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Universities Face Landmark Racism Survey

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The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has launched the nation’s largest ever study into racism across university campuses. The comprehensive Racism@Uni survey will examine racial discrimination experienced by both students and staff, aiming to provide data-driven solutions for safer academic environments. Race Discrimination Commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman described the initiative as a historic opportunity to address systemic issues in higher education.

Commissioner Sivaraman emphasized that every university community member deserves protection from discrimination, stating the findings will shape future anti-racism policies. The online questionnaire will investigate incidents occurring both physically on campuses and in digital learning spaces. This comes amid growing concerns about racial tensions in Australia's increasingly multicultural student populations.

While the survey has been welcomed by diversity advocates, some critics question whether such studies lead to meaningful change or simply fuel division. Previous university initiatives targeting discrimination have yielded mixed results, with some institutions struggling to implement effective prevention strategies. The Commission maintains that this research will provide actionable insights rather than just identify problems.



As Australian universities compete globally for students and faculty, the survey's outcomes could significantly impact institutional reputations and government policy. With data collection commencing next week, the education sector awaits findings that may redefine campus culture. Whether this ambitious project delivers concrete improvements or becomes another academic exercise remains to be seen, but it undoubtedly places racism prevention firmly on the national agenda.