



MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL of TASMANIA

6 May 2020

Mr Cheng Jingye

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Commonwealth of Australia

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Commonwealth of Australia

15 Coronation Drive

Yarralumla ACT 2600

Dear Ambassador,

I write to advise that the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) supports the Australian Government's call for an independent inquiry into the initial transmission to humans of COVID-19.

MCOT is the peak body representing more than 80 multicultural organisations in Tasmania. Our members span the breadth of cultural, linguistic and religious groups that call Tasmania home, including Tasmanians of Chinese heritage.

Tasmanians with a recent migrant background are suffering from COVID-19 like their fellow Tasmanians. Many of them also have a personal connection with the catastrophic loss of life we have seen in other countries.

In light of the suffering arising from COVID-19, reasonable steps should be taken to attempt to prevent or delay a recurrence of an initial transmission to humans of such a disease.

An independent inquiry into the initial transmission to humans of COVID-19 would be a reasonable step.

An inquiry could conclude that there are reasonable actions individual governments could choose to take within their borders that would prevent or delay recurrence. This would be useful. Alternatively, an inquiry could conclude that the initial transmission to humans of COVID-19 was inevitable and that there are no reasonable actions that would prevent or delay recurrence. This would also be useful, as it would concentrate efforts on preparing for the inevitable transmission to humans of other diseases in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Waqas Durrani

Chair

Multicultural Council of Tasmania