

# RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

9 April 2015

Welcome to our latest supporter update!

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## Supporters celebrate harmony day

On 21 March Australia celebrated Harmony Day, which coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year's response was fantastic – it was great to see so many of you celebrating Australia's cultural diversity!

Take a look at some of our supporters' Harmony Day celebrations:

The City of Greater Dandenong held several events throughout Cultural Diversity Week, including an International Dress Parade, a variety of cultural performances, an interfaith Places of Worship 'Open House' and the unveiling of the Harmony Day Community Photo Wall..



Campaign supporter Eco Norfolk co-organised the second annual Harmony Day at Norfolk Island.



Other Harmony Day events include:



Macquarie University



Coffs Harbour City Council



Liverpool City Council

### Supporter activities

It was great to welcome the University of Sydney as an official campaign supporter at their public launch event last month. The launch included speeches from the Race Discrimination Commissioner, the Vice-Chancellor and student representatives, and provided attendees with the opportunity to get artistic through the 'Unity Tiles' painting workshop.



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Welcome to City West Water, which also recently launched their support. The morning tea event gave staff the chance to make personal pledges of support for the campaign.



The Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria will launch the *Qualified but not Recognised* discussion paper on Monday April 13 in Carlton, Vic. The paper, which will be launched by Daniel Mulino MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury and Finance, looks into improving employment opportunities for new migrants with overseas qualifications. Find more details about the event [here](#).

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And last but not least, a big congratulations to Football Federation Victoria on reaching the finals of the Best Sports Development Initiative at the 2014 Vicsport Awards last month. FFV were shortlisted for their *Don't Stand By. Stand Up! Campaign*, which seeks to empower members of the football community to take action against racism. Find out more about the campaign [here](#).

*Don't Stand By. Stand Up!*

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### Supporter of the month

A special shout-out to Hobson's Bay Council and the NRL, who have been jointly named supporter of the month! The NRL hosted their third annual 'In League In Harmony Festival' on Friday March 20 at Merrylands Oval. The event welcomed over 1,000 students that had participated in the NRL's 'In League in Harmony' program, which aims to promote social cohesion by tackling social issues such as social disengagement, racism, gender equality and bullying. Take a look at their [website](#) for more information.



Hobsons Bay City Council launched their 'Behind This Smile' program during cultural diversity week last month. This community art project seeks to challenge stereotypes and promote positive attitudes through sharing the stories and portraits of 12 local residents from diverse backgrounds. Find out more about the project [here](#).



Remember to [keep us updated](#) about your activities if you'd like to feature in our next supporter newsletter.

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### Pledge competition

Thanks to everyone who submitted entries to our twitter competition. It was great to see so many of you making personal pledges to take a stand against racism.

The winning entries are:

- Cheri - I pledge to educate and open up non-reactive discussions; remembering not all people had healthy role-models to teach them diversity
- Darryl - Simple. Easy. I pledge not to be a bystander
- Kristin - I will calmly have those difficult conversations when I see/hear others being racist
- Nadine - I pledge to call out racism whenever I see it
- Reconciliation Australia - We pledge to inspire all Australians to contribute to reconciliation and break down stereotypes and discrimination
- SA Discrimination - We pledge to stand against racism and be an advocate of change instead of letting racism be the victor
- Susan - I pledge to contribute to passionately advocate that online abuse in any form is NOT acceptable

And a special thanks to the Fred Hollows Foundation, Gary Lee and the Occupational Opportunities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Inc (OOFRAS) for their multiple contributions! You'll be receiving a special jumbo package for your efforts.

Take a look at our compilation of a selection of the pledge entries:



Remember you can download your printable pledge card on [our website](#).

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Until next time!  
The campaigns team



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