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## **Media release**

### **Racism is in all countries, but we can tackle it here**

Today the Multicultural Council of Tasmania joined a national campaign calling for a national, anti-racism campaign.

The campaign — led by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia and involving full-page advertisements across national newspapers today — comes amidst the Black Lives Matter protests and claims from the People's Republic of China that Australia is unsafe for Chinese tourists and students.

“The Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer urged Australians to not attend mass gatherings on social responsibility grounds, so the Multicultural Council of Tasmania did not promote attendance at the weekend’s Black Lives Matter protests in Tasmania,” said Mr Waqas Durrani, Chair of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania.

“They urged us to express ourselves in different ways, and this is what we are doing now.

“The Multicultural Council of Tasmania also acknowledges the open dialogue we have with the leadership of the Tasmanian police, a dialogue which seeks to achieve great policing for Tasmanians of all backgrounds.

“There is racism in Tasmania and it has been rising since the outbreak of COVID-19. We need to attack this racism as much as we have attacked COVID-19.

“This racism causes immediate harm. Anticipation of racism can also prompt those who have recently settled in Tasmania to confine themselves to the safety of their homes. And racism provides unwelcome ammunition for foreign governments in their diplomatic manoeuvring that could hurt Australians of all backgrounds.

“There is no basis for claiming that Australia is less safe for tourists and students than anywhere else in the world. We should nonetheless strive to make Australia as safe as it can be.

“As recent studies suggest, we are all susceptible to bias, whether we are conscious of it or not. But each of us can become aware of our biases and work to counteract them. This is why we need a national anti-racism campaign.

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