



Our Anti-Racism Statement

28 November 2023

Dear students,

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the commentary about the Voice to Parliament referendum have exposed some of the divisions in Australian society, and I have been dismayed by the racism that has permeated our public discourse and the harms it has caused.

As a University we are responsible for modelling the kind of considered conversations the broader community needs to have about difficult issues. This has never been more important than in the current climate, where tensions are high, and many of our staff and students feel confronted and distressed by the circumstances around them. Our campuses must remain a welcoming and safe space for everyone in our community.

On behalf of the University, I reaffirm our commitment to fostering an environment where we stand against racist ideas and practices, but also our obligation to uphold the principle of freedom of speech and academic freedom. I am pleased to formally present our Anti-Racism Statement in its entirety – this statement marks a significant milestone in our journey to promote a deeper understanding of racism and its harmful impacts.

Our stated commitment

Our mission is to create an environment where all students, regardless of their background, identity, or beliefs, can learn, grow, and thrive. As an institution, we commit to supporting racialised communities and challenging racist views in our research, teaching and the practices and policies these ideas inform. We have no tolerance for racism, including antisemitic or anti-Muslim language or behaviour.

Our commitment to truth-telling and acknowledging our past

We also acknowledge our historical involvement in perpetuating racism and the ongoing injustices faced by Australia's First Nations peoples. It is vital that we understand our past and the benefits it affords us now to successfully de-colonise our future research, teaching, and community connections.

To confront the impact of our actions in the past, we have started a process of truth-telling. We are fully committed to developing a more comprehensive account of the University's involvement in racist ideas, policies and practices.

Anti-racism resources and support

We have developed resources and toolkits to help report and call out discrimination in all its forms, on campus or online.

- **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. Visit the [support over the break page](#) for more information about wellbeing support during the University closedown period, from Friday 22 December to Monday 8 January.
- **Online resources:** Our [dedicated webpage](#) has a comprehensive list of student services, resources and explainers to help you call out, report and identify discrimination on campus and online.
- **Further your education:** The National Centre for Cultural Competence (NCCC) has created a series of [online modules](#), which offer additional learning opportunities to support your journey in recognising racism and enhancing your cultural competence.

We acknowledge that we still have much to do to realise the vision set out in this statement. Through our collective endeavours, we can improve the lives of our staff, students, and community to build a more respectful culture free of impediments, enabling all of us to achieve our full potential.

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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