

Diversity Statement*

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I am a product of my Australian heritage, the values embodied by the scientific tradition, and my experiences in pursuing higher education in the United States. At the core of my principles is a deep respect for diversity, a high value for equity in opportunity and treatment, and a great appreciation for individualism.

I grew up in a Muslim family, in rural New South Wales, and from the age of 12, I attended an Anglican boarding school in Canberra. Australians embrace multiculturalism and egalitarianism, and I have been a beneficiary and an adopter of this quality. This standard of behaviour necessitates a welcoming, inclusive, and overtly positive demeanour towards outsiders and newcomers, and an insistence on sharing collective resources. With this privilege comes the responsibility to regularly reflect on the historical and ongoing costs of our proprietorship, and find ways of minimizing harm moving forward.

The academic values of honesty, openness and accountability are also features of my heritage. A goal of mine is to be a steward of the scientific tradition, from Socrates to Kant to Samuelson. Following this tradition in some respects is easy: be curious about the truth and question what we cannot satisfactorily explain. Advancing this tradition, however, involves opening doors to diverse perspectives and elevating quieter voices, a challenge that I'm committed to taking on.

In my time pursuing a doctorate in the United States, I have learnt the importance of encouraging individualism and independence. In an academic setting, this means opening access and allowing dissent in return for innovation and breakthrough. In social settings, this means tolerance and patience in return for colour and understanding.

It is this heritage and experience that has shaped me into a relentlessly optimistic, honest and accepting person, whose core principles reflect the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion.

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