

# **CHALLENGING RACISM: THE ANTI- RACISM RESEARCH PROJECT**

**State level comparisons**

**4Rs Conference  
Rights, Reconciliation, Respect, Responsibility  
30 September – 3 October 2008**

## **PROJECT TEAM**

### **Chief Investigators (CIs)**

Prof. Kevin Dunn (University of Western Sydney; [k.dunn@uws.edu.au](mailto:k.dunn@uws.edu.au))  
A/Prof. Jim Forrest (Macquarie University)  
A/Prof. David Ip (University of Queensland)  
Professor Hurriyet Babacan (Victoria University)  
Dr Yin Paradies (University of Melbourne)  
Dr Anne Pedersen (Murdoch University)

### **Industry Partners**

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia  
Equal Opportunity Commission South Australia  
Victoria Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission  
Human Rights Commission ACT  
VicHealth (The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation)  
Department of Immigration and Citizenship - Living in Harmony Section

### **Research Assistants**

Karin Maeder-Han, University of Western Sydney  
Therese Kenna, University of Western Sydney

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The project team would like to thank the survey respondents for their participation in the research and the Australian Research Council (ARC) for the research funding provided. We would also like to thank Alanna Kamp for her contribution in compiling the data provided in Table 1.

**Table 1** Attitudes to cultural diversity, old racisms and recognition of racism, state comparisons, Qld/NSW (2001), Victoria (2006), SA and ACT (2007), NT/TAS/Perth (2008).

	% Yes/Agree (No/ disagree)							
	NSW 2001	QLD 2001	Victoria 2006	SA 2007	ACT 2007	NT 2008	TAS 2008	Perth 2008
<b>Cultural diversity</b>								
Is it a good thing for society to be made up of different cultures?	84.3 (8.0)	85.5 (6.1)	89.5 (5.1)	87.5 (6.5)	94.3 (1.8)	93.7 (2.4)	91.5 (4.5)	88.2 (6.2)
Australia is weakened by ethnic groups sticking to their old ways	44.9	42.2	40.8	37.5	24.5	37.6	42.4	39.9
I feel secure with different ethnic groups	75.3 (11.0)	73.7 (10.6)	81.4 (7.8)	80.2 (8.9)	86.7 (6.3)	82.3 (8.4)	87.6 (4.2)	83.6 (7.4)
Are there any cultural/ethnic groups that do not fit into Australian society?	45.4	40.6	35.9	40.0	28.1	34.1	40.3	43.7
<b>Old racisms</b>								
It is not a good thing for people of different 'races' to marry	12.9	12.4	9.6	9.1	3.9	4.6	7.1	9.0
All 'races' of people are equal	83.2 (11.7)	83.9 (11.0)	86.0 (9.9)	85.1 (9.2)	87.0 (7.7)	80.6 (14.4)	86.9 (9.4)	84.8 (9.3)
Humankind is made up of separate 'races'	76.7	78.6	76.1	79.8	75.3	74.7	79.3	81.5
<b>Acknowledgment of racism</b>								
There is racial prejudice in Australia	83.3	83.0	83.8	88.3	87.7	92.3	89.5	88.5
Australians from a British background enjoy a privileged position in our society	39.1	38.1	42.7	45.9	44.6	37.9	41.8	42.6
I am prejudiced against other cultures	13.2	10.7	11.9	12.3	8.1	17	9.1	14.1
<b>Out groups</b>								
Anti-Muslim concern	53.7	48.6	42.9	49.8	41.4	37.2	41.0	45.6
Anti-Indigenous concern	28.3	28.1	24.7	31.7	21.4	22.7	17.4	35.2
Anti-black African concern	-	-	-	30.7	20.9	19.8	18.2	29.9
<b>Experience of discrimination in...</b>								
Workplace	18.1	16.1	17.7	14.6	16.3	27.7	11.2	22.1
Education	17.0	14.6	17.4	16.1	20.4	28.8	13.2	18.4
Police	8.0	5.5	7.6	7.3	6.9	13.7	4.3	8.5
Shop or restaurant	19.7	14.3	18.6	14.4	17.9	24.8	12.8	21.0
Disrespect	25.1	20.3	22.8	21.4	23.4	35.6	16.2	30.2
Insults	27.0	24.4	27.2	27.6	25.4	47.5	17.5	34.9

Source: The UNSW/MQU Racism Surveys, NSW / QLD, Oct-Dec 2001; Victoria, Aug.-Oct. 2006, SA/ACT September-October 2007, NT/TAS/Perth, July-August 2008

### **Final sample sizes and survey details**

- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism”, Queensland and NSW, 2001 (n:5056) (ARC Large Grant Project).
- “Experiences of racism” (nation-wide), 2006 (n:4020) (ARC Discovery Project).
- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism”, Victoria, 2006 (n:4016) (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation).
- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism, and peoples’ awareness of the anti-racism legislation and agencies”, South Australia, 2007 (n:1484) (HREOC, EOCSA, UNSW).
- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism, and peoples’ awareness of the anti-racism legislation and agencies”, Australian Capital Territory, 2007 (n:454) (HREOC, HRC ACT, UNSW).
- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism”, Northern Territory, 2008 (n:300) (Department of Immigration and Citizenship).
- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism”, Tasmania, 2008 (n:351) (Department of Immigration and Citizenship).
- “Attitudes on cultural diversity and racism”, Perth, 2008 (n:851) (Department of Immigration and Citizenship).

5056, 4016, 1484, 454, 300, 351, 851 = 12512

Plus 4020 nationwide on experiences.