



Stephen's Round 1 Melbourne Trip: Crows, Cheers & A Big Win at the 'G'

For Stephen, life's possibilities often begin with two things he loves most, travel and the thrill of AFL. So when the 2026 season fixture revealed his beloved Adelaide Crows would open Round 1 against Collingwood in Melbourne, there was only one thing to do...start planning an adventure.

With support from the DLi team, Stephen began organising his first interstate trip since COVID travel restrictions had lifted. A visit to Flight Centre soon had him comparing flights, weighing up accommodation options, and making all the important travel decisions himself. Once everything was locked in, the countdown was officially on and from that moment, staff were regularly reminded exactly how many days remained until take-off.

When travel day finally arrived, Stephen could hardly contain his excitement as he boarded his flight from Adelaide to Melbourne, with a suitcase packed with Crows supporter gear and support staff, Nawapit by his side.



A small flight delay wasn't going to dampen his spirits, Stephen was in holiday mode, after all.

Upon their arrival at the hotel, bags were dropped, and the first mission in Melbourne was finding dinner. Spaghetti Tree delivered the goods, proving pre-game carb loading isn't just for AFL players.





The next morning, Stephen embraced one of his favourite holiday luxuries - a sleep in. Refreshed after breakfast, he and Nawapit made their way to the iconic MCG. Stephen's trademark early-bird approach paid off perfectly, giving him time to soak in the size, atmosphere, and quiet magic of the 'G' before more than 62,480 fellow fans poured through the gates.



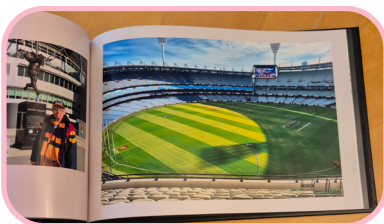
Seat located. Hot chips secured. Bottle of Coke in hand. Game on.

And what a game it was. Adelaide came out on fire, jumping Collingwood early. The Magpies fought back, but after half-time the Crows unleashed a premiership-quarter blitz that had Stephen cheering every goal. When the final siren sounded with Adelaide victorious 13.15 (93) to 11.13 (79), one thing was certain - Melbourne had never heard a happier Crows supporter.

After an unforgettable night, it was back to the accommodation for a well-earned rest before their final Melbourne morning spent exploring the city sights and visiting Southern Cross Station ahead of the trip home.



But for Stephen, every great journey simply inspires the next one. No sooner had he arrived back in Adelaide, plans were already underway for his next getaway - this time a little closer to home, with Victor Harbor and the Fleurieu next on the list.



To help keep the memories alive, Stephen's support staff also created a special photo book filled with snapshots from his Melbourne adventure - a keepsake he can look back on and enjoy for years to come.

Because with the right support, passion and possibility can take you anywhere.

