

17 JANUARY 2024 – MEDIA STATEMENT

TUSA supports First Nations Events on January 26th

The TUSA State Council stands in solidarity with our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students, staff, and broader Australian community in calling for an end to celebrating 'Australia Day' as held on the 26th of January each year. In particular the Palawa and Pakana people of Lutruwita / Tasmania, the Wangal and Gadigal people of the Eora nation / Rozelle, and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of Kulin / Melbourne, upon whose land many from our community reside and visit, and whose land is recognised as First Nations land and valued by our community.

We assert that celebrations held on this day can never truly unite our country when it directly clashes with the Day of Mourning held by our First Nations people.

Our national day should be one that unites our communities, that brings people together, yet also reflects truthfully and honestly on our nation's history.

In taking this position we respect that sections of the broader Australian community may choose to celebrate this day. There are different paths to truth telling, acceptance, and reconciliation, not everyone arrives at the same point at the same time.

The TUSA State Council calls on students to join us in a show of solidarity by not participating in this day as a public holiday of celebration, but see this day as one of mourning and reflection, and to participate in their local Invasion Day rallies if they feel comfortable to do so.

waranta takara ngamala Pakana, Wangal, Gadigal, Wurrung Woi Wurrung, Bunurong ngini takara

We walk where Pakana, Wangal, Gadigal, Wurrung Woi Wurrung, and Bunurong peoples old people walked

ENQUIRIES: President Liam McLaren, 0456 087 863, President@TUSA.utas.edu.au