

Progress Report Semester 1 2026

Office of **Equity,** **Diversity and Inclusion.**



Meet the Team



Dr. Rebecca Bennett (she/her)
Pro Vice Chancellor
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Dr. Anna Pryor (she/her)
EDI Manager
Strategy and Reporting

Coordinators and Program Managers



Natalie Fletcher (she/her)
Program Manager
*National Gender-Based
Violence Code*



Kiri Manuera (she/her)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
Reconciliation



Aaron Green (he/him)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
Disability and Neurodiversity



Maritza Orellana Garviso (she/her)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
Cultural and Linguistic Diversity



Beck Pinker (she/her)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
Gender Equity



Najma Ahmed (she/her)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
Cultural and Linguistic Diversity



Em Readman (they/them)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
LGBTIQA+



Oakley Hands (they/them)
EDI Strategic Projects Coordinator
Strategic Alignment

Student Partners



Chan Hardeman
(she/her)



Kuenlek Tenzin
(she/they)



Kelsie Dowley
(she/her)



Linda Baek
(she/her)

Semester 1 Highlights



Balancing the scales for International Women's Day.

In March, we celebrated International Women's Day with an interactive, drop-in event for staff and students, inspired by the UN's 2026 IWD theme, 'Balancing the Scales'.

Over 70 attendees joined us to hear stories about lived experiences from women across our university community at our living library, inspired by the knowledge that balancing the scales begins with listening and learning.

The event also included a free, photoshoot session with photographer Diana Abeleda, providing 32 women with new headshots to support their professional visibility.

We Are Not Powerless. Film screening for World Refugee Awareness Day.

In June, over 80 community members joined us to premiere the first WA screening of *We Are Not Powerless*, featuring a live Q&A with the film's director and protagonist, Muzafar Ali, and guest speaker Farahnaz Salehi.



The film was screened at a free community event in partnership with the Indo-Pacific Research Centre, and the School of Law and Criminology, in recognition of World Refugee Awareness Day.



Virtual Reality truth-telling experience for National Reconciliation Week.

In May, staff and students took part in a truth telling experience, fusing VR tech with oral history and storytelling to highlight the origins of ongoing injustices in Australia, and to bring people together for connection and healing. The experience included a behind-the-scenes workshop with one of the film's creators, and a virtual storytelling session with Elder Doolann-Leisha Eatts.

Murdoch and WestPride Archives recognised for SBLGBTIQA+ inclusion.

In June, Murdoch received its second Silver AWEI Award, for sector-leading gender affirmation leave, improved IT systems, Senior Leadership who champion SBLGBTIQA+ inclusion, and a comprehensive Pride and Allyship Program, among other categories.

EDI at O-Day.

Our team started off the year by meeting new and returning students at Orientation Day, Open Day, and Mandurah Mingle events. If you were one of the students who came by the EDI stall, thank you for popping by! It was great to meet so many new faces, and to chat about the EDI supports and initiatives awaiting you at uni.



Events and Activities

Gender Equity.

Early Career Conversations.

A workshop for students to develop their skills and confidence in interviews. Designed specifically with interview skills for early career women in mind, the workshop ran in April and welcomed 10 Murdoch University students to learn and develop the skills to succeed in setting up their career.



The Carer’s Network

The Carer’s Network is continuing to grow, now with 23 active staff and student members with caring responsibilities attending the monthly catchups.

Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition: The Floor Is Yours.

Murdoch hosted heat #3 of the public speaking competition for tertiary-enrolled women, sponsored by Soroptimists International of WA.



Nine Murdoch students delivered compelling presentations on topics of choice related to women’s empowerment, showcasing both their passion and public speaking skills.

Balancing the scales for International Women’s Day.

An interactive, drop-in event for staff and students, inspired by the UN’s 2026 IWD theme, ‘Balancing the Scales’.

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The event included a free session with photographer Diana Abeleda, providing 32 women with new headshots to support their professional visibility.

Academic Career Progression Focus Groups.

Collaborated with School of Psychology (fourth year research project) to explore career progression experiences of women and gender diverse academics, with findings to support our progress in Athena Swan accreditation.

Reconciliation

VR truth-telling experience.

A truth telling experience fusing VR tech with oral history and storytelling to highlight the origins of ongoing injustices in Australia, and to bring people together for connection and healing. The experience included a behind-the-scenes workshop with one of the film’s creators, and a virtual storytelling session with Elder Doolann-Leisha Eatts.



NRW banner

Partnered with Reconciliation WA to sponsor a banner featuring this year’s artwork, flown in the Murray Street Mall.



NRW Breakfast

A morning tea and viewing event for the National Reconciliation Week broadcast. Over 35 staff joined us for the event in collaboration with the First Nations team and the Djirda Wirrin Student Committee.



Truth-Telling and Treaty.

A conversation about truth-telling with First Nations advocate and former Deputy Chair and Commissioner of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, Travis Lovett.

The event brought 30 staff, students, and local community members together to learn about the importance of shining a light on the systemic and ongoing impacts of colonisation through truth-telling.



Events and Activities

SBLGBTIQA+.

Finding Inclusive Workplaces.

A panel discussion for the Murdoch Careers Fair, hosted in collaboration with the Department of Justice and City of Vincent. Attended by 25 students ready to enter the workforce, the panellists shared practical advice for finding workplaces that support diverse staff and making change positive change from within organisations.



The Out and Proud Series.

The HEAPPs WA 'Out and Proud' Series is a lunch-and-learn interview series that examines what Higher Education Institutions and their community members can do to support LGBTIQA+ community members to bring their full selves to study and work.

This edition, we hosted interview sessions with Paula Gerber and Stevie Lane, with the edition focussed on advocacy, activism and making change in and outside of HigherEd.

Updating Murdoch's SBLGBTIQA+ style guide.

Following community feedback, we've updated our SBLGBTIQA+ style guide, including changes to Murdoch's acronym and pride flag.

The acronym now starts with Sistergirl and Brotherboy, to recognise the continued leadership of First Nations people, and the first experiences of diverse sex, sexuality, and gender on the many countries that make up this continent.

Trans Day of Visibility

Celebrated TDOV with a community lunch event for staff, and a student event in collaboration with the Wellbeing and Equity team in the Den.

AWEI Silver.

Murdoch and the WestPride Archives received its second Silver AWEI Award. The award was received for sector-leading gender affirmation leave, improved IT systems, a Senior Leadership Teams who champions SBLGBTIQA+ inclusion, and a comprehensive Pride and Allyship Program, among other categories.



Disability, Neurodiversity, and Chronic Illness.

Sensory Room pilot extended

Following the success of last year's sensory room pilot, the space is remaining open this semester. The room, designed by students through the Change Agents program, has been handed over to MU's AutismLab.



Discrimination Cafe.

A drop-in space that provided community members with free consultations with a discrimination lawyer, to gain practical and professional advice on complex issues they may be facing. These sessions provided valuable legal advice to 14 community members across the 4x sessions hosted in April and May.

Come As You Are.

A growing, casual monthly catchup and community-building initiative for staff and students with a lived experience of disability, chronic illness, or neurodiversity.

SPARK Program.

A self-advocacy upskilling program specifically designed for young people with any type of disability, run by YDAN.

Murdoch hosted the two-day program in April, supporting 13 young community members to take steps toward achieving self advocacy and greater independence.

Youth Disability networking event.

An accessible networking event hosted by Murdoch and facilitated by YDAN. The event brought together 16 young people with disability, and local employers to meet, talk, and connect naturally in a relaxed space.

Events and Activities

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity.

WA Police Commissioner Community Morning Tea sessions

In an initiative by the WA Police Commissioner, staff attended African and Muslim community unity morning tea, and a Muslim community morning tea event, where community members could meet, connect, and chat with Commissioner Col Blanch and members of WAPOL.



Pop Up Prayer Spaces.

Murdoch created four pop-up prayer spaces for staff and students observing Ramadhan, in addition to the existing worship centre and female prayer room.

Due to popularity, one of these four pop-up spaces will be remaining open, and we plan to expand to accommodate for more spiritual practices.

Support for Ramadhan.

To support staff and students during Ramadhan, we released a new guide for Muslim staff and students, alongside a best practice guide for teaching staff, managers, and allies.



We Are Not Powerless

The first WA screening of We Are Not Powerless, featuring a live Q&A with the film's director and protagonist, Muzafar Ali, and guest speaker Farahnaz Salehi.

The film was screened at a free community event, in partnership with the Indo-Pacific Research Centre, the School of Law and Criminology, and Grandmothers for Refugees.

Doodle Booth

A creative consultation initiative where international students share lived experiences in a safe setting while participating in a live portrait. Insights will inform evidence-based improvements to belonging, cultural visibility, and inclusion within the University's EDI strategy.



Results from the Racism@Uni Survey.

Results from the Racism@Uni Survey have been released, and a series of community-focussed workshops will be taking place over the next few months to discuss the results with our major communities.

Supporting student society celebrations.

To support diverse, student-driven community-building on campus, the EDI team sponsored and collaborated on celebrations for Africa Day with the MU African Society, Iftar with the MU Muslim Students' Association, and Nowruz with Wellbeing and Equity.



National Gender-based Violence Code.

An update on our response to the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence.

Following feedback from the Gender-based Violence Regulator, the University is strengthening its Prevention and Response Plan by refining implementation actions, timelines, and delivery arrangements.

Public-facing support webpages have been refreshed, to improve accessibility and transparency around support and reporting processes.

The updated Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Policy and Procedure has been communicated to staff, with implementation now underway across operational areas.



Engagement

Internal.

Advisory Group Meetings

- 2x CALD Advisory Group
- 2x LGBTIQ+ Advisory Group
- 2x CaNDiD Advisory Group
- 2x Gender Equity Advisory Group
- 1x RAP Working Group
- 2x Athena Swan Academic Working Group
- 1x Associate Dean EDI Community of Practice

Training

- 2x Staff Ally Trainings
- 2x Student Ally Trainings
- 1x Psych Masters Ally Trainings
- 91x Staff and students accessed the Hidden Disabilities training

Resource Development

- 13x internal news articles
- 8x public news articles
- New Student EDI Guide
- New AD EDI Guide
- New Ramadhan Community Guide
- New Ramadhan Staff Guide

External.

Collaborations

- **City of Vincent** – Finding Inclusive Workplaces
- **Department of Justice** – Finding Inclusive Workplaces
- **Grandmothers for Refugees** – We Are Not Powerless screening
- **HEAPPS WA** – Out and Proud series
- **Indo-Pacific Research Centre** – We Are Not Powerless screening
- **MUMSA** – Sponsored Iftar celebration
- **Murdoch African Society** – Sponsored African Day celebration
- **Paula Gerber** – Out and Proud series
- **Pride in Diversity** – AWEI
- **Same Drum** – Galup VR Experience
- **School of Law and Criminology** – We Are Not Powerless screening
- **Soroptimists International of WA** – The Floor is Yours
- **Stevie Lane** – Out and Proud series
- **Sussex Street Community Law Service** – Discrimination Café
- **Travis Lovett** – Truth telling event
- **WAPOL** – Police Commissioner's morning tea sessions
- **WestPride** – Archives
- **YDAN** – Spark and Unleashed program

Articles and Media



2025 in review: Furthering equity, diversity and inclusion at Murdoch.

2025 marked significant growth and impact for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at Murdoch University, enhancing Murdoch's reputation for inclusivity across government, industry, and community networks...

[Read more](#)



CodeCrush returns to inspire future female tech leaders.

Murdoch University's School of IT is tackling one of the technology sectors' biggest challenges, increasing the number of women in the workforce...

[Read more](#)



Murdoch University and WestPride Archives recognised for SBLGBTIQA+ Inclusion.

Murdoch was awarded a Silver Award for sector-leading gender affirmation leave, improved IT systems for trans and gender diverse community members...

[Read more](#)



To balance gender equity scales, we must listen to, and learn from, women's lived experiences.

The 2026 United Nations International Women's Day theme was Balancing the Scales, and Murdoch University celebrated by hosting a 'living library'...

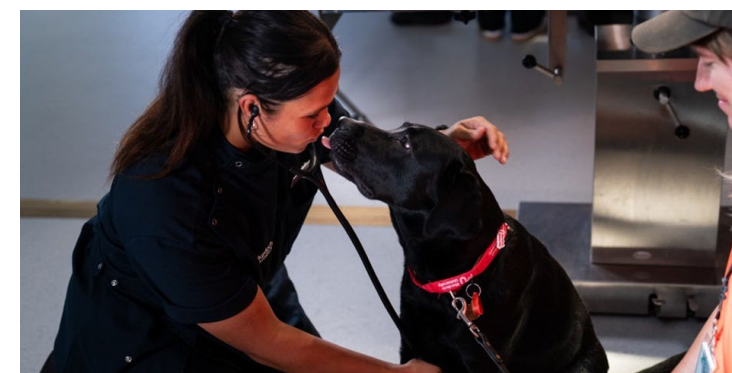
[Read more](#)



New Ramadhan campus support information now available.

New Ramadhan campus support information has been released to help staff foster an inclusive, respectful and supportive environment during Ramadhan 2026...

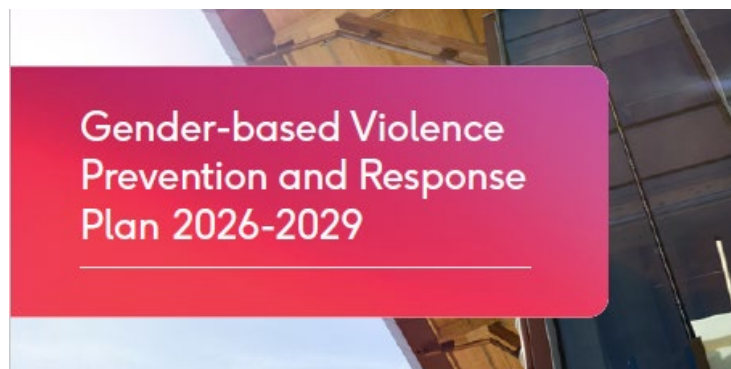
[Read more](#)



Guide Dogs 'embarking' on a new career choose to study at Murdoch University.

A new collaboration between Murdoch University and Guide Dogs WA is helping train the next generation of support dogs...

[Read more](#)



An update on our Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Plan.

Last year, in consultation with staff and students, Murdoch University developed a Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Plan 2026-2029 that builds on our commitment to create a respectful....

[Read more](#)



The 2026 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Calendar is here

To help you get ready for the big year ahead, the 2026 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion calendar includes some of the many celebrations and dates that are important to the Murdoch community...

[Read more](#)