

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



# Truth-Telling **STATEMENT**

This Truth-Telling Statement was developed by the Division of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, in consultation with the WSU Elders Advisory Group and the Indigenous Professoriate Group.

It responds to our commitment in the 2026-2030 Indigenous Strategy to ‘commit to institutional truth-telling about the ongoing impacts of colonisation and associated injustice, by amplifying Indigenous narratives, creating a more accurate account of Australia’s history to recognise the strength and contribution of Indigenous peoples.’

Western Sydney University campuses are situated on the Countries of the Darug, Dharawal, Gadigal, Gundungurra and Wiradjuri peoples, who are the cultural knowledge holders for these Countries.

We thank them for their support of its work on their lands (Greater Western Sydney and beyond).

Western Sydney University acknowledges that our campuses are situated on Aboriginal Country, over which sovereignty was never ceded.

We recognise the enduring custodianship of the Indigenous Australians whose deep relationships with land, waters, skies and story continue to shape Country.

With this acknowledgement comes responsibility: as a University, we are accountable for how we conduct ourselves on Country, how we honour the rights and knowledges of Elders, and how we contribute to healing, justice and self-determination.

Our commitment is to move beyond words - embedding truth-telling, cultural integrity, and meaningful partnerships across every part of the institution.

This requires all of us to listen, to act, and to ensure that decisions, policies and practices reflect the values of respect, reciprocity and ongoing responsibility to Country and community.

We recognise that the arrival of colonisation brought profound disruption: dispossession, frontier violence, forced removals, and policies designed to erase the identity and autonomy of Indigenous Australians.

These truths are not distant history; they continue to shape the lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Yet despite these injustices, Indigenous cultures remain vibrant, evolving, and powerful. Contemporary Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander communities lead in the arts, sciences, land management, education, activism, and cultural revitalisation.

Language revival movements, community-controlled organisations, and cultural governance models demonstrate resilience, innovation and survivance.

Truth-telling is not only about acknowledging harm - it is also about recognising the strength, creativity, and leadership that Indigenous peoples bring to modern Australia.

We commit to a practical and culturally sound approach that moves beyond symbolism. This includes listening deeply to Indigenous voices in decision-making; supporting community-led initiatives; embedding cultural safety across our work and investing in long-term partnerships that honour self-determination.

We will seek opportunities to learn from Indigenous knowledges, particularly in caring for Country, strengthening community wellbeing, and building sustainable futures. We will challenge racism, address inequity, and ensure our actions align with the principles of justice and respect.

We recognise Indigenous peoples as the custodians of this country's first histories and commit to continuing to learn about our shared connections and cultures. We will listen with our hearts, engage with respect and practice self-reflection as we learn together, acknowledging that challenging discussions can be illuminating.

Truth-telling is an ongoing responsibility. We will not erase Indigenous history to suit a particular narrative. By facing Australia's shared history with honesty, embracing the richness of contemporary Indigenous culture, and committing to meaningful action, we contribute to a more just and connected future for all who call this land home.

*8th April 2026*