VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Maribyrnong Anti-Racism Project 2025

Learning from communities to jointly develop a local anti-racism roadmap

Despite ongoing efforts to tackle racism in Victoria, many communities continue to experience discrimination, harassment and abuse because of their ethnic, cultural, or religious background. The effects are often devastating for the individual and their communities, but racism and prejudice also negatively impact community relations and society at large.

We know that many of those who experience racism do not, for various reasons, speak out about what they have experienced or seek support. This can further negatively affect their sense of belonging, safety, and health. In addition, the problem of under-reporting racism makes it more difficult to understand how often, where exactly and in what ways racism occurs. Without a good understanding, it is harder to develop measures to counter these forms of exclusion and discrimination.

Victoria University, with support from Maribyrnong City Council, is undertaking a place-based project to tackle these problems by listening to people with lived experience who live, work or study in Maribyrnong. The goal of this project is

- **to better understand how people in the local community experience both subtle and overt racism;**
- **to find out what needs to happen to encourage more people to speak out against experiences of racism and get appropriate support; and**
- **to learn from communities what measures should be taken to prevent and address racism, especially in Maribyrnong.**

Based on this community input and in close collaboration with local community groups and the local council, this project will develop a **locally specific anti-racism roadmap for Maribyrnong** that outlines the path towards improved reporting pathways and anti-racism support structure and concrete place-based steps to tackle racism.

The local project is committed to centring the expertise and experiences of people who are from a community affected by racism and who live, work and/or study in Maribyrnong. If you identify with a community affected by racism, you are kindly invited to share your insights and perspectives. You can do that in two ways, (a) through an anonymous 10-15min **online survey** or (b) by participating in a community **discussion group** with others from their community. Your participation is completely anonymous, and at no stage will you be required to state your name. The information you provide will not be linked to you personally.

As part of the project, we can also organise **(free) workshops or trainings** about racism, reporting options and existing anti-racism support services. Please reach out if you're interested.

The project is conducted by Associate Professor Mario Peucker and Ms Hirindu Herath Mudiyanselage, both from Victoria University; it is funded by Maribyrnong City Council.

If you are 16 years or older, and live, study or work in Maribyrnong, and identify with a community affected by racism, please consider sharing your experiences and views, by clicking here or scanning the QR code.

The survey is open until early 2026.

If you are interested in facilitating or taking part in a discussion group or have any questions, please contact Mario via email Mario.peucker@vu.edu.au.