



# The International Federation of Karate Kyokushinkai Australia Inc.

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984)  
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**Sydney, 16 February 2017**

On the 18th October 2011 our community suffered the devastating loss of Thanh Pham.

Two days earlier, Thanh collapsed while completing his Black Belt grading. The coroner ruled that Thanh died from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the grading, likely from a fall.

The loss of Thanh, who was a vibrant and active member of our close-knit community, has been very difficult for all people who were involved.

We have since undergone substantial changes to the way our gradings take place and have also introduced significant changes to the administration of the organisation.

We now ensure that a panel of three Black Belts supervises the senior grading and that an external First Aid person is also present. All Black Belt candidates must undergo medical assessment prior to participation.

In line with other contact sports, we have developed a concussion protocol and implemented incident and accident reporting systems, as well as appointed a safety and compliance officer.

We have also increased our floor safety mats to a thickness of 3cm on concrete based floors.

These changes have taken place to ensure the health and safety of our community and to bring us in line with the professional standards of other sporting organisations.

When participating in sport at a high-level, like a senior belt grading, there are increased risks involved. It is our aim to keep any potential risk to a minimum.

We believe Karate is a very safe and controlled sport. Sparring only makes up one element of a grading. Given the rigorous training to learn to block and move, head contact, if ever made, is minimal.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Thanh and we share their loss.

Thank you to all members of IFKKA for your continued support. This sad event has reinforced how special our organisation is, and how important it is to support one another.

Jenny Fuller, Sensei (3rd Dan)

**President** - International Federation of Karate Kyokushinkai Australia Inc (IFKKA).

**Country Representative** - International Federation of Karate (IFK).

*The IFKKA is part of the IFK worldwide organisation established in 51 countries. The IFKKA was established in 1994 to teach Kyokushin karate under the International Federation of Karate (IFK) guidelines as handed down by Hanshi Steve Arneil (10th dan). For more information, please contact Jenny Fuller on [jfuller@ifk-australia.com](mailto:jfuller@ifk-australia.com).*

## **IFKKA Mission Statement**

*To encourage, promote, advance, and administer Martial Arts through:*

- *The positive development of its members in their karate endeavours.*
- *Follow the karate guidelines as set down by the International Federation of Karate (IFK).*
- *Ensure that an open, consultative, and equal organisational model is developed, regardless of karate rank, to meet these objects in a positive, supportive environment.*

