*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned this statement contains the names of people who have died.*

Thursday 16 April 2021. 30 years on from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Since then, more than 400 Indigenous people have died in custody.

While the eyes of the world are on America’s Black Lives Matter movement, Australia has its own shameful history with over-policing, overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in detention, and in the frankly horrifying numbers of deaths in custody.

While the Royal Commission handed down 339 recommendations, these have been but sparingly adopted across Australia’s states and territories.

The LSS, on behalf of all students, contributes to the ‘Pay the Rent’ Campaign. If students are in a financial position to do so we also encourage you to directly support them and other organisations such as Djirra and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service. These organisations have combined to release a statement accessible [here](https://djirra.org.au/media-release/joint-media-release-from-djirra-and-victorian-aboriginal-legal-service-it-is-time-for-a-victorian-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice-commissioner/).

As law students, the MULSS recognises that there exists a responsibility to affect change. The building we study at, the lands we live and work on, are stolen lands. It is the responsibility of all students to recognise and respond to the inherent privilege of studying at the law school.

The University, as with many other institutions, has far to go on the journey of appropriately embedding and celebrating the self-determination of Indigenous communities and the culture of Indigenous students.

Further information and an article written by University of Melbourne faculty, can be found here:

<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/real-action-needed-on-aboriginal-deaths-in-custody>