



## Council warns against racist incidents

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA, President, Suresh Rajan today called on the Government to make some strong public statements to condemn the racist incidents that have been occurring in recent days here in Western Australia.

“We have seen an alarming rise in the incidence of racial vilification (particularly against those of Asiatic origin) and racism generally throughout our community in the last few weeks. At a time when there are considerable job losses and increased uncertainty about the economic future, people are looking to blame others for their misfortunes. We understand their motivation but do not condone these acts in any way” said Mr Rajan

Mr Rajan added: “Let me cite some examples of the racism outbreaks that we have seen in recent times:

- People who appear to be Asian in origin being abused at supermarkets
- A Malaysian student being denied rental accommodation
- The Chinese being blamed for the virus
- The Chinese restaurants seeing a marked drop off in patronage
- Students at some schools being mocked as “Coronas” in the playground. My son has witnessed this personally.
- My niece (of Indian ancestry) and another young girl being abused on a train in Melbourne, The abuse was about them “being the problem that led the abuser to have to take his children out of school!”
- Snide remarks being made to people of general “Asian” appearance
- Talk back hosts allowing these comments to go to air without regard for the community outcomes.
- WA Police Engagement Unit have also posted comments indicating a rise in racist graffiti incidents that they are dealing with at present”

“Whilst all these incidents are reprehensible, we also condemn the actions of the WA One Nation leader, Mr Colin Tincknell, who retweeted comments that perpetuated stereotypes that had been created by Ms Pauline Hanson in speeches she had made previously. The comments will not be reproduced here but people can view them on Mr Tincknell’s page. Additionally when I criticised him on Twitter, his followers have turned on me and made comments that were equally nasty and hurtful towards me. As a person who experienced the worst of the racism that was perpetuated and promulgated by Jack Van Tongeren in the early days, this period is very reminiscent of that era” said Mr Rajan.

ECCWA calls on the Minister and Premier to roundly condemn these acts of racism and vilification as a matter of urgency.

**For media enquiries please contact Suresh Rajan on 0403276960**