedom is Beautiful" was launched at the Sydney Film Festival, on which Craig was an Executive Producer which captures the story of Craig's close friends, Mostafar Azimitabar and Farhad Bandesh, refugees and Manus Island detention survivors, to ensure that Australia and the world does not forget the horrible mistreatment of vulnerable people.

Client testimonials

“ The attendees at the Food Equity Symposium positively reflected that Craig's speech set the tone and the challenge for the day by bringing the issue to the common denominator of humanity. His keynote speech was received incredibly well by both the audience and other speakers after him, with his comments and attitudes towards the issue of food insecurity guiding subsequent discussions. His delivery was passionate, hard - without polarising the audience - and engaged everyone.

- Aboriginal Affairs NSW Premier's Department

“ Thank you again for your time, and very inspirational chat. A lot of our company have said you really made them think, and realised that we can all do better, not only for Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace, but in society and in our communities as a whole.

- WSP Australia Pty Limited

“ Craig Foster was really well received at our media event, he has a fantastic manner and presented in line with our messaging and was well prepared and knowledgeable on the whole subject

- Australian Wool Innovation

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