

'I'm Not Racist, But....' A funny, edgy, and enlightening night tackling race, bigotry, and equity.

Media Release (Photo opportunities available) January 31st

Reconciliation NSW's signature event returns this year, bigger and better than ever. Joining forces with the Western Sydney Community Forum, *I'm Not Racist, But ...* will be the closing event of a much needed Anti-Racism Week at the Holroyd Centre.

I'm Not Racist, But ... started as an open, interactive conversation about racism in Australia in 2012. Since then, it has evolved into a comedy and poetry night, showcasing some of this country's finest young comedians, musical performers, and poets, as they tackle conversations around racism, bigotry, and equity. This year, *I'm Not Racist, But ...* will feature First Nations comedians and entertainers Dane Simpson, Leon Filewood and Hamani Tanginoa, as well as rising stars of the slam poetry circuit.

"We're thrilled to be partners in the WALU Western Sydney Anti-Racism Week. We've heard the first-hand accounts from community members and seen the survey data showing an increase in racism in Australia over recent years. Specifically, the 2022 Australian Reconciliation Barometer showed an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing racism across Australia," said Tristan -Tipps-Webster, CEO, Reconciliation NSW.

In the wake of the 2023 Referendum, the need for Anti Racism education and awareness is clear. Creating opportunities to bring people together to have inclusive conversations regarding racism in Australia is a key focus for the reconciliation movement, and *I'm Not Racist, But...* does this in an approachable and thought-provoking way.

A stellar line-up of comedians, performers and slam poets will be using personal experiences and observations to articulate what many Indigenous peoples experience and observe in their day to day lives. A good comedian is one that makes you laugh, but also makes you question and challenge your perceptions of the day.

Reconciliation NSW Co Chair, Joshua Gilbert is looking forward to the evening, being both an entertaining night and a chance for the audience to be challenged.

"It is so important that the community can get together and enjoy a night of comedy and entertainment whilst also learning about some really difficult topics." He said. "I think the audience may be challenged on their thinking but will walk away feeling good and hopefully equipped to challenge the thinking portrayed of society. In a post referendum Australia, these conversations are needed more than ever."

When: Friday, 23 February, 7pm-9pm

Where: The Holroyd Centre, 11-17 Miller St, Merrylands NSW 2160, Australia **Tickets:** \$30 concession \$40 General Admission, I'm Not Racist But... | Humanitix

Media contact:

Madeline Gerber, Project Officer, Reconciliation NSW

M: 0420910109

Email: madeline.gerber@reconciliationnsw.org.au

Source: Reconciliation Australia https://www.reconciliation.org.au/publication/2022-australian-reconciliation-barometer/