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Race Commissioner Warns of Rising Bigotry in Australia

August 6, 2025

– Categories: Human Rights



Australia’s Race Discrimination Commissioner, Girdharan Sivaraman, has issued a stark warning about a “terrifying surge” of racism affecting the nation. Speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra, Sivaraman highlighted how systemic barriers are hindering skilled migrants and damaging social cohesion. His remarks come amid growing debate over discrimination’s economic and societal costs.

Sivaraman emphasized that racism extends beyond overt slurs, pointing to institutional policies that disadvantage minorities. He compared structural racism to systemic sexism, arguing both create entrenched inequality. While acknowledging progress in anti-discrimination laws, the commissioner insisted more must be done to address unconscious bias in workplaces, education, and housing markets. His comments reflect concerns that Australia risks squandering its multicultural advantages.

The commissioner's warnings arrive as migration returns to pre-pandemic levels, with skilled workers facing unexpected integration challenges. Critics argue his assessment overlooks Australia's successful integration history, while supporters contend new measures are needed to combat evolving discrimination forms. Business leaders have echoed concerns about racism's economic impact, particularly in sectors reliant on foreign talent.



Sivaraman's address serves as both alarm and opportunity. While his dire terminology may spark debate, the underlying message is clear: Australia's social harmony and economic potential require proactive solutions. As the nation grapples with these complex issues, the commissioner's call may reignite discussions about balancing cultural diversity with social cohesion in modern Australia. The path forward demands honest reflection – not just about prejudice, but about the systems that allow it to persist.