



**The Melbourne Vixens 2023 First Nations dress artwork has been designed and shared by artist Rebecca Atkinson.**

I am a proud Moiradu woman from the Bangerang Nation from my father's side and Kerrupmara woman from the Gunditjmara Nation from my mother's side.

I've enjoyed expressing my identity through creative influences from my upbringing and the surrounding landscapes where my connection of culture is embedded everywhere. I've learned my skill from my father, Kevin Atkinson Jnr, who has been teaching me since the age of eight.

This design has different elements to highlight the themes of fearless, togetherness and resilience which empowers the journey of the Melbourne Vixens to lead in 2023.

**Fearlessness** is portrayed with the inner design from the seven circles which represent the seven players on the court, as they play a hard, competitive game to gain a win. The other design attached to the circles is the players who are not on court but supporting from the sidelines. The design in the centre is a showcase of the different movements in the game, from running into the lead to gain the ball, to defence and trying to stop the play.

**Resilience** is the colour pink, as everyone has different struggles throughout their lives and it might feel like a rollercoaster ride, but with strong resilience you can make it past any barriers that life may present. This is a deadly example of how the First Nations people know the meaning of resilience - the obstacles facing different generations has shaped who we are in today's world.

**Togetherness** is symbolised in the large outer circles which represent the coaches, staff and supporters of the Melbourne Vixens. There are different layers of who is involved at the club, but everyone is important to make the Melbourne Vixens be successful on the court and off the court.

You must have *fearlessness*, *togetherness* and *resilience* to play a hard competitive game of netball in the Suncorp Super Netball season to make the ultimate sacrifice, to make the finals and win.

*Rebecca Atkinson*

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