



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, April 11, 2025

MCG must audit its security after gun incident at AFL match

Workers at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground are demanding a full and thorough audit of security after two patrons were able to allegedly smuggle firearms into the venue last week.

Delegates from the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance – the union that represents customer service workers at the MCG – have written to management, including chief executive officer Stuart Fox, with concerns about security measures in place at the iconic venue, particularly the use of Artificial Intelligence screening technology.

MEAA is concerned that the AI technology has been rolled out despite potential flaws.

They want a full and thorough investigation of the incident along with a transparent audit of security with involvement from worker representatives.

The demands, outlined in a letter to management and the Melbourne Cricket Club committee, follow the arrests of two patrons who allegedly were in possession of firearms during an AFL match on Thursday, April 1.

“The incident was highly distressing for both staff and the public and calls into question the effectiveness of the MCG’s current security measures,” said Adam Portelli, Acting MEAA Chief Executive.

“While the alleged offenders were later apprehended, the security system’s failure to detect the weapon before it was brought onto the premises is very concerning.

“This put the safety of patrons and MCG workers at risk.

“Questions also need to be answered about the role in the incident of AI technology provided by American company Evolv.

“The US Federal Trade Commission has previously sued Evolv, alleging the company made false claims about its AI-powered security screening system and its ability to detect weapons.

“These issues need to be fully investigated because nothing is more important than the safety and security of the hundreds of thousands of sports and entertainment fans who visit the MCG every year.”

Workers are seeking further clarity about whether there has been a reduction of security staff at the MCG, the amount of training security staff receive, and the accuracy of the AI screening machines.

The incident serves as a warning about allowing AI-powered tools to be deployed without comprehensive regulation and strong safeguards.

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MEAA is campaigning for comprehensive national legislation to regulate AI that includes meaningful human oversight and accountability for all AI-related activities, including:

- Mandatory safeguards to ensure staff are properly trained and resourced to safely oversee these new technologies.
- Employers who deploy AI tools must be transparent about how AI is being used in the workplace, in consultation with staff.
- Companies must establish and implement a risk management process to identify and mitigate AI-related risks.

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