

Advertisement

Best Shopping Deals

6:59am Wednesday, October 12th, 2022

In the know quiz

Sydney Today  13 ° / 21 °



Sign Up

Log In



National

World

Lifestyle

Travel

Entertainment

Technology

Finance

Sport

More



AFL LIVE SCORES

Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
Demons 97 ◀	Blues 101 ◀	Saints 85	Cats
Bulldogs 71	Tigers 76	Magpies 102 ◀	Bombers

Sport > Afl

Essendon CEO Andrew Thorburn quits job after only one day

Having given up his post after just one day as Essendon's new CEO, Andrew Thorburn left the club with a withering parting shot.

James McKern

 3 min read October 5, 2022 - 11:48AM

More From Afl



'No ceiling': Hawks have faith in new direction



AFL boss drops damning draft truth bomb





'Go-home' risk determines Giants' draft strategy

Essendon CEO Andrew Thorburn has quit his role after only one day in the job.

Thorburn's hiring was met with widespread backlash after the views of his church were thrust into the spotlight.

[Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews torched the Essendon Football Club](#) over its appointment of Thorburn.

Watch every match of the AFLW Season LIVE on Kayo. [New to Kayo? Start your free trial now >](#)

Thorburn, 57, is chairman of the City on a Hill church, which has previously condemned homosexuality and holds divisive views around abortion.

Almost a day after being announced as the man in charge, Thorburn had officially stepped down to keep his role as chairman of the church.

"The Board of the Essendon Football Club has accepted the resignation of Andrew Thorburn as CEO," a club statement read.

"As soon as the comments relating to a 2013 sermon from a pastor, at the City of the Hill church came to light this morning, we acted immediately to clarify the publicly espoused views on the organisation's official website, which are in direct contradiction to our values as a Club.

"The Board made clear that, despite these not being views that Andrew Thorburn has expressed personally and that were also made prior to him taking up his role as Chairman, he couldn't continue to serve in his dual roles at the Essendon Football Club and as Chairman of City on the Hill.

"The Board respects Andrew's decision."

Essendon... pic.twitter.com/a7jZO3aLsf

— Tim Michell (@tim_michell) October 4, 2022

Thorburn released a statement shortly after the news of his departure became public, blaming today's culture for not accepting his faith and ultimately costing him the role.

"Yesterday was one of the proudest days of my life. To be offered the role of CEO of the Essendon Football Club - who I have followed since I was a boy - was a profound honour," Thorburn wrote.

"However, today it became clear to me that my personal Christian faith is not tolerated or permitted in the public square, at least by some and perhaps by many. I was being required to compromise beyond a level that my conscience allowed. People should be able to hold different views on complex personal and moral matters, and be able to live and work together, even with those differences, and always with respect. Behaviour is the key. This is all an important part of a tolerant and diverse society.

"Despite my own leadership record, within hours of my appointment being announced, the media and leaders of our community had spoken. They made it clear that my Christian faith and my association with a Church are unacceptable in our culture if you wish to hold a leadership position in society.

"This grieves me greatly - though not just for myself, but for our society overall. I believe we are poorer for the loss of our great freedoms of thought, conscience and belief that made for a truly diverse, just and respectful community.

"I am saddened by these events. I wish the Club success, and thank Dave Barham in particular for the opportunity he gave me. I hope the external review leads to great change. I am truly sorry that I will not be able to work with the whole Essendon team, and Brad Scott and Josh Mahoney in particular."

While the decision to appoint Brad Scott as coach was, in my view, a good one, the decision to appoint Andrew Thorburn as CEO is spitting in the face of every queer Essendon member, as well as any member or supporter who supports womens rights to reproductive healthcare.

— Deputy Mayor Tim Baxter ໔໕໓, ໕໔໕ (@BaxterTim) October 3, 2022

The 57-year-old former NAB chief executive defended the church on Tuesday, adamant "different views" should be respected in the community while also pointing out he didn't share all of his church's beliefs.

The church has an article on its website from 2013 titled 'Surviving Same Sex Attraction as a Christian'

Attraction as a Christian.

Thorburn distanced himself from those views and said he anticipated the public backlash after “little firestorms” surrounding his faith in his previous jobs.

In response to the revelations, Thorburn said it was “very important” his church’s strong views on abortion and homosexuality were allowed to be expressed in Australian society but called for the Bombers to judge him solely on his leadership and not his faith.

Daniel Andrews, an Essendon supporter, said the decision to appoint a chief executive ultimately rested with the club’s board and he would continue to be a club member.

But he also said there were “many reasons to be a somewhat disappointed Essendon supporter”.

“Those views are absolutely appalling. I don’t support those views, that kind of intolerance, that kind of hatred, bigotry. It is just wrong,” Andrews said.

“To dress that up as anything other than bigotry is just obviously false.”

[Essendon has lurched from one disaster to the next on and off the field](#) this year with the club at breaking point following board member and club icon Kevin Sheedy’s extraordinary decision to slam his own club for last week appointing Brad Scott as its new senior coach, overlooking club legend James Hird.








[Sign Up](#)
[Log In](#)

Sign Up

- Registration
- Connect
- In The Know Quiz
- Newsletters

About Us

- Welcome to news.com.au
- The Team
- Our Values
- Code of Conduct
- Shopping

Help & Support Our News Network

- Contact us
- FAQ
- General Feedback
- Advertise with us
- Site Map
- Kids News
- The Daily Telegraph
- Herald Sun
- The Courier Mail

Our Partners

- Kidspot
- Body+Soul
- realestate.com.au
- FoxSports

Our Apps




[Coupons](#)

[Content Licensing](#)

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. [Find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out.](#) Sometimes our articles will try to help you find the right product at the right price. We may receive payment from third parties for publishing this content or when you make a purchase through the links on our sites.

[Privacy policy](#) | [Relevant ads opt-out](#) | [Cookie policy](#) | [Terms of use](#)

Nationwide News Pty Ltd © 2022. All times AEDT (GMT +11). Powered by [WordPress.com](#) VIP