

Joint Statement of Friendship and Cooperation between Murdoch University's Indigenous Australian Students and International Students

Murdoch University's International Students acknowledge that Australia is Aboriginal Land. The place where we sit, talk and listen belongs to Aboriginal peoples - the traditional owners of this land.

This is a formal statement concerning the framework for future relationship between Indigenous Australian students and International Students at Murdoch University. In this joint statement Indigenous Australians are represented by the Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre - which sits in traditional lands - and International Students are represented by the Murdoch International Students' Association.

Guided by the desire to promote understanding among cultures and deepen friendly relations Murdoch University International Students and Indigenous Australian students issued the following statement concerning the framework for future relationship between the two groups of students during the Multicultural and Anti-Racism Week in September 2005:

1. Both parties reached a common recognition that they will build their relationship in the spirit of mutual respect.
2. Both parties pointed out the necessity of embracing the World Conference Against Racism's paragraph 117 of the Program of Action that calls for anti-racism education and promotion of the values of acceptance, tolerance, diversity and respect for the cultures of all indigenous peoples living within their national borders. - The development of this relationship is based on the mutual interests in Australia's multiculturalism and diversity.

3. It was recognised that engagement in an informed dialogue between the two groups of students is a beneficial and effective way of developing the relationship between the two parties. Both parties affirmed the importance of jointly celebrating Nyungar Day during the Multicultural Day celebrations and exchanging views on various matters of mutual interest, including anti-racism initiatives both locally and globally.
4. Both parties recognized the importance of supporting efforts for the development of the diversity awareness and leadership training for all students.
5. Both sides confirmed the intention to make necessary efforts to enhance cultural change initiatives on campus.
6. Both parties recognize a greater need to cooperate and actively participate in various events such as Harmony Week, Anti Racism Day, Multicultural Week, Nyungar Day and Reconciliation Day.
7. Both parties expressed their intention to cooperate actively in multicultural affairs within the University via established committees, working parties and other community organizations as appropriate.
8. Both parties took note of the important role of the Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre for imparting Indigenous knowledge on campus, and stressed the need for the early introduction between the two groups of students, in particular, during the international students' orientation period.

9. Taking into account that the promotion of dialogue between the Student representative bodies/Associations of both groups of students would significantly contribute to the friendship and cooperation, both parties reached a common recognition of the need to encourage and expedite the establishment of the Cultural Diversity Advisory Council proposed in 2005. In this regard, both sides welcomed the establishment of the proposed council.
10. Both sides shared the view that they should promote mutual exchanges in such various fields as culture and tourism.



MR GLEN STASIUK
Director, Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre



MR CHERISH CHERIAN
International Student Representative,
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DR CASTA TUNGARAZA
Equal Opportunity and Social Justice Manager

SIGNED ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2005

