

1. The nature, prevalence and impact of racism, hate and violence towards First Nations people, including trends over time.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 2000 people marched through Sydney in a rally against immigration and multiculturalism. On a livestream and on microphone, one man closed his speech (which was riddled with neo-Nazi dog whistles and antisemitism) by saying “[Free Joel Davis. Heil White Australia. Heil Thomas Sewell.](#)” To the cheers and excitement of thousands. In public.

In [September 2025, multiple rallies were held across Australia](#), largely attended and organised by known neo-Nazi networks.

In August 2025, neo-Nazi group NSN (National Socialist Network) proclaimed Melbourne is the ‘[Nazi capital of Australia](#)’ after a swell in membership, following their march through the CBD on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2025.

During the Welcome to Country ceremony on ANZAC day 2025, [members of the crowd at Melbourne’s Shrine of Remembrance booed and heckled Uncle Mark Brown](#), calling to stop the welcome altogether. Prominent neo-Nazi/NSN Tasmania leader Jacob Hersant was seen being removed by police following this incident.

On January 26 2025, a group of NSN members led by Tomas Sewell [marched through Adelaide city chanting “Australia for the white man”](#), displaying Nazi symbols in front of the War Memorial.

In August 2024, a large group of NSN members hijacked a refugee encampment outside the office of home affairs on the banner “[F\\*ck Off, We’re Full](#)”.

On January 26 2024, [a group of NSN members led by Thomas Sewell](#) were gathering in Sydney in preparation to attend and protest local “Australia Day” events but were detained and banned by local police from attending.

I could go on, but I’m not Wikipedia, I’m sure the members of this enquiry are able to conduct their own google searches. My point is that the number of public displays of neo-Nazism and white nationalism are on the rise, as are the number of people attending these events. From [nine members in Melbourne in July 2020](#), to thousands of people in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and every other city and state in Australia. This problem is not going away and cannot be swept under the rug. The new hate speech laws might have caused Thomas Sewell and other high-profile neo-Nazis to state publicly that the NSN were disbanding, but those neo-Nazis don’t just vanish. They just go by different labels, use less obvious symbols and signifiers, like stolen and misappropriated Futhark runes or the number 88. *Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026* passed Parliament on 20 January 2026, and yet the “March for Australia” event went ahead on January 26 anyway.

2. The effect of online platforms on the reach, prominence and harm caused by racism and hate directed at First Nations people.

The anonymity afforded to people via online platforms has always enabled people to unmask their worst sides, fearlessness comes with being unidentifiable. This obviously includes

racist, hatemongering content about and against First Nations peoples. You don't need to look far to see hateful rhetoric and threats of violence against Blak people and communities on any social media platform. This can include more subtle digs; I've seen first-hand the "just curious" posts posing questions about whether Aboriginal people are "less evolved" or possibly "not even technically human". More extreme examples, or maybe just less publicly cautious examples, can be seen anywhere and everywhere that Blak people exist online. [Death threats, rape threats, Nazi salutes, slurs, even calls to lynch children](#), are not uncommon.

3. Initiatives that are effective in combating racism targeted at First Nations people and reduce individual and collective harm.

While it is impossible to entirely stamp out extremism, racism, and hate, there are ways to make these things less socially acceptable. Education is one of the few ways we have historically successfully improved broader cultural attitudes. Social pressure is another effective tool, if people feel ashamed/rejected socially when they say or do racist things, they will be less likely to do them. Humans are social animals and this is natural.

4. The threat posed by ideologically motivated extremism towards First Nations people and the role of intelligence and law enforcement agencies in protecting the community from that threat.

Unfortunately, US-Centrism has such a grip on the western world that the rise of tyranny and visibility of white supremacy in America is [reflected in the increased vocality and shamelessness of hate groups in Australia](#). Add to this the ongoing complicity in ongoing genocide and war crimes in Gaza and Iran by our government, what are we expecting? Are we expecting our citizens to care about brown and black people when our own government is comfortable supporting mass murder of black and brown people overseas?

Thanks also to the lack of legal or even social consequence to hate and violence towards First Nations people in Australia, perpetrators of race-based violence are emboldened in their actions. If a [white man can run over two Blak men in broad daylight, brag about doing so, and walk away with barely a slap on the wrist](#), why should anyone fear repercussions for mistreating and even killing Blak people?

If a [grown man can tie up 3 blak babies and receive next to zero legal repercussions](#), why should our children expect to be protected in this country?

A few years ago, I got called a coon in the workplace. Last year, I had the great misfortune to be stuck in a train full of neo-nazis. Surrounded by people who hate me, my family, my friends, anyone who isn't white/straight/cisgendered. I have never been more terrified in my life. I have never felt more hopeless, disgusted, and horrified about the country I live in. I still get sick and cold and scared every time I think about it. I still get uncomfortable and anxious when I see anyone sporting an Australian flag, because a lot of those creeps were carrying

them or wearing them as capes. On January 26 I was waiting for a bus in [REDACTED], and a random man thought it would be funny to “jokingly” heil Hitler at me.

5. The effectiveness of avenues for reporting and responding to racism against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including the consistency, timeliness and appropriateness of outcomes across jurisdictions and institutions.

Lol where?

6. Other matters related to racism, hatred and violence directed at First Nations people.

Our modern “Australia” was built on the blood, graves, and stolen lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Large swathes of colonial infrastructure were built by slaves. Our national anthem doesn’t include blak people, our national flag doesn’t include blak people, our advertisements about the reasons to visit Australia don’t include blak people, until very recently our government and national institutions haven’t included blak people. Where are blak people included? In prisons. In brutal statistics about chronic illness and wealth disparity and deaths in custody and abuse victimology and suicide rates. We are longest living culture in the world, we’ve survived colonisation and deprivation at the hands of the colonies and we’re rebuilding our communities and our models of care in health and wellbeing are known to be far better than western models and yet, almost every headline you see about us is a tragedy.

When people are scared, when people feel that their position in the world and their livelihood and their way of life are being threatened, they need someone to blame. Wealth disparity in Australia is growing, multibillion dollar companies are buying up all the property and businesses and assets, and the government is letting them. But that’s too big and too hard to tackle for the average citizen, so they need somewhere to put that hate and anger and fear. And where better to put it than on people who look different? People who can’t fight back, people who are already marginalized. It’s so much easier to say immigrants are buying all the houses, and blak people are soaking up all the social welfare funding, than it is to say “maybe our government isn’t actually looking after the working class anymore, and we should do something about that.”

Educate people, yes. Teach them that black/blak and brown people aren’t actually the problem, teach them that it’s unacceptable to be racist, and actually enforce the law equally and fairly when people mistreat/hurt/kill BIPOC people. But you also need to make this country a fair place to live if you want the citizens to behave fairly.