

‘Nothing has changed’: Lumumba, Davis, Krakouer stop Pies talks, with club to start truth-telling process



Former Pie Heritier Lumumba.

By Peter Ryan
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Collingwood have kept the door open for premiership player Heritier Lumumba to engage in a truth-telling process at the club that is due to start in April, despite the 35-year-old saying he has walked away from discussions with the Magpies over alleged incidents of racism he experienced during his 10 seasons there.

Lumumba, who was at Collingwood from 2005-2014, posted on Twitter on Wednesday, indicating that he and two former teammates, Leon Davis and Andrew Krakouer, would not engage further with the club as it seeks to address historical racism issues by implementing the recommendations of the *Do Better* report.

Davis confirmed to *The Age* that the statement via Lumumba's account was made on behalf of three players, but chose to make no further comment.

Lumumba wrote that “after 15 months of dialogue to address past incidents of racism at the Collingwood Football Club, Leon Davis, Andrew Krakouer and I have formally notified the club that we are officially terminating all communications with CFC.

“Nothing has changed. It is our firm belief that the Collingwood Football Club has no intention of acting in good faith to achieve a just outcome for past players who have experienced racism at the Club.”

Collingwood CEO Mark Anderson said in a statement on Wednesday that the club hoped for a genuine outcome for all players who had experienced racism at the club, with the truth-telling process to start in April as a result of the recommendations arising from the *Do Better* report.

“We remain committed to, and hopeful of, a genuine outcome for any and all players who have been subject to racism at our club. Our processes of the past needed to be reviewed and the *Do Better* review and report recommendations addressed what we needed to change and implement,” Anderson said.

“The *Do Better Report* recommended that a truth-telling process and strategy was established to address and reconcile past acts of racism to inform ongoing change, so that racism doesn’t occur in the future.

“Overseen by the expert advisory group, the club has sought input from experts in truth-telling to establish a process where experiences of racism at the club can be shared in a supported, respectful and safe environment and for the club to acknowledge and learn from the harm that has been caused.



Andrew Krakoeur and Leon Davis during their time at Collingwood.

“We want to ensure that all Collingwood Football Club people who have been impacted by racism are able to be part of this process.

“The club is committed to ensuring any and all players who have experienced racism benefit from this process and look forward to and welcome their involvement.”

Lumumba filed documents in the Supreme Court in October 2020, suing Collingwood and the AFL and claiming they were liable for “failing to protect him from racism” on what was a generally endorsed writ.

However, the action has become stale after no writ was served within the 12-month time frame. Lumumba’s lawyers could seek leave of the court to extend the period in which he can launch the writ.