

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Local Anti-Racism Strategies

Professor Kevin Dunn from the School of Social Sciences along with researchers from social geography, social psychology, social epidemiology, sociology and anti-discrimination agencies are developing strategies for locally based anti-racism initiatives. This cross-disciplinary research has been funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant with the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunity Commission of South Australia and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

'Racist attitudes result in an "us and them" society and the people who experience racism may suffer from social and personal problems as a result, such as ill-health, mobility restrictions and a degraded sense of belonging', says Professor Dunn.

'Although Australia is heralded as being accepting of different people and cultures, some racist attitudes still exist. What we know about racism is that it doesn't take one form, and it varies in different geographical regions, so regionally-specific anti-racism initiatives are needed. The aim of this study is to use existing data as well as new fieldwork to better facilitate local anti-racism strategies for both urban and rural areas.'

Those regions that share a specific mix of attitudes, socio-demographics and racist experiences will be grouped. Anti-racism suggestions will be developed for these groups. The various strategies might include engaging people in cross-cultural contact, generating empathy for other cultural groups, and making legislative and socio-political structural changes at a local level. These anti-racism suggestions will then be tested in several case studies across Australia using interviews, forums and various forms of evaluation.



Addressing racism on a number of levels, including the personal, regional and political will help social relations progress to a level where there is more widespread acceptance of cultural diversity. Good community relations, social cohesion and stability are better developed without racism and prejudice and lead to a more productive and harmonious unified Australian society for all.

Project Title: Constructing regionally appropriate anti-racism strategies for Australia.

Funding has been set at: \$264,935

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http://www.uws.edu.au/social_sciences

October 2009