



Racism: It stops with me

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The Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Helen Szoke recently launched a National Anti-Racism Strategy to promote a clear understanding in the Australian community of what racism is, and how it can be prevented and reduced. Diversity Council Australia congratulated the Australian Human Rights Commission on the strategy and encouraged the business and wider communities to get on board.

The first step in the strategy is a public awareness campaign with the tagline '*Racism. It Stops With Me*'. The campaign aims to ensure more Australians recognise that racism is unacceptable in the community and gives them the tools and resources to take practical action against racism and to prevent and respond effectively to it.

Dr Helen Szoke said the development of a National Anti-Racism Strategy is a ground breaking initiative which recognises the longstanding efforts of many and builds on the successes of the country:

“Our readiness to acknowledge and address racism and the harm it causes shows that we’re setting our sights on greater possibility to tackle the issue. ...Let’s use our talents not only to call racism when we see it, but to envisage a nation beyond it – one confident enough to own its challenges; one capable enough to meet them, one fortunate enough to share in the results,” said Dr Szoke.

Alongside DCA, businesses such as Corrs Chambers Westgarth, SBS, Elders, Australian Red Cross, and the Fred Hollows Foundation have already endorsed the campaign. In sport, AFL, FFA, NRL, Netball Australia and Australian Rugby Union are among those who have signed up. By signing up to the campaign, companies and individuals will commit to playing a visible role by taking a public stance against racism in the community.

Nareen Young, DCA's CEO urged all organisations to get involved in the campaign:

“Many of us would like to think that racism doesn't exist in Australia but our research clearly shows this is not the case, and workplaces are not immune. By becoming a part of the campaign, you can play a visible role by taking a public stance against racism in our community.

“DCA will be holding its Annual Diversity Debate in November, moderated by Tony Jones, on the topic of *'Is racism holding Australian back?'*. We look forward to bringing you this exciting event and continuing to lead public debate on this important issue,” said Ms Young.

For more information on the anti-racism campaign and to show your support, visit: <http://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/index.html>.

[Read more on racism in the workplace...](#)