

There was mention in The West Australian that there had been an increase in “Anti-Chinese jibes” since the start of the outbreak of Coronavirus (News 1/2). That certainly reflects the reports that we, at the Ethnic Communities Council of WA have experienced. Our members have been talking to us about significant increases in the Anti-Asian sentiment being perpetrated against them in a number of areas.

Our schools are either just back in session or about to be this week, after the Christmas and New Year break. Internationally we have seen some incidents of bullying against Chinese students and others from the general region of Asia. We urge teachers and principals of schools to be vigilant about this and ensure that these incidents are minimised.

Other media such as talk-back radio and the printed press are also asked to exercise caution in this respect. Social media appears to be inundated with surprisingly unfunny memes poking fun at those of Asian origin. These memes are both inappropriate and crass. When there are lives at risk and some have already succumbed we do not regard this as a laughing matter.

The racist taunts and bullying behaviour must be called out. We all need to take action to ensure that this is the case.

Yours sincerely

Suresh Rajan

President

Ethnic Communities Council of WA

20 View Street

North Perth 6006

0403 276 960