

Megan Mitchell
National Children's
Commissioner
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Generation Next 2014: The Impact of Racism on Young People's Well-Being

Bond University

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

Non-discrimination (article 2)

Right to life, survival and development (article 6)

Respect to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (article 24)

What is Racism?

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- Has different meanings for different people
- Unfairly disadvantages someone on the basis of their racial background
- Can be overt or covert
- Can be intentional or unintentional
- Can emerge from a number of sources
- Is as much about impact as it is about intention
- Can both directly and indirectly exclude people from participating in society

Racism in Community and Schools

According to research:

- Around 20% of Australians say they have been on the receiving end of a racist attack
- Racism is on the rise
- A 2013 Lowitja Institute survey found almost every Aboriginal Victorian interviewed had experienced racism in the previous 12 months



Children and Young People

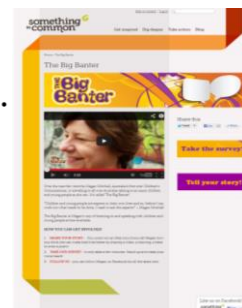
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According to research:

- 80% of students from non-Anglo backgrounds reported experiencing racial discrimination
- Racism has a wide range of negative effects on their mental, physical and social well-being
- Schools are the main setting for racist behaviour
- Reasons for not reporting racism include fear the issue won't be dealt with properly, and fear of further bullying

The Big Banter

email: kids@humanrights.gov.au



"What makes me most happy is when I am surrounded by people that do not judge others on skin colour, race or religion and are happy to be around other happy people. Racism is something that makes my blood boil and I do not think there is a single reason to be racist. Everyone has the right to live in a world where they are not labelled."

"Why do people have to be so offensive to other people just cause they're from another part of the world or their religion is different, or they're black or white. It should not matter where you come from but what does matter is you have a good heart."

Cyber-bullying and Racism

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- Distinctive characteristics – invasive, audience, anonymity
- One in 10 children experience cyber-bullying
- Research suggests that peer intervention helps to stop bullying behaviour



Cyber-bullying and *BackMeUp*

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"BackMeUp has made me more confident as to what I can do as a bystander - it is hard to watch something so horrible happen to someone and feel useless, but it is an amazing feeling to actually be able to help someone out."

"I'm ready to take action if I can see any signs of cyber-bullying."



RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

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Aims to:

- ensure more Australians recognise that racism is unacceptable in our community
- create tools and resources to take practical action against racism
- empower individuals and organisations to prevent and respond effectively to racism

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Thank you

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