



DO SOMETHING: An activist from India's ruling Congress Party shouts slogans during a protest against the recent attacks on Indian students in Australia.

Uni acts to protect students

SHARON GREEN

DEAKIN University is taking steps to ensure the safety of its Indian students in Geelong.

This follows a recent spate of violent attacks against Indians and mass protests in Melbourne and Sydney.

The protests have forced the Federal Government and Indian officials to act on student safety.

Indian and other international students have urged universities such as Deakin to respond quickly to the issue.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sally Walker earlier this week said she was committed to providing all international students with a secure environment and would ensure they received ongoing advice and counselling.

The president of Deakin University Student Association, Cayla Edwards, led a presentation at a safety session at Waurin Ponds campus on Thursday.

She said the seminar was well received.

"The majority of Indian students who attended the seminar were post-graduate students and showed great diversity," she said.

The safety session was used to assure local students that a safety and support network was in place.

"We really wanted to reinforce messages about students knowing who they can contact when they're in a situation where they're feeling unsafe," Ms Edwards said.

The session was a good opportunity for Indian students to have an informal discussion about safety issues in general.

"Students generally feel safe in Geelong, which is great, so we must be doing something right," Ms Edwards said.

She said the university would continue to work with Indian students and support them with future safety needs.