

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Studying Racism

Professor Kevin Dunn from the School of Social Sciences is undertaking a systematic collection of data about racism in Australia, through funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Living in Harmony Program. The aim is to better understand regional variations in the intensity and nature of intolerance.

'Although Australia is often promoted by both its citizens and other nations as being a bastion of multiculturalism and equality, with a "fair go" for all, the life experiences of minority groups within Australia, such as Indigenous Australians, ethnic minorities and recent immigrants may differ markedly from this idealised view' says Professor Dunn. 'While a large amount of research has focused on ways of equalising access for all Australians in such realms as education, health care, access to public services and the like, there is no comprehensive way to measure how much racism still exists in Australian society. And there is no firm evidence of exactly how wide-spread or damaging that racism might be. This study is collecting data about racism and its effects in different Australian States. The data is being used by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to more strategically allocate its anti-racism funding.'

Professor Dunn is collecting data about racism in Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory to complete a national data base on attitudes to diversity and racism, and experience of racism. The data will be collected through telephone surveys and will explore people's attitudes to cultural diversity.



This project is providing policy makers within the Department of Immigration and Citizenship with valuable and reliable data about racism in Australia. It is also assisting local authorities and non-government organisations to develop regionally appropriate anti-racism programs. This will contribute to strengthening Australia's social and economic fabric.

Project Title: Racism Data Collection Project
Funding has been set at: \$50,600
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