



Council again calls for calm and caution in relation to Coronavirus

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) has again today called for calm to be exercised over issues relating to the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

A week ago ECCWA issued a press release about the need for calm and caution with the issues relating to Coronavirus. ECCWA is reiterating their warning in this regard.

“We have seen a number of Chinese and Asian restaurants reporting a huge decline in patronage since the outbreak was first reported. As we said in our first press release, we urge that people don’t use this event to perpetrate acts of racism and exclusion against those of Asiatic appearance” said Council President, Suresh Rajan.

This morning on ABC Radio, Russell Woolf and Nadia Mitsopoulos spoke to Helen, a Chinese Malaysian International student in Perth. Helen came home from a holiday in Malaysia to be confronted by an eviction notice posted on her accommodation door. The notice attributed the eviction actions of the landlord to the coronavirus. That interview can be accessed here: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/perth/programs/breakfast/student-racial-discrimination-carona-virus/11958354>

“Behaviour of this nature is completely unacceptable. We hope that the appropriate authorities take decisive action against this landlord. We also hope that the Minister for Multicultural Interests reminds our community of the inappropriateness of this type of action. In addition ECCWA calls on all those people who have had any such acts of racism perpetrated against them to contact us as a matter of urgency so that we can document these and feed that back to our federal counterparts so as to ensure consistent action being taken across the country” said Suresh Rajan.

“We are a multicultural community that has survived and thrived with a policy of inclusion over a considerable period of time. We must not allow this virus to drive a wedge between us in the community. Let us all take it upon ourselves to call these acts out and support every one of our diverse communities” added Mr Rajan.

ECCWA will take all calls relating to these issues on 92275322 or via email at admin@eccwa.org.au

For media enquiries please contact Suresh Rajan on 0403 276 960

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