



Support available in challenging times

13 October 2023

Dear students,

The last week has been a challenging one for our community. Like you, I have been shocked and saddened to witness the escalating violence in the Middle East and the accompanying unconscionable statements and behaviour from fringe actors here in Australia and abroad. I'd like to make absolutely clear that under no circumstances is racist, anti-Semitic, or anti-Muslim language and behaviour acceptable to the University.

I appreciate that many members of our community have strongly-held views on this conflict, and while we uphold the right to free speech and freedom of expression, those rights must be exercised in a way that is consistent with our [Student Charter \(pdf, 221KB\)](#) and considers the impact on other members of our community. Our campuses must remain safe and welcoming places for all members of our diverse community.

The safety, health, and wellbeing of our community are paramount, so I strongly encourage you to access and engage with the supports we have in place if you need it.

Support in the lead up to, during and after the referendum

In the lead up to the referendum on Saturday 14 October, I want to acknowledge that, whatever the outcome of this weekend, the after-effects of the national discussion that has taken place will continue to reverberate for a long time.

To our First Nations students, I encourage you to access the supports we have in place to prioritise your social, academic, emotional and cultural wellbeing during this time. The [Gadigal Centre](#) and our Aboriginal Support staff, as well as community support services like [13 YARN](#) (13 92 76) and [Lifeline](#) (13 11 14), are all available this weekend and beyond to support you.

General academic support

If current events are impacting your ability to study and meet deadlines, you may consider applying for special consideration. Information about how to apply for special consideration, required documents and deadlines for applications can be found on the [special consideration and arrangements webpage](#).

General wellbeing support

We're committed to doing all we can to ensure you're supported while studying with us.

- **Student Wellbeing team:** Our [Student Wellbeing team](#) offers a range of confidential and free health, wellbeing and personal supports, including 24/7 and after hours support.

- **Online resources:** Our [student Life, wellbeing and support webpage](#) has a comprehensive list of student services, resources and events to support your personal wellbeing.
- **Social media resources:** Access support online and connect with your peers and staff at the University by following [@gadigalcentre_usyd](#) and [@sydney_studentlife](#) on Instagram.

In the face of adversity, our community's strength and resilience shine the brightest. I encourage you to look out for one another and seek support if you need it.

Kind regards,
Mark

Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

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We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all. Learn more.

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