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We're more than 6 percent: New report shows shocking lack of diversity on Australian television news channels

A [new report by Media Diversity Australia](#) shows widespread lack of diversity on Australian news and current affair shows. The report shows that **only six percent** of news presenters are of non-European or Indigenous background. Racial and economic justice advocacy organisation Democracy in Colour is unsurprised at the lack of diversity in the television news environment.

National Co-Director Tim Lo Surdo says, "This report just shows the rest of Australia what people of colour and Indigenous people have always known. We hope that the findings will reinvigorate the push for greater representation and diversity in our newsrooms.

"It's not just about seeing faces like ours on our screens, it's about the power that is given to news presenters to tell stories. Australia is a hugely multicultural community, but the people telling our stories aren't people from our communities.

"News outlets love to pedal out racists and their 'controversial' hate for ratings, but they have no idea how harmful it is to communities of colour to constantly see themselves being talked about, instead of being a part of the discussion.

"It's no surprise that we see harmful stereotypes being brought out again and again about groups such as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and the Muslim community. Lack of community representation means that racist rhetoric and hate speech are normalised and the consequences can be fatal for these already marginalised groups.

The report shows that 77 percent of television journalists from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds felt that their backgrounds were a barrier to career progression.

"It's time to start seeing an accurate representation of Australian society on our mainstream news channels. We're more than just six percent.

"There is no shortage of people of colour and Indigenous people who have the skills and expertise to be news presenters, so there's really no reason that we shouldn't be seeing them on our screens, presenting and commenting on the news," said Tim Lo Surdo.

CONTACT PERSON: ALIYA AHMAD 0428684307 OR aliya@democracyincolour.org



Democracy in Colour is a national racial and economic justice organisation led by people of colour. It runs campaigns that tackle structural racism and build the power of people of colour to shape the critical issues that affect our lives.