

Breaking Down Barriers- The Newcastle Solution

A collaboration with NSW Police to support international student engagement.

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The value of a close relationship with the local Police Force cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately most interactions are at times of need. However, when proactive collaboration to break down barriers is undertaken outside of critical incidents, relationships are fostered that enhances the student experience and build mutual trust. The session will focus on the strategies that the Newcastle Police and the University of Newcastle (UoN) engaged in to work together to provide a greater sense of community for the International Students of the University and will conclude with insight through a case study of the recent UoN International Students and Newcastle Police Beach Soccer Tournament, from one of the University of Newcastle, International Students.

The discussion will include the broad initiatives that the NSW Police employed and specifically look at the “Newcastle Solution” in detail.

To support other institutions achieving similar outcomes an overview of the establishment of the UoN Safety and Security Committee will be provided. The Committee was formed as a result of issues related to International students, which includes membership from International students, University Administration, Newcastle Police, Newcastle City Council, community representatives. Detailing how this committee aimed to address issues through open communication, and how this has most recently progressed to proactive strategies to try and ensure that international students do not fear the Police and that they will report incidences, which has historically been perceived to be low.

The session will conclude with the student experience from the perspective of an international student who is currently studying at the University of Newcastle. The final component will be specifically discussing the most recent initiative of the UoN Safety and Crime Consultative Committee, the UoN International Students and Newcastle Police Beach Soccer Tournament.