



16 April 2010

To Whom It May Concern

Human Rights, Peace and International Dialogue Conference, University of Western Sydney, 11-13 November 2010

I commend the initiative of Dr Ozdowski and the University of Western Sydney in hosting the 'Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue' International Conference on Human Rights Education to be held at the University of Western Sydney (Parramatta Campus) from 11- 13 November 2010.

The Australian Human Rights Commission supports the objectives of the Human Rights, Peace and International Dialogue Conference. These objectives include an evaluation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, discussion of the contribution of human rights culture to the functioning of civil society and analysis of key trends in human rights education in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. I also note the aim of the Conference to secure increased government funding of human rights education.

As Australia becomes a more diverse nation, it is increasingly important that all in our country understand their rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others. This will significantly assist us to maintain a cohesive, inclusive and safe community. To this end, the Commission has identified 'Building understanding and respect for rights in our community' as a focus area for our work in the coming years. This means that we will be involved in a range of projects to increase human rights education in the general community – including discussion about how human rights might best be incorporated into the civics and social science streams of the national curriculum. We also look forward to participating in the 'Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue' International Conference on Human Rights Education.

Yours sincerely,

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