



Professor Richard Larkins AO  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
Office of the Vice-Chancellor

1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

Her Excellency Mrs Sujatha Singh  
Indian High Commissioner to Australia  
High Commission of India  
3 – 5 Moonah Place  
Yarralumla ACT 2600

Your Excellency,

We are alarmed and saddened to hear of the recent attacks on Indian students in Melbourne. As a country of immigrants, Australia has generally been successful as a diverse and tolerant nation. Sadly, these attacks diminish Australia's reputation for tolerance and diversity, which concerns us greatly.

With campuses in Australia, Malaysia and South Africa, and a learning centre in Italy and a strategic partnership with IITB in India, the multi-national Monash community comprises more than 56,000 students from more than 130 countries. Whilst we have been fortunate that no attacks have taken place against Monash students, you can be assured that the safety of our students remains paramount. We are determined to ensure our international students remain safe during their time at Monash.

As you are aware, we seek to create a safe environment at all of our campuses. In addition to on-campus measures, we endeavour to brief our international students about safety when they are off-campus.

At the start of each semester at all of our six Victorian campuses, two members of the Victoria Police Multicultural Liaison Unit address international students on safety within the community. These sessions are usually extremely well attended.

In addition, at our Clayton campus earlier this year, a Victoria Police Crime Prevention unit operated a stall during 'Club' week, which enabled students to talk to police and gather written material on safety in the community. In April this year, an officer from the Victoria Police Crime Prevention unit delivered a safety presentation to international students at our Clayton campus. We have also included safety and security tips in our international newsletter.

Despite these measures, we have asked for advice internally if there are any further initiatives which can be implemented to assist international students. In addition, we will continue to work with Victoria Police and the authorities in our efforts to ensure the safety of our students.

We are pleased that the Deputy Prime Minister will convene a roundtable on this matter in the near future. As Australia's largest university with over 18,000 international students, we would welcome the opportunity to participate in the roundtable.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you wish to discuss any measures we currently have in place.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Professor Richard Larkins AO  
Vice-Chancellor and President



Professor Stephanie Fahey  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)

Copy: Ms Anita Nayar, Indian Consul-General to Victoria  
The Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education