



Event: Pride Day

Date: Wednesday 7 October 2015

Location: Swinburne University of Technology

Speech notes

Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather - the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We also pay respects to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.

Welcome to our staff, students and friends of Swinburne -- and to our guests Jason Ball and Paige Phoenix.

Today we come together to celebrate our diverse community. Here at Swinburne, we respect the strength that difference creates.

When I look around at all the people that have gathered here this afternoon I can't help but smile and feel a strong sense of pride from being part of such a supportive community.

Our Swinburne community consists of students and staff who represent a wide array of genders, and gender expressions, sexual orientation and identities, ethnicities and beliefs.

In order to nurture our supportive and inclusive culture, we need to maintain an environment that is safe, flexible and fair. This is why we have a deep commitment to working with our L-G-B-T-I-Q community.

In June this year, Swinburne became the first Australian university to declare its support for marriage equality in Australia. This was a moment we were extremely proud of.

Our Pride at Swinburne Strategic Action Plan is another way we promote greater visibility and awareness of the issues experienced by our L-G-B-T-I-Q staff and students.

Today it gives me great pleasure to announce a new initiative that further demonstrates our commitment to promoting a culture of respect, diversity and inclusion.

Swinburne is now a partner of Midsumma – Victoria's premier L-G-B-T-I-Q festival and an annual community celebration of arts, culture and sport.

We are very proud to be the first tertiary education provider to become a Midsummar partner. This is a wonderful and exciting opportunity for Swinburne to support the wider community.

Now before we move to our annual parade, I would like to extend a special thanks to our Pride Committee for their work in making this event happen. It's events like Pride Day that give us the chance to celebrate diversity together, on campus. I hope you enjoy the festivities.