



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**01/07/2005 10:30am**

**Student injured and arrested at opening of Kurongkurl Katitjin**

Edith Cowan Student Guild

Thirty to forty students gathered respectfully at the opening of the new indigenous centre Kurongkurl Katitjin to challenge the federal education minister Brendan Nelson. After seeking the permission of one of the elders presence, the students negotiated what would be an appropriate form of protest and remained silent during the cultural ceremony. After Brendan Nelson found that there were a bunch of students at the opening the state police were called in both mounted and on foot.

The students continued to stage a peaceful protest and when the minister tried to leave the building, the police used the horses to charge the students and caused minor injuries to a few students. In the push, one of the students was knocked over and fell in to one of the police officers and was summarily arrested. Though later release in the evening.

The ABC and students documented the event and the atrocious behaviour of the police and the Education Vice President calls on the Minister on police to explain the heavy handed use of police force at the event. It would also be interesting to note that the ABC had a completely different story to the West Australian.

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