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MEDIA RELEASE

CCCAV Condemns Covid-19 Related Racist Attacks

We noticed with deep concern the recent rise of reported and un-reported incidents of Australians of Chinese and other Asian heritage being racially abused in the current Covid-19 pandemic. These racist attacks are not only hurting the victims on the receiving end, but also causing profound discomfort and anxiety on Australians of Chinese and other Asian heritage. Indeed these racist attacks are also an insult to all Australians who share the common Australian values of respect and equality. We strongly condemn such un-Australian behaviour.

Australians of Chinese and other Asian heritage have made vital contributions to all facets of Australian society since 1800s. They are an integral part in the fabric of Australian society.

As an example, in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic this year, Chinese Australians have demonstrated a high level of social responsibility, diligence and compassion through voluntary self-quarantine, supporting the community and generous donation, etc. These contributions are praised by Prime Minister Scott Morrison during a press conference on 2nd April. "The Chinese-Australian community did an amazing job in those early days of the spread of the coronavirus," he said. "They showed all Australians back then how to do this. I want to thank them very, very much for the example they set in those early phases." Chinese Australians together with all Australians are continuing with the fight against the coronavirus.

No group of Australians should be singled out to be associated with the virus. The virus does not discriminate, but people do. Any distrust, discrimination and vilification based on race is simply wrong and should have no place in our civil society.

It is time to show kindness to each other; it is time for all Australians to work together to face the challenges in the Covid-19 pandemic. We appreciate those who are against racism and speak up for the victims. We appeal to all politicians and media outlets to show leadership in setting the tone of fairness and rationalism, particularly in these tough times.