

Media release — Against Racism

20 March 2020

There was a racist incident in New Town shopping centre yesterday evening around 5:30pm.

A caucasian male has been apprehended by police after allegedly verbally then physically abusing Chinese international student wearing face masks. Bystanders assisted the victims.

This morning there has been a further report of verbal abuse of Tasmanians of Chinese appearance - with the victims on this occasion being a mother and her children.

"Wearing masks does not mean people are sick. Many are doing it as a preventative measure, as COVID-19 can be airborne according to scientific research," said Mr Waqas Durrani, Chair of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania.

"Being of Chinese appearance does not make someone a carrier of corona virus. To declare this is a hate crime, unAustralian, and plain bad manners.

"Tasmanians of all backgrounds are committed to constraining the spread of corona virus. In these troubled times, what we need is kindness and calm."

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