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# Racism: How should we respond?



YOU CAN HELP - START BY SIGNING THE PLEDGE AT [ANTaR.org.au](http://ANTaR.org.au) ANTaR, 2003



# racism makes me sick

it affects my blood pressure & creates anxiety and depression

Australian Human Rights Commission

## Outline

- The dimensions of racism
- Harms of racism
- Cyber-racism and bullying
- Leadership and setting a tone
- "Racism. It Stops with Me"

## What is racism?

- Racial superiority
- Stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination
- Sources of racism

## Prevalence of racism (Challenging Racism Project)

- 20 per cent of Australians say that they have been on the receiving end of racist hate talk
- 11 per cent have been excluded from the workplace and social settings because of their race
- 5 per cent of Australians say they have experienced physical assault because of their race

## 2013 Scanlon Foundation Surveys

- 19 per cent of Australians have experienced racial or religious discrimination of some kind during the past 12 months
- Previously 12 per cent in 2012
- Particularly high levels for non-English speaking background Australians

## Children and young people

- 80 per cent of students from non-Anglo backgrounds reported experiencing racial discrimination
- Over two-thirds of these experiences of racism occurred at school

## Harms of racism

- Civic, physical and mental health
- "I experience racism on an all too regular basis ... It is a tremendous psychological blow because it is something that I experienced from age 5 to now and I am often left feeling helpless and vulnerable for days afterwards."

"It makes me feel like I am lower than everyone else, an intruder who is not part of this society."

## Cyber-bullying

- Just the same as plain bullying?
- Distinctive characteristics – invasive, audience, anonymity
- One in 10 children experience it
- Rise in cyber-racism

### BackMeUp

Don't stand by. It could be YOU!



## Cyber-bullying and BackMeUp

- "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 cyberbullying."

## Culture and leadership

- A hostile social climate can open the door to devaluation and disparagement
- Social context matters
- Leadership and signals

## Race Discrimination Act

- Outlaws racial discrimination and promotes equality before the law
- Outlaws racial vilification
  - - Section 18C: an act, otherwise than in private, that is reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate on the basis of race
  - - Section 18D: free speech exemptions

### National Anti-Racism Strategy CONSULTATION REPORT - JULY 2012



## RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

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

## Bystander scenarios

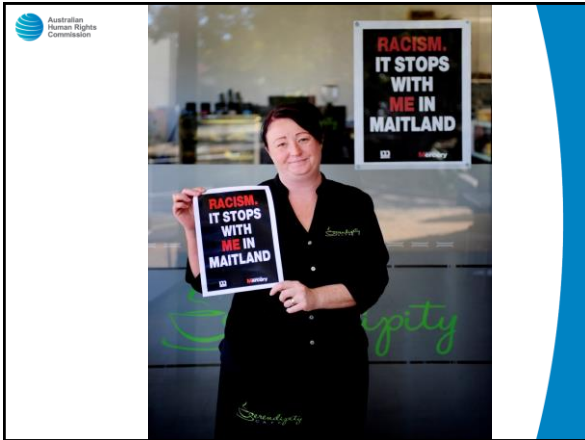
- Kitty Genovese, who was murdered in a New York City street in the presence of 38 witnesses, none of whom offered assistance
- One study found that in 44 per cent of incidents of race bullying at school, some or all of the bystanders did nothing, with one quarter in fact encouraging the bullying
- What can bystanders do?

### Everyone is entitled to a safe and pleasant journey. That's why racism is not welcome on Ventura Buses.



## RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

For information about how to take action against racism or make a complaint of racial discrimination go to <https://www.humanrights.gov.au>



**Curricular materials**

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- Year 5/ 6 Health and Physical Education
- Year 6 History
- Year 9/ 10 Health and Physical Education
- Year 10 History
- Empathy and action

**RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME**

IS A CAMPAIGN WHICH INVITES ALL AUSTRALIANS TO REFLECT ON WHAT THEY CAN DO TO COUNTER RACISM **WHEREVER IT HAPPENS.**

[itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au](http://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au)

Adam Goodes, Sydney Swans  
Australian of the Year 2014