



Contact Information

Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies  
Giulia Calipari  
0421 763 831  
[Giulia.calipari@deakin.edu.au](mailto:Giulia.calipari@deakin.edu.au)

25 September 2020

**New Research Findings: the first in Australia to analyse the measurement and reporting of hate crimes, hate speech and hate incidents in Australia in order to improve policy and support for victims.**

Launched today, *Tackling Hate in Australia: Stocktake report 2019-2020* by Dr Matteo Vergani (Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies, Deakin University) and Rouven Link (Deakin University) is a timely and critical review of policy gaps in tackling hate in Australia.

The report finds the fragmented approach to measuring and reporting hate crimes and incidents has severely limited the ability for Australian state and federal government to create effective policies to address hate.

“This lack of coordination is mainly caused by legislative gaps – different pieces of legislation protect Australians from hateful conduct: some are criminal laws, some are civil laws, some are sentencing laws, but they are inconsistent across Australian states and territories’ Dr Vergani said. Further, Dr Vergani explains that ‘the lack of coordination is also underpinned by seeing responses to different forms of hate, and to hate against target groups as compartmentalised.”

Based on the findings and challenges identified for victims and policymakers and practitioners, the report outlines a clear set of policy recommendations including:

- 33% of the organisations in our database focus on victim support, 76.6% on raising awareness and education, and 27.9% on data collection. Efforts in these areas need to be harmonised to be effective and more detailed reviews of each geographical and focus area should be conducted periodically to identify gaps and needs.
- Terminology used by both government and non-government organisations is highly fragmented, common language and definitions need to be developed.
- Racial and religious hate are the main focus of awareness raising and education activities, especially in Victoria. This is very important as it demonstrates the need to develop parallel activities to also tackle other forms of hate, such as anti-LGBTIQ+ hate, ableism, ageism and other forms.





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The study, part of a larger research project – [Tackling Hate](#), created a new database of organisations working on tackling hate in Australia and included a total of 222 organisations, 21.2% governmental and 78.8% non-governmental. It identified Victoria as having the most organisations running activities to tackle hate, followed by New South Wales and Queensland.

Dr Matteo Vergani recently hosted a CRIS webinar – [Data matters! Why we need a national system for recording hate crimes in Australia](#) with Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally, Mr Luke Cornelius APM and Race Commissioner Mr Chin Tan, and co-authored (with Dr Carolina Navarro, Deakin University) [Barriers to reporting hate crimes and hate incidents in Victoria: A mixed method study](#).

