

# Racism in the classroom

## How do I respond?



*"Racism exists within our institutions and because so many white people deny it, and so many people of colour are uncomfortable discussing it for fear of the inevitable backlash it brings, and thanks to the myth of the meritocracy, this in turn perpetuates racism within our society."* - Luke Pearson

Racism impacts on people's health, education, employment, safety and sense of self. Racism hurts and it is entrenched within Universities.

### **So how many First Nations peoples are trying to learn in racist classrooms?**

Racism presents itself in the classroom directly and indirectly when:

- First Nations students are called upon to be the spokespeople for Aboriginal peoples.
- First Nations people are spoken about as though they are not in the room.
- First Nations voices are not heard in the space.
- Comments like "you speak so well for an Aboriginal person", "you're only here because you are Aboriginal" or "you don't look Aboriginal" are made.
- Students choose to be ignorant and educators shy away from truth telling.
- Students make comments that are racist, discriminatory or prejudice.

**Date:** 24 September 2020

**Time:** 1:00-2:00pm

**Location:** Via Zoom

To register, please [click here](#) or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/85J97WX](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/85J97WX)

**First Nations people report that racism occurring in the classroom is often not acknowledged nor addressed by the educators who have the ability to do something about it. There are also times where the educator is the perpetrator.**

This event will discuss your experiences as educators in the space and how you can look to address racism in the classroom and within spaces at your workplace. We will come together to reflect and share experiences when racism occurred in your space and talk about ways forward.

Following this discussion, we will provide a brief run through on how to use the VAHENonline site to continue the conversation.

### **Potential points for discussion:**

- How do we as educators respond to racism in the learning space?
- What is the difference between implicit and explicit racism?
- What are microaggressions?
- The intent verses the impact of racism.

### **Event Hosts**



Ashley is a proud Waywurru woman and the Weenthunga VAHENonline lead. Ashley is passionate about ensuring the safety of First Nations students within University systems and ensuring health curricula is free of racist and inaccurate content around First Nations peoples.



Danielle is an Assistant Lecturer in Psychology, and a Collaborator for VAHENonline. Her role is focused on advocating for anti-racism and decolonising health education and healthcare practice.

**For more information please contact Ashley Paxton via email at [ashley@weenthunga.com.au](mailto:ashley@weenthunga.com.au)**