

Whittlesea Community Connections condemns the two recent Islamophobic incidents at Pacific Epping where two women were viciously attacked.

It is everybody's right to live free of racism and discrimination regardless of religion, race or cultural background.

These incidents have caused fear in the community impacting on people's sense of safety and belonging in one of Melbourne's most multicultural and diverse communities.

The Whittlesea Anti-Racism Community Project undertaken by Victoria University and Whittlesea Community Connections identified that 59% of Whittlesea respondents had experienced racism in the previous 12 months with women and younger people more likely to experience racism. Public places such as shopping centres were identified as common places where people experienced racism and discrimination.

Whittlesea Community Connections continues to work with Victoria University and local services to raise awareness and support disclosures of racism and discrimination in the City of Whittlesea.

People are able to report incidents of racism and or discrimination people to the Victoria Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission on 1300 292 153 or the Islamic Council of Victoria on 9328 2067.

For more information and support please contact Emma Antonetti on 9401 6666.