



MEDIA RELEASE

CCCAV Statement on the Vandalism Incident at the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo

14 May 2024

We strongly condemn the recent act of vandalism in Bendigo, which targeted the Golden Dragon Museum and the nearby Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, resulting in damage to the historic Chinese dragon Loong and other significant cultural artifacts.

Loong, over 120 years old and believed to be the world's oldest complete parade dragon, holds immense cultural and historical value not only to the Chinese community in Bendigo but also to the wider Australian community. The vandalism of such a cherished symbol deeply saddens us and undermines the cultural harmony and social cohesion that our community strives to uphold.

It is deeply concerning that this act may have been racially motivated. We call for a thorough investigation to uncover the motives behind this senseless act of vandalism and bring the culprits to justice. We stand in solidarity with the Golden Dragon Museum, the Bendigo Chinese Association, and all those affected by this incident.

We extend our gratitude to Premier Jacinta Allan, the local member for Bendigo East, for speaking out against this senseless act of vandalism, and appreciation to the wider community for their expressions of support. We are also thankful for the efforts of law enforcement agencies in investigating this vandalism incident.

We urge anyone with information regarding this incident to come forward and assist the authorities in their investigation. As a community, we remain committed to promoting understanding, respect, and appreciation of all cultures and heritages, including Chinese culture and heritage.