



Leadership for the West

12 June 2009

Student and Community Safety in Melbourne's West

LeadWest in collaboration with their members, particularly Victoria University, will continue to advocate for student and community safety in the region.

"We value highly the contributions made by our international students. Our community is all the better by the cultural diversity that makes up the rich tapestry in Melbourne's West," Mr Mayer, LeadWest CEO said.

The perception that has been painted that the West is a dangerous region hides the fact that Melbourne's west has always been a region of great diversity, harmony and tolerance. It is this great diversity that has enriched our region.

"Victoria Police has informed the community that violence against Indian students is on the rise. I am pleased to see Victoria University is utilising their Office of Research and Region within the Community, Ethnicity and Policy Alternatives Institute to develop a two-month study to establish the underlying reasons for the attacks and recommend strategies to prevent them," LeadWest CEO Anton Mayer said.

The study, funded by the VU Office of Research and Region and lead by Professor Hurriyet Babican, will gather evidence on opportunity versus race-hatred as the possible motivation for the attacks.

"Victoria University is leading the way, in terms of the delivery of strategies that can be examined, researched and implemented to ensure this violence is curbed and in turn prevented," Mr Mayer said.

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