

Transcript

Title: Indigenous Employment at Swinburne

Year: 2019

Audio/video for this transcript available from: <http://commons.swinburne.edu.au>



LEA JONES

I joined Swinburne because they were already pro-active in the Indigenous space so I knew that they cared about it and I thought I want to be a part of that and I want to make change.

MATHEW JAKOBI

On my first day of work here at Swinburne, as I moved from the train station onto the Campus, the first thing I noticed was the Wominjeka sign welcoming all students, staff and community to the Swinburne campus.

ANGIE MARTIN

Swinburne makes all Indigenous staff feel welcome. We have a lot of artwork around the place. We also ensure that most non-Indigenous staff go through some kind of cultural awareness training so that our knowledges and culture are respected and understood around the university.

DR ANDREW PETERS

Education is a wonderful field for us to be involved in cause it's a way to connect with our culture and then express that and then reaffirm that for ourselves but also share it with other people.

ANGIE MARTIN

Unfortunately, the unemployment rate of Indigenous people is almost three times higher than the non-Indigenous population. So that's why it is really important Swinburne offers employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

MATHEW JAKOBI

Swinburne embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and standpoint by acknowledging the unique skill set that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professional and academic staff bring to a landscape of higher education.

VICKY PETERS

What I have found at Swinburne is if you have a really good idea you are well supported in actually getting that idea off the ground.

DR ANDREW PETERS

From the top down, the management that we've got, we seem to be pretty much on the same page in terms of working together and helping each other and finding ways that Indigenous culture can become embedded within the university's programs across a range of different areas.

ANGIE MARTIN

Over the years Swinburne has built really amazing relationships with communities all over Australia. I feel like these partnerships is really enriching the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

DR ANDREW PETERS

A lot of Australians don't really understand why Indigenous culture is important to them, and having a Reconciliation Action Plan is a really good way to get employees to engage with it and try and find their own way of connecting with it and how it might help them in their careers.

LEA JONES

When we get together we have Mob lunches. When anybody needs help we're all there to help each other. No matter what our role is we will help somebody in their role as well.

DR ANDREW PETERS

Indigenous people, that sense of community and connection is really important and the ways we can do that both formally and informally are really important, not just for the development as a group, but individually for each of us to know that someone's got your back.

LEA JONES

Because that is what our culture is all about. Connecting. Connecting with each other. Connecting with Land.

ANGIE MARTIN

I would encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to come and work at Swinburne. It's a welcome, progressive and innovative space.

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