

Ma & Morley Scholarship Program: EDI & Freedom of Expression Statement

Equity, diversity, inclusion, and freedom of expression are foundational to the Ma & Morley Scholarship Program. These values are not only embedded in the Program's vision to empower the next generation of socially conscious leaders, they also reflect the University of Newcastle's deep and enduring commitment to inclusive education and open intellectual inquiry. The Program proudly supports students from all walks of life, individuals of diverse faiths, genders, sexualities, socioeconomic backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, LGBTIQ+ communities, abilities, and life experiences. This commitment is reflected in both the structure of the Scholarship Program and the culture it actively nurtures.

Aligned with the University's Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom, the Ma & Morley Scholarship Program upholds the right of Scholars to express their lawful political, religious, cultural, and personal views in a safe and respectful environment. Open dialogue and the sharing of diverse perspectives are encouraged as essential components of leadership development and social change. At the same time, the views expressed by individual Scholars are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ma & Morley Scholarship Program or the University of Newcastle. The Program remains committed to supporting Scholars in expressing their identities, beliefs, and experiences—particularly those from underrepresented or marginalised groups—while fostering a culture of mutual respect, curiosity, and learning.

How the Program Puts These Principles Into Practice

- **Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students**
Through a dedicated Indigenous category and culturally safe engagement across the broader program, the Ma & Morley Scholarship Program actively supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholars. The Program works closely with the Wollotuka Institute to ensure culturally appropriate support and leadership development.
- **Affirming LGBTIQ+ Inclusion**
The Program embraces LGBTIQ+ identities and works with the University's LGBT+ ALLY Network to promote visibility, belonging, and safety for Scholars. Sharing of pronouns and inclusive language is encouraged and modelled across all Program activities.
- **Freedom of Expression, Grounded in Respect**
Scholars are encouraged to express their political, religious, and cultural views, consistent with Australian law and the University's Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom. While disagreement may arise, the Program champions civil discourse and the respectful exchange of ideas.
- **A Safe and Inclusive Environment**
The Program prioritises the psychological safety and wellbeing of all Scholars, particularly those from marginalised or historically excluded communities.

- **Clarifying Representation**

While the Program supports Scholar expression, it does not endorse any viewpoint.

Scholar perspectives are individual and personal, and do not represent the official views of the Ma & Morley Scholarship Program or the University.

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