



## **Media release: “I’m Not Racist, But...” to put race relations in the spotlight at Giant Dwarf Theatre**

**Monday, 11 May 2016**

A diverse group of creative Australians will gather to discuss race relations in Australia at the NSW Reconciliation Council’s event “I’m Not Racist, But...” on Thursday, June 2 2016.

Artist [Abdul Abdullah](#), slam poet [Luka Lesson](#), journalist [Alex McKinnon](#) and academic [Jakelin Troy](#) will bring their personal and professional perspectives to an interactive forum on racism, language and belonging at Sydney’s Giant Dwarf Theatre. The event, held annually during National Reconciliation Week, draws attention to the ways in which racism continues to affect Australians on both an individual and institutional level.

NSW Reconciliation Council Director Gilly Dempsey said that it is important for Australians not to grow complacent about tackling racism across the country.

“Just a few weeks ago, we saw reports of an Aboriginal person in northern New South Wales being told by an employer that black people should be strung and up and shot,” she said. “This is a very in-your-face example of the discrimination that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still subjected to on a regular basis in 2016.”

Ms Dempsey said that “I’m Not Racist, But...” will provide an opportunity to explore ways in which different forms of racism against different racial groups are related to – or different from -- one another.

“At the NSW Reconciliation Council, we generally focus on the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and work towards improving that relationship in particular,” she said.

“But race relations in Australia are much more complicated than that simple binary, and we’re excited to see the insights our guests – who all have very different backgrounds – can give us into their personal experiences of race and racism. We don’t think there’s any better time to do that than during National Reconciliation Week.”

Over the past few years, “I’m Not Racist, But...” has regularly sold out, and has developed a reputation for being insightful, funny, and sometimes controversial.

Last year, writer and actor Nakkiah Lui used the forum to argue that Australia needs to deal with “the privilege of whiteness” before it will ever be able to effectively eliminate racism.

“The one thing we can all do is start to disrupt white privilege, through our thoughts and discourse; to make white privilege the centre when we talk about racism. Let’s not share the blame,” said Lui at the time.

Other previous guests have included Benjamin Law, Nazeem Hussain and John Safran.

Tickets for the forum are [now on sale](#) via Giant Dwarf Theatre -- \$15 for concessions and \$24 for adults.

*The New South Wales Reconciliation Council is the peak representative body for reconciliation in NSW. Our vision is to create a reconciled, just and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Our membership is currently made up of Reconciliation Groups and individuals across NSW – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together to advance reconciliation in their communities.*

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