

6.2 Cassius Turvey

Submitting Councillor: Dr Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges and shares in the outpouring of grief and anger at the recent death of 15-year-old Noongar Yamatji boy Cassius Turvey;*
- 2. Reaffirms its solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people against racism and injustice;*
- 3. Reaffirms its support for the 'Racism – It Stops With Me' campaign;*
- 4. Commits to ensuring the City of Monash is a safe and welcoming community for all people, free from racially-motivated hate and violence.*

BACKGROUND

Cassius Turvey was walking with friends in Western Australia on October 13 2022. WA Police allege that a stranger jumped out of a black ute and ran towards the teenagers before bashing Turvey with a pole. Cassius Turvey died in hospital ten days later¹.

Mechelle Turvey, Cassius' mother, made the following statement²:

"Our hearts are absolutely shattered following the senseless and unprovoked attack on Cassius. There are no words that can describe the unimaginable pain of losing a son, let alone after he endured such a horrific attack. He should still be with us today, going to school, playing footy and living a long life."

In 2020 Council formally recognised the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement in addressing significant issues of injustice and disadvantage. Council should continue to acknowledge the issues which drive the movement, such as racial violence, and take appropriate local action.

RACISM – IT STOPS WITH ME

Monash Council supports the 'Racism - It Stops With Me' campaign.

Run by the Australian Human Rights Commission, the campaign invites all Australians to reflect on what they can do to counter racism wherever it happens.

¹ <https://www.smh.com.au/national/western-australia/perth-boy-dies-after-alleged-vigilante-bashing-20221024-p5bsdj.html>

² <https://www.nit.com.au/our-hearts-are-absolutely-shattered/>

Monash was one of the first Victorian councils to support the campaign. This is fitting given our community is the third most culturally diverse local government area in Victoria, after Greater Dandenong and Brimbank. Nearly half (49%) of Monash's population was born overseas, with 44.3% of Monash residents born in non-English speaking countries.

The campaign aims to:

- Ensure more Australians recognise that racism is unacceptable in our community
- Give more Australians the tools and resources to take practical action against racism
- Empower individuals and organisations to prevent and respond effectively to racism.

FINANCIAL

This motion has no financial impact to Council.

OFFICERS REPORT**6.2 CASSIUS TURVEY**

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2. *Reaffirms its solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people against racism and injustice;*
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4. *Commits to ensuring the City of Monash is a safe and welcoming community for all people, free from racially-motivated hate and violence.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

N/A

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

In line with the priorities of our Council Plan, our services, programs and advocacy, will work towards making Monash more inclusive, incorporating the needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and wider multicultural community. Addressing all forms of discrimination is a key priority in Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan (2021-2025) and we are committed to supporting the community through education and awareness to actively challenge discriminatory attitudes and behaviours.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

This report is in line with Council's commitment to our recently developed draft Reconciliation Action Plan and to the principles of human rights, access and equity and social justice as demonstrated through Council's leadership, advocacy and policies. Council continues to support the 'Racism - It Stops With Me' campaign.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Council continues to work towards a more inclusive and welcoming City through our current work with our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, LGBTIQ+ and other communities.