



Protest encampment update

24 June 2024

Dear students,

I wanted to let you know that the protest encampment on the University's front lawns has packed up and we're looking forward to holding Semester 2 Welcome there in a few weeks.

After weeks of discussions and deep listening to members of our diverse community, we are pleased that the encampment has been ended peacefully without violence. We know it has been a very difficult time for many members of our community.

Summary

As part of the agreement to end the encampment, we have upheld the core principles of freedom of speech and academic freedom. Specifically, we will not restrict student exchanges, academic partnerships or institutional relationships with any country or industry as part of this agreement.

[As we said on 5 June](#), we are:

- doubling our expenditure over the next three years to support academics and PhD students under the Scholars-at-Risk Program
- convening a working group to provide feedback on our investment policies with a lens to ensure they reflect our commitment to human rights, including consideration of the position of defence- and security-related industries in our Investment Policy and our Integrated ESG Framework
- as is standard practice for many universities globally, disclosing our defence- and security-related research activities including research contracts and research grants, subject to contractual, legal and privacy obligations

I share our community's distress at the events in the Middle East and the ways in which that conflict is reverberating here in Australia. Our focus from the beginning has been to de-escalate tensions on campus, and our top priority is always the safety of our students, staff and the broader community. We have zero tolerance for any form of racism, threats to safety, hate speech, intimidation, threatening speech, bullying or unlawful harassment, including antisemitic or anti-Muslim language or behaviour.

Since the conflict broke out, the University has been clear that we condemn violence, terrorism and any breach of human rights; and we continue to hold collective hope for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

I'm pleased we've been able to reach a peaceful resolution to the encampment, and I look forward to students enjoying Welcome Fest on the front lawns in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, enjoy your break.

Kind regards,
Mark

Professor Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

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