

Press Release

For Immediate Release – July 2025

🏆 We Are Australia® Named Finalists at London's PIEoneer Awards



Bashed in Melbourne by Neo-Nazis With a Brick and Left for Dead, International Student and Music Teacher Now Set for the World Stage

After seeing the story on the news, a Melbourne music teacher reached out to help. What followed became a national movement and a global message about justice, resilience, and the power of music to heal.

Vietnamese international student Minh Tuan Duong was violently attacked in **Melbourne** by a **Neo-Nazi group**, struck in the head with a **brick** so forcefully that it shattered into two pieces. At the time, Minh was working at **7-Eleven**, juggling night shifts and studying at **Swinburne University** in pursuit of a better life.



While Minh was still recovering from the brutal assault, Melbourne music teacher **Adrian De Luca** saw his story on the news and stepped in, offering **free piano lessons** and supporting his recovery. Adrian also helped arrange a trip for Minh to visit his mother in Vietnam. **But at Melbourne Airport, just as they were about to leave the country, Minh was pulled aside, his visa cancelled, and he was kicked out of Australia, placed under a re-entry ban and left without any formal assistance.**



Adrian launched a petition that drew nearly 90,000 signatures and went on **national television** to campaign for Minh's return. Eventually, Minh was **granted a new visa and allowed to return to Australia.**

From that act of kindness, We Are Australia® was born — a **registered harm prevention charity** supporting **international student victims of crime.**

Today, Minh is an **Australian citizen**, a **CPA**, and **Treasurer** of the charity that helped **rebuild his life.** Minh's story reflects a **broader failure** to protect **international students** when they are most **vulnerable.**

We Are Australia® is a finalist in the **2025 PIEoneer Awards** in London, recognised for its groundbreaking student support work. <https://pieoneerawards.com/>

About

We Are Australia® is a national harm prevention charity dedicated to supporting **international student victims of crime** through **advocacy, education, and trauma-informed care.** Since its founding, the organisation has **directly supported over 300 students** and reached **thousands more through outreach and community initiatives.**

"We don't promise to give international students a voice; we promise to be their voice."

— **Adrian De Luca**, Founder & Director, We Are Australia®

Media Contact:

Adrian De Luca

Founder & Director, We Are Australia®

E: adrian.deluca@weareaustralia.org

M: +61 421 439 379

🌐 www.weareaustralia.org



Together, We Are Australia