

Monday, 25 May 2026

## Vale Neale Daniher AO

### Seven extends **The Agenda Setters** in tribute to a life of extraordinary impact, tonight on Seven and 7plus Sport

The Seven Network is deeply saddened by the passing of Australian Football legend and Co-Founder and Patron of FightMND, Neale Daniher AO, who passed away today at 65 years of age.

A revered figure across Australian sport, Neale's legacy extends far beyond football. Admired as a player, coach and leader, he became one of the nation's most inspiring voices following his diagnosis with motor neurone disease in 2013, leading the fight to raise awareness and vital funding for research through FightMND.

Known for his resilience, humour and unwavering optimism, Neale united the football community and inspired millions of Australians with his message to fight the disease he referred to as "The Beast".

Tonight, Seven will honour Neale's extraordinary life and legacy with a special tribute in **7NEWS** live at 6.00pm, followed by an extended 90-minute edition of **The Agenda Setters** from 7.30pm on 7mate and [7plus Sport](#).

The special 90-minute edition will open with an extended obituary honouring Neale's life and legacy, before moving into the program's regular **The Agenda Setters** coverage.

The broadcast will then conclude with an additional 30-minute segment dedicated entirely to Neale Daniher AO, featuring a special guest panel reflecting on his impact on Australian sport, his courageous and public battle with Motor Neurone Disease, and the movement he inspired through FightMND.

Seven will also broadcast an encore of Neale Daniher's inspiring **Unfiltered** episode from 2025, at 9.30pm Wednesday, 27 May on Seven and 7plus Sport.

Seven's longtime Big Freeze host, Hamish McLachlan said: "Neale was the best of humans. And a teacher to us all.

"Neale showed us all what is possible, and how to live a life full of purpose, rather than just live. And he showed us the attitude we choose each day, is entirely up to us.

“He changed the way I look at the world. And in doing so, inadvertently changed the way my children live their lives. And I dare say thousands of families live a more positive life after being touched by Neale’s formidable approach.

“Neale transformed personal adversity into national inspiration. How many can do that?”

“He introduced us to MND and rallied us in his fight against it with courage, humour and a relentless determination. He included us, taught us and galvanized us all, as he did.

“No one has had a bigger impact on my life. I feel blessed that our paths crossed. I am terribly sad he has gone but feel a sense of privilege to have learnt so much simply by spending time by his side.”

Seven Network Director of Sport, Chris Jones said: “Neale showed us that true courage isn’t measured by the battles we face, but by how we face them. With humour, humility and relentless determination, he inspired a nation to stand together in the fight against MND.

“He gave us more than a cause – he gave us hope.

“Last year he said, *‘Life is a team game’*. It has been a privilege for our Seven Network family to share the Big Freeze journey with Neale, his family and all Australians. Alongside his daughter, Bec and the FightMND team, we will continue to fight this disease with the same unwavering spirit he inspired in all of us.

“Our thoughts are with Jan, Luke, Lauren, Ben, Bec and the entire Daniher family on this incredibly difficult day. Neale’s impact will be felt for many years to come.”

Since Neale Daniher AO was first diagnosed with MND, the fundraising efforts from the Big Freeze game have seen more than \$100m contributed to research projects, with Daniher being recognised by the Australian Government for his service to the community with an AM in 2016, an AO in 2021 and then named as Australian of the Year in 2025.

## **BROADCAST TIMES ON SEVEN:**

### **MONDAY, 25 MAY**

#### **The Agenda Setters**

Melbourne	7.30pm on 7mate and 7plus Sport, 9.40pm on Seven and 7plus Sport
Sydney	10.40pm on Seven and 7plus Sport
Brisbane	10.40pm on Seven and 7plus Sport
Adelaide	7.30pm on 7mate and 7plus Sport, 9.40pm on Seven and 7plus Sport

# Media ~~/~~ Release



Perth

7.30pm on 7mate and 7plus Sport, 9.40pm on  
Seven and 7plus Sport

**WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY**

**Unfiltered: Neale Daniher**

National

9.30pm on Seven and 7plus Sport

**For more information, please contact:**

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