

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

University of Tasmania partners in national survey into assault and harassment

The University of Tasmania will partner with other universities across Australia in a ground-breaking national student survey on sexual assault and harassment.

The survey is an important part of the Australian university sector's [Respect. Now. Always.](#) campaign to ensure students and staff are safe from sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Executive Director (Human Resources) Chris Smyth said involvement in the survey was part of an unwavering commitment to the welfare and safety of staff and students.

“Our students’ welfare, the security of our campuses and the strong values of respect and equity which guide our institution are paramount in the life of our University,” Mr Smyth said.

Executive Director (Student Experience) Stephanie Taylor said the confidential survey would be distributed to students this week and would run until enough responses had been received to constitute a solid statistical sample.

The survey has been developed with input from experts including the Australian Human Rights Centre at the University of NSW, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Roy Morgan Research, and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

All students selected will be asked to complete the survey – even if they have not experienced assault and harassment – to ensure a clear picture is gained of prevalence of sexual assault and harassment in the student community.

The survey is being run by the independent Australian Human Rights Commission with assistance from Roy Morgan Research

Any university student who has not been selected in the survey sample but who would like to share their experience can do so confidentially via the Australian Human Rights Commission website (<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/submissions->

sexual-assault-and-sexual-harassment-university). These online submissions will also inform further improvements in university policies.

The survey data will be analysed and reported by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The survey has been primarily funded by Universities Australia. Seed funding for the survey was provided by The Hunting Ground Australia Project. The survey is supported by the National Union of Students and the National Tertiary Education Union.

Support is available for students who feel distress at any during or after participating in the survey by calling 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732).

The University of Tasmania has been supporting 'Respect. Now. Always.' since its launch earlier this year.

The University has a range of measures in place to support victims of assault and harassment, and for the reporting of incidents (<http://www.utas.edu.au/students/we-listen/safety-respect/now-always/my-options>).

Information released by:

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