

12 June 2020

Change begins with you

The USA's Black Lives Matter movement has put the spotlight on Aboriginal deaths in custody in Australia, and Māori and Pasifika people in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

As of Monday, [437 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have died in custody](#) since the end of the royal commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody in 1991. In Aotearoa-New Zealand, [Māori are one of the most incarcerated peoples in the world](#).

The findings from an [Australian National University study](#) released on Tuesday revealed that three out of four Australians hold a racial bias against Indigenous Australians. In Aotearoa-New Zealand, Māori and Pasifika leaders report [tokenistic engagement and racism in government advisory groups](#). People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are [reporting an increase in racial abuse](#) in the days of COVID-19.

As the peak body for the community and stakeholder engagement sector, IAP2 Australasia, believes that engagement, when done well, improves social, environmental and economic outcomes and increases trust in the democratic process. **Inclusion, Transparency and Respect** are the IAP2 Australasia values – and our vision is for **communities shaped by people**.

We believe engagement professionals play an important role in prioritising and advocating for diversity, equality and inclusion. We encourage you, our IAP2 community, to support this important process using your skills to help our Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pasifika communities.

IAP2 Australasia strengthens our commitment and renew our actions to work with our communities and partners to:

- Continue to strengthen training on Diversity Equity and Inclusion;
- Align our partnerships to deliver support where it is most needed;
- Help our members and community to share [resources and information](#);
- Continue to include sessions on Indigenous and Diversity Engagement at our local and major events; and
- Share strategies, information and resources with IAP2 globally.

IAP2 Australasia will share our actions with you. As you have ideas, we ask that you share them with us. Together we can listen and learn to create a kinder, more respectful, equitable and inclusive world.

“Be the change you want to see in the world” (Mohandas Gandhi)

IAP2 Australasia Board of Directors
IAP2 Australasia