

Fostering A Culture of Respect

Research demonstrates that shared values play an important role in increasing connectedness, inclusion and belonging within communities (Cooper, 2009; Foubert, Tepper & Morrison, 1998; Strike, 1999). In a higher education setting, such values provide community members with a sense of ownership of their own learning and any issues which may arise, help create expectations or norms for appropriate behaviour, and reinforce the belief that every individual has something of value to contribute (Bowles, Dobson & Fisher, 2011; Pascarella & Terenzini, 2005; Posner et al., 1985; Tinto, 2003; Weaver & Trevino 1999).

Deakin Res' RESPECT community values guide behavioural expectations and standards amongst the on-campus residential student cohort. First introduced in 2016, these values were initially introduced as a means of articulating the expectations and ambitions for the residential community, adopting a proactive approach to encouraging appropriate and positive behaviours, and further developing and enhancing the existing sense of belonging and shared ownership amongst the residential cohort. The values were created utilising a students as partners approach, with student leaders in particular playing a critical role. This approach has ensured student buy-in from day one and resulted in a values set which is truly meaningful to the on-campus residential community at Deakin.

R

Responsive

We are responsive and empathetic to the needs of individuals and cohorts, while being compassionate, inclusive and considerate of differences.

E

Encouraging

We support and encourage those who strive towards academic goals, nurture those who stand up for what is right, encourage personal responsibility and foster resilience.

S

Safe and Secure

We are responsive to the needs of students living on campus, ensuring them a safe and secure living environment.

P

Proactive

We proactively encourage collaboration, information sharing and knowledge transfer to enhance the student residential experience.

E

Enjoyable

We offer an enjoyable, enriching and positive environment with diverse activities to facilitate socialisation, promoting and encouraging student health and wellbeing.

C

Connected

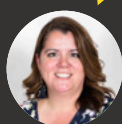
We foster community minded and engaged students by encouraging connectedness, contribution and a sense of belonging.

T

Tolerant

We nurture tolerance by welcoming diversity and actively encouraging cultural sensitivity, awareness and empathy.

Marion Bayley, Geelong General Manager and Head of Operations, highlights that Deakin Res' RESPECT values "...have been critical in providing every resident with a happy, healthy and safe environment. Setting clear expectations and providing an understanding of these values from the time a student applies and is offered a place on campus through to final departure, fosters a sense of belonging that celebrates individuality whilst uniting the community."



Marion Bayley

Geelong General Manager & Head of operations
Deakin Residential Services

Embeddedness of values within our community

Awareness and adoption of Deakin Res' RESPECT Values is assessed each year, and the following statistics highlight the embeddedness of these values within our community.

100%

of residents were aware of Deakin Res' RESPECT Values.

95%

of residents felt that their Residential Leader upheld the RESPECT values.

94%

of residents felt that other residents within their community upheld the RESPECT values.

99%

of residents wanted to play an active role in contributing to a positive residential culture.

*Deakin Res Annual Student Experience Survey 2020

Taylah Williams, Deakin Resident, Waurin Ponds Campus



Taylah Williams lives in our Geelong Waurin Ponds residence. Feeling welcomed and included was particularly important to Taylah, who completed high school at Hellyer College in Tasmania, and moved interstate to study Biomedical Science at Deakin. Learning more about the values as part of a compulsory pre-arrival induction, she notes that they supported her initial transition by outlining expectations, encouraging all residents to play an active role in contributing to a positive residential culture, and reinforcing Deakin's commitment to fostering an inclusive community.

The integration of the values throughout residential life as part of events, activities, rules of residence and student leadership further demonstrated their significance, and Taylah highlights,

"...they shape our community here on residence and promote the most important aspects of what makes Deakin feel like home. These values emphasize supporting your fellow residents and staff, feeling safe, secure and comfortable to be yourself, to form new friendships, embrace new experiences and most importantly to ensure everyone feels like they truly belong."

► **Read more** here about Deakin Res' RESPECT Values.

References

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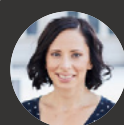
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Laura is responsible for the design, development, coordination and continual enhancement of the student experience at Deakin Res, throughout the journey from high school, pre-arrival, orientation and transition and on-campus experience through to alumni engagement. Laura is widely regarded as an industry expert in the theory, planning, and delivery of exceptional student experiences, having honed her skills over the course of a career spanning two decades and multiple higher education institutions.



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