

8 March 2010

Message from the Vice-Chancellor re Human Rights Education Conference

I write to extend a warm welcome to the participants and sponsors of this conference and wish you all an engaging and rewarding experience as you listen to and discuss issues pertaining to the important area of human rights education.

It is very appropriate that the conference is held at UWS, as the University is located in the heart of diverse Australia. The University's six campuses span a catchment of almost two million people in a rapidly expanding region, whose communities represent 170 countries of origin.

The University is a centre of educational and research excellence in the area of human rights. A range of UWS's schools and research centres focus on this area of study through programs such as Peace and Development Studies in the Bachelor of Social Sciences.

UWS is also a leader in equity and diversity issues, and in particular human rights education with a program that includes a public human rights seminar series. This series covers discussion of issues of importance to the communities of Greater Western Sydney, training programs in the areas of homophobia, disability confidence, discrimination and harassment, and a range of other human rights areas.

I commend Dr Sev Ozdowski and his team, the Conference organisers and UWS partners and sponsors for making this conference possible.



**Professor Janice Reid, AM
Vice-Chancellor**