



COVID-19 RACISM INCIDENT REPORT SURVEY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT 2021



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COVID-19 Racism Incident Report Survey Comprehensive Report 2021 Creators

Asian Australian Alliance

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COVID-19 Racism Incident Report Partners and Supporters

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COVID-19 RACISM INCIDENT REPORT SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

02 APRIL 2020 - 28 JUNE 2021

The COVID-19 Racism Incident Report Survey was launched by the Asian Australian Alliance (AAA) in collaboration with Osmond Chiu - Research Fellow at the Per Capita Think tank on April 02, 2020. The first Preliminary COVID-19 Racism Incident Report covered 377 incidents for the period April 02, 2020 - June 02, 2020. This comprehensive report will cover 541 incident reports recorded from April 02, 2020 until June 28 2021, which includes data from the first report.

INTRODUCTION

Though the origins of the virus are still being investigated (World Health Organization, 2021), it is generally acknowledged that the virus originated in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Australia reported its first official case of coronavirus in a traveller from Wuhan, who arrived via Guangdong on Jan 19, 2020 (Hunt MP, 2020). In addition to widespread media coverage in Australia into the Chinese origins of the virus, the term “Chinese virus” was popularised after US President Donald Trump tweeted the term on his (now banned) Twitter account in March 16, 2020 (Hswen et al., 2020). Subsequent repeated references to the “China virus”, “Wuhan virus” and “Kung flu” by US President Trump triggered an increase in the use of anti-Asian hashtags online. (Darling-Hammond et al., 2020, pp. 870 - 879).

The COVID-19 Racism Incident Report Survey was launched on April 2, 2020, at the peak of this association between the virus and China/Chinese people. This was also occurring against a backdrop of rising anti-China sentiment that began prior to the pandemic as a result of the deterioration in Sino-Australian relations (Zhou, 2021), leading Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to call out attacks on the Asian community (Truu, 2020). Thus, at the time of the release of the preliminary report, there had already been a steady rise in anti-Asian sentiment in Australia. This, coupled with anger and blame for the virus being wholly placed on anyone who looked Chinese/Asian, led to a rise in incidents of anti-Asian racism which was reflected in the high response rate to the survey. The Chinese government went so far as to issue an official statement warning its citizens not to travel to Australia in light of this rise in anti-Chinese racism (ABC News, 2020).

SHIFTING THE BLAME

In June 2020, Victoria was hit by a second wave of the virus, with the blame for community transmission and the prolonged lockdown shifting from only being primarily against Asians to other migrant communities (Vrajlal, 2020). This impacted heavily in Melbourne, with suburbs that had high migrant/CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) populations being referred to as “COVID-19 hot spots”(Mao, 2020). Furthermore, there were harsher measures applied to certain suburbs and snap lockdowns of specific public housing buildings, in which the spread of

the virus was attributed to residents not being able to self isolate. The residents of these buildings (in Flemington and North Melbourne) are mainly of Muslim background. (Weedon, 2020) This heavy handed response was later found by the Victorian Ombudsman to be in breach of human rights (Victorian Ombudsman, 2020).

In late April 2021, a huge spike in COVID-19 cases in India made headlines in Australia. The Commonwealth Government subsequently banned all flights from India, which left around 10,000 Australians stranded there and unable to return. The Federal Government went so far as to threaten Australians in India who tried to come back (via third countries) with heavy penalties and even imprisonment (ABC News, 2021). This led to national and international condemnation against the treatment of Indian-Australians as second class citizens, given that similar outbreaks that had occurred earlier in the US/UK did not result in a similar ban of returning Australians. (Khorana, 2021).

Sadly, there is a sense of dejavu with the latest outbreak in Sydney, of lessons not learnt from the Melbourne experience. There are fears that blame for the current wave, due to the Delta variant which originated in India, could be misdirected towards the Indian community, just as it previously had been with the Chinese community. Similarly, the concentration of community transmission in South-Western Sydney, with its highly multicultural demographic, points to a racial/ethnic focus of blame directed at a community for breaking lockdown rules rather than a deeper analysis of how a higher casualised workforce, larger households and ineffective public health campaigns targeting CALD communities has led to the latest surge (Briggs, 2021). The continued scapegoating of migrant/CALD communities has shifted from Melbourne to Sydney, but the underlying racial focus of the blame is the same. There have also been claims of over-policing of Sydney's South-West as compared to the lax management in the affluent Eastern suburbs (from where the outbreak originated) (Emmanuel, 2021). Local community leaders criticised this difference in approach, with a local resident stating: 'it's that idea that we're ethnics, we're lawless. There's never mediation, just enforcement.' (Amin, 2021).

COVID-19 RACISM INCIDENT REPORT DATA - AT A GLANCE

TYPES OF INCIDENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Respondents were able to select more than one category. Percentages reflect this variable.

- Direct racial slur/name calling (“Go back to China”, “Stop eating bats/dogs”, “Ching Chong” etc) (35.7%)
- Online harassment (25.7%)
- Making it out as a joke (13.1%) - i.e., making a racist targeted comment/statement and then laughing it off and/or dismissing it as not being racist but just joking around.
- Verbal threats (8.9%) - i.e. making a targeted racist comment/statement with verbal intent to cause harm
- Getting spat/sneezed/coughed on (7.78%)
- Physical intimidation/harassment (7.03%)
- Shunning (6.5%) - i.e. deliberate avoidance/exclusion of Asians/Asian Australians
- Workplace discrimination (2.2%)

LOCATION OF INCIDENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Respondents were able to select more than one category. Percentages reflect this variable.

- Public street/sidewalk (27.1%)
- Business: supermarket/grocery store/general stores (15.1%)
- Public Transport (9.6%)
- Shopping centres (8.7%)
- Public park/community areas (6.2%)
- Restaurants/bars/public food areas (5.4%).

OTHER TRENDS

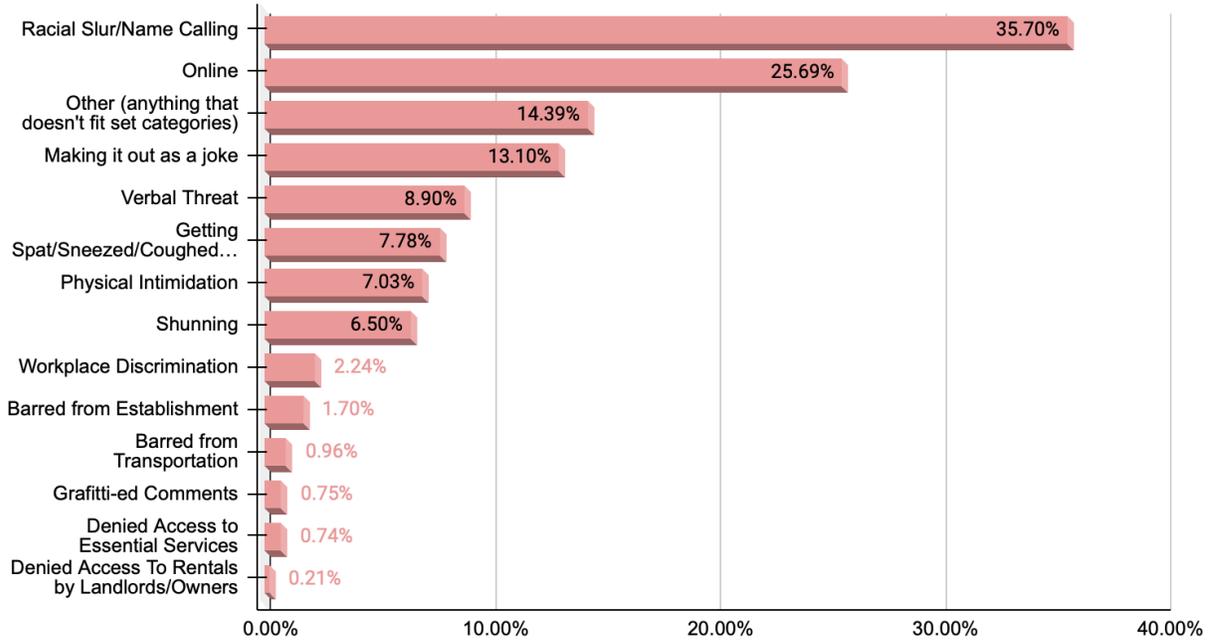
- In terms of gender, those who identified as female (60.1%) were the largest number of respondents, followed by those who identified as male (34.1%). Respondents who identified as self described - i.e. those who did not identify as being female or male - constituted (3.8%) of respondents.
- Respondents who identified as having a Chinese cultural background (52%) reported more incidents than other races or ethnic groups, followed by Vietnamese (8.38%), Malaysian (4.5%), Korean (6.5%), Singaporean (2.1%) and Filipino (3.2%). Note that respondents were able to select multiple cultural backgrounds and identities.

- For respondents who identified as international students (12.3%), (95.2%) were of Mainland Chinese background.
- (85.9%) of respondents reported that they did not know the perpetrator, indicating that the majority of incidents were perpetrated by strangers.
- In terms of reporting to the authorities - i.e. reporting to the police or any type of regulatory body, (84.8%) reported that they did not report their incident.

VISUALS OF KEY QUANTITATIVE DATA

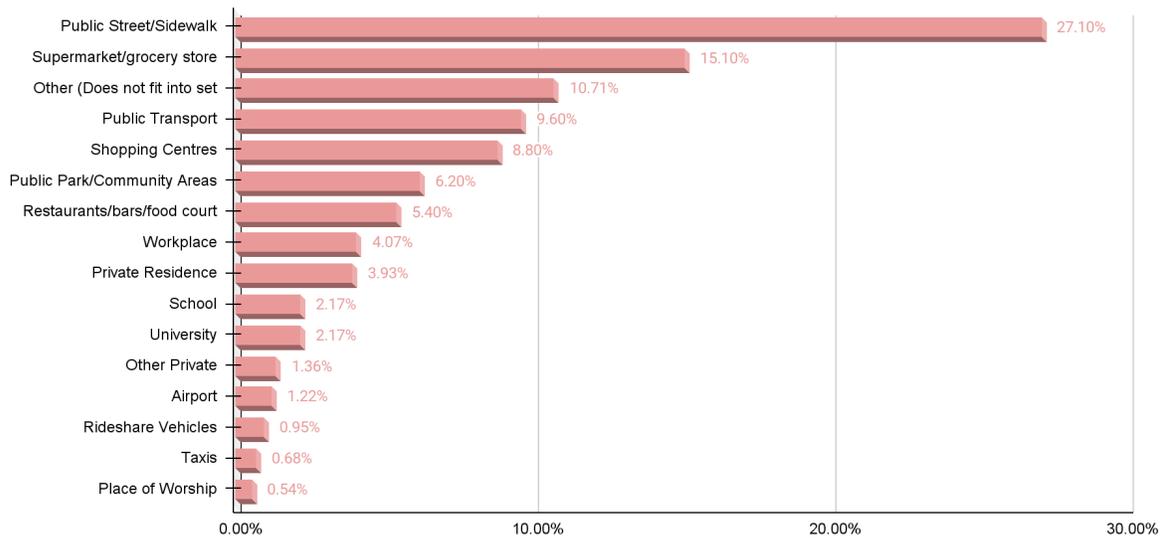
TYPES OF INCIDENTS

Types of Incidents



LOCATION OF INCIDENTS

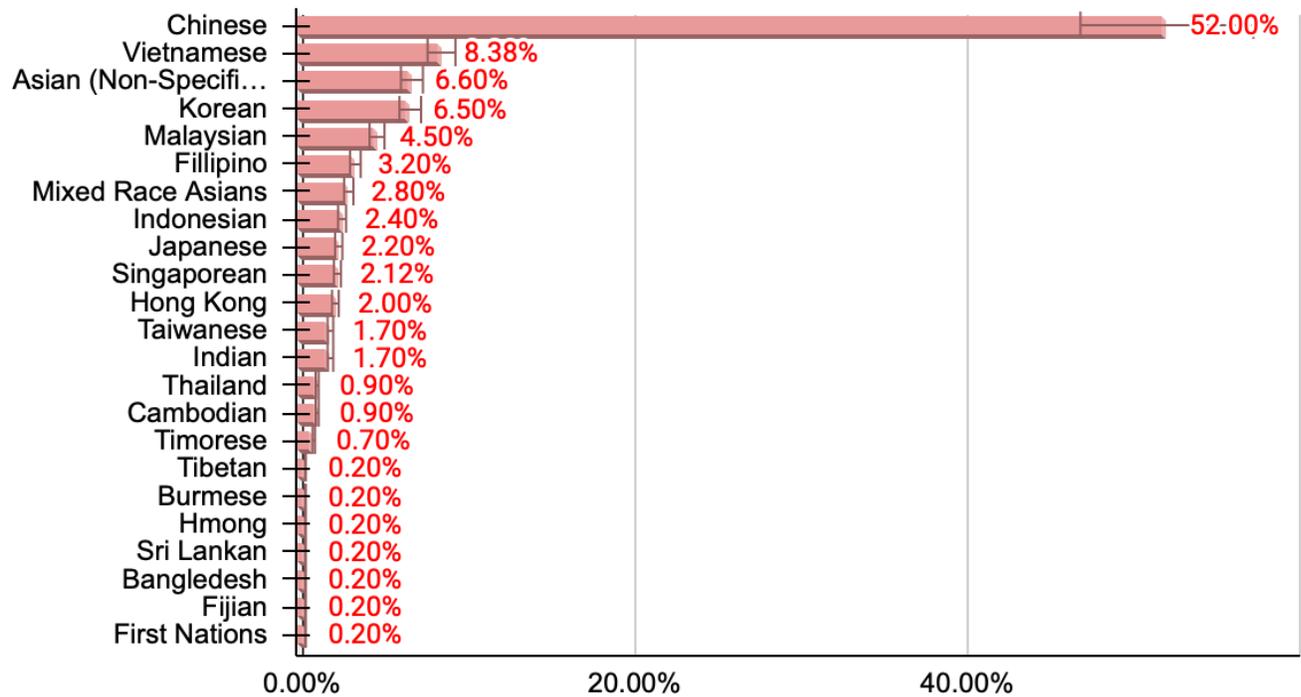
Location of Incidents



ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Respondents who reported to the survey had the option to select racial and ethnic categories. The numbers above indicate the exact categories respondents used to self-identify. Some respondents selected that they were just “Asian” with no elaboration and this is reflected in the numbers. Some respondents selected that they had mixed race/multiracial heritage (e.g. “Chinese/White”, “Vietnamese/Thai” etc). There are also non Asian/Asian Australians who responded to the survey and these percentages are also reflected.

Ethnicity of Respondents



RACIAL IDENTITY BY REGION

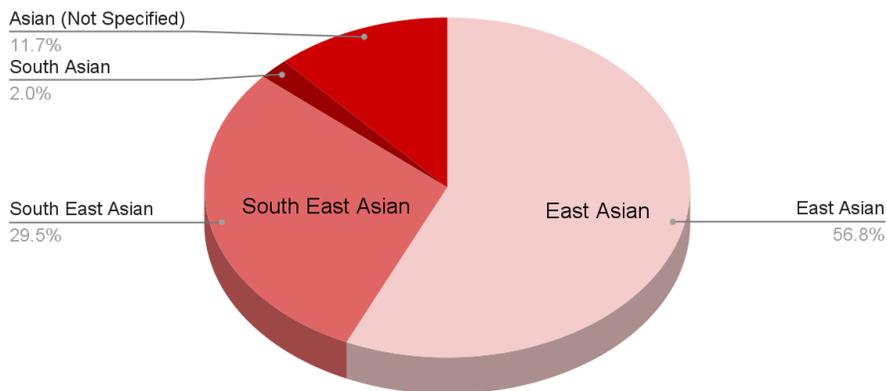
PLEASE NOTE:

East Asian = China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau

Southeast Asian = Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma etc.

South Asian = India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

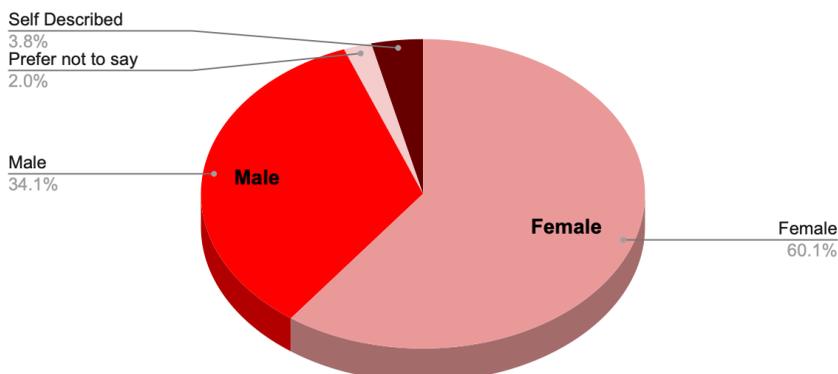
Racial Identity by Region



GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Respondents to the COVID-19 Racism Incident Report Survey were given the option to select more than one gender so some respondents selected more than one gender depending on how many people were involved in the reported incident. These numbers were factored into the calculations.

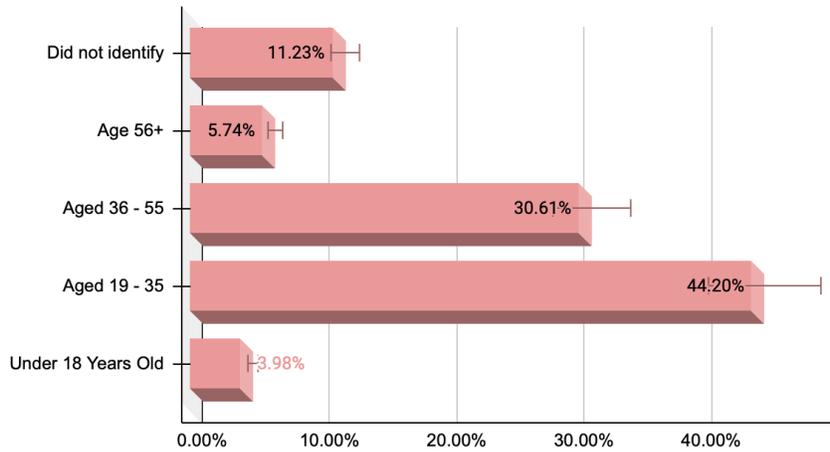
Gender



AGE OF RESPONDENTS

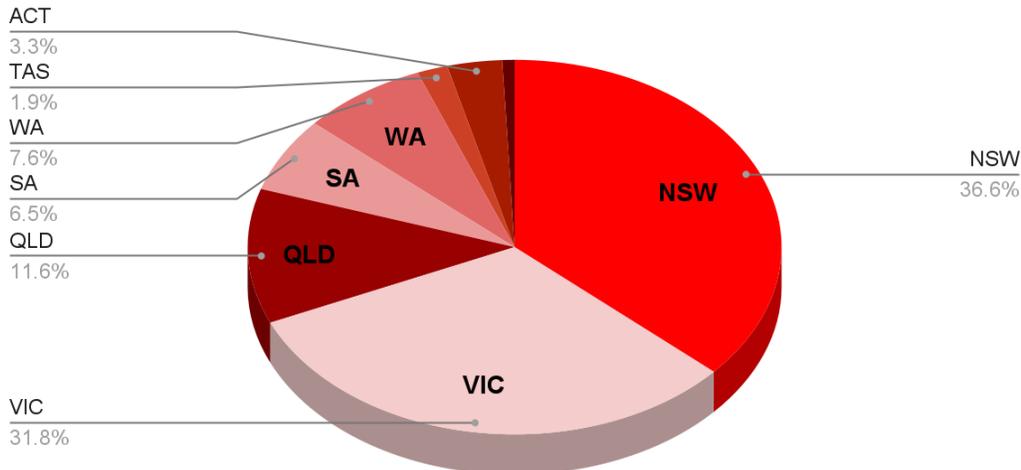
PLEASE NOTE: Respondents to the COVID-19 Racism Incident Report Survey were given the option to select more than one gender so some respondents selected more than one gender depending on how many people were involved in the reported incident. These numbers were factored into the calculations.

Age of Respondents



STATES AND TERRITORIES NUMBERS

State and Territory Numbers



DE-IDENTIFIED EXPERIENCES OF RACISM RECORDED IN THE SURVEY

The following are selected examples of incidents recorded in the COVID-19 Racism Incident Report. The examples are categorised by “Type of Incident”.

VERBAL

Racial Slur/Name Calling (“Go back to China”, “Stop eating bats/dogs” etc)

- I was just walking from my car to the entrance of the shopping centre called The Glen to meet my friends when this 50ish white male putting his mask on and said “those f#\$%ing Asians... all go home, f#\$%ing Chinese” and then coughed towards me.
- I was walking behind an older couple. The man stops, turns to me and tells me quite aggressively - “walk around and stay away from us. If you have the Chinese virus, you shouldn’t be here”.
- I was sending a package of gifts to my cousin who is about to have a baby. An older white couple was filling in a form at another counter. They looked at me, called me a disgusting virus, and then said “haven’t your lot sent enough of our stuff to China?”
- I was walking my dog with my mum in our local community. Dog barking was heard from someone’s backyard, which is nothing new. A person who had just gotten out of his car yelled at us and said - “your dog is upsetting my dog, I’ll let him out and f#\$%ing destroy yours - f@#\$ing Asians”.
- I was waiting for a bus at Central Station. A man kept following me screaming at me to “Go back to F%#@#ing China” and “F@ck off with your virus” and continued to follow me while screaming “Ah Choo, Ah Choo”.

Verbal Threat (“I will report you to the police for coughing”, “I will hunt you down” etc)

- A large white male in his late 30s was going down the escalators at Central station towards platform 24/25 and when he noticed me he started yelling and threatening me: “You Chinese slut, I am going to punch you in the face”. I was heading up the escalators and said nothing and kept my head down.
- As I was walking on the street, some guy randomly ran up to me and started to curse me, and threatened to send me back to China. I was so scared that I started to run and I could still hear him walk in my direction and continue to curse racist things.
- I was standing outside of Aldi, waiting to be picked up from an appointment I had in a nearby building, when suddenly this girl who looked like she was in her late teens - early 20s started muttering something angrily as she walked towards me. When she walked

past me she spat on the ground near me and glared at me. I looked up to her utterly confused and she looked me in the eye and yelled out aggressively: "Yeah, I spat on you, what are you going to do about it?"

- I was on the train and there were 2 white guys sitting opposite of me . One of the guys looked towards me and started to yell at me: "what are you looking at chink? Go back to your country, you are not welcome here". To avoid any danger, I stood up to move, and the guy put out his leg to make me fall. The other guy didn't say anything but just kept laughing.
- I was walking and wearing a face mask on the street, when a white guy approached me, called me racist names, and told me to go home and stop spreading the disease and threatened to punch me.

Making it out as a joke

- A white Aussie couple aged in their 40s was behind me at Woolies and said out loud: "Funny how these people are wearing masks when they are the ones bringing it over here". He then laughed it off as a joke. I have been in Australia for over 25 years, born in Taiwan and have not experienced this type of public racism for over a decade.
- I went to lunch to catch up with some old friends (who are all non-Asian), and they randomly started making jokes about "the Chinese eating bats", not thinking that I as a Vietnamese background Australian would feel offended by it.
- Stopped at the traffic lights on a street. The car next to us, pulls down their car windows and screams out towards us "Coronavirus", and all the car passengers were laughing non stop.
- I was roller skating with my dog and my mum. A white lady (about 35-40) who was with her 3 children started calling us "ching chong" and harassing us. She told us we will probably eat our dogs and told us to "go back to China". We ignored her. She approached us again when we took a break, got in my face and started to harass me and my mum again. She got embarrassed when I spoke up in English with an Aussie accent. She laughed off the experience. There were around 20-30 people witness to the incident, and no one came to help us.
- I was waiting alone on a traffic island to cross the road to get to Woolworths. I am not a resident here and am only here for a holiday with my partner. A car drove past us, with the occupants of the car yelling racial slurs towards us, including "Ni Hao" and "Go back to China". Then they laughed and drove away.

BEHAVIOURAL

Physical Intimidation/harassment

- Told to stay away from them (the perpetrators) because I am Asian, so I have coronavirus. Told that it was “my people” who brought the virus over here. Attempted to kick me. Called me an Asian slut and an Asian dog. Told me to go eat a bat. Threatened me with a knife. Spat in my face, getting spit in my left eye.
- Random encounter on my way to university. Walked past a member of the public who was a white male, muscular and in sportswear. He shoved me, made a racial slur and stared at me as he passed by me on the street.
- My mum is 73 years old. She did her usual shop, but twice in the last 8 weeks she’s walked out of Woolworths with a trolley and 2 white ladies have either pushed her trolley or told her not to buy up so much and verbally abused and berated her. I now refuse to let her shop alone unless a family member is around which puts a strain on us with my sister being terminally ill and needing more care.
- 11 year old kid walked by me in the street and told me to “F@#k off Asian whore, c@#, go back to your own country” and kicked me.
- A white male came up to me in a park and sat near me. He asked me if I had the coronavirus. When I refused to respond, he took his bottle of water and poured it over me, then he lunged and started to punch me.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Shunning (Avoidance or exclusion)

- This lady who worked with me was discussing COVID-19 with other people at work, and it was clearly intentional for me to hear but not be part of the conversation. She said her husband worked with a lot of Asians in the past, and that it is dangerous to work with a lot of Asians as COVID-19 comes from China.
- My young son and I was waiting for the nice serving girl to get our order of a birthday cake and was asked by a different serving girl to step out of the Cheesecake shop as she said “it’s on the sign that a max of 2 people could be in the store at one time”. I felt offended as the serving girl didn’t ask the white couple who were also in the shop and who came in after I did. I opened the door and a white woman with a mohawk who was about to walk in said to me “it’s a maximum of 2 people”. She was clearly agitated at me when I didn’t acknowledge her comment, and she went in to complain about me and my son to the other waiting customers. By now there were 4 people in the store and no one asked any of them to leave. I finally got my order but was not allowed in and the serving

girl came outside to give it to me. When I was in my car, the white lady with the mohawk walked past me and said my son must have the disease. My son started to cry. I have never felt this type of racism before - first time.

- My wife and I were shopping at Bunnings when I met a woman with a cute dog. I asked if I could say hello and pat the dog and the woman said “of course” and was being very friendly. So I called my wife who is Indonesian background who loves dogs much more than me. But then the woman screamed at my wife saying “stay away from me! Can’t you see I am older and in a high risk category - get away!”. I was totally shocked as was the shop assistant standing next to me. My wife has been in tears and is too scared to go up to strangers now to say hello. She even said she wanted to go back home to Indonesia. I really didn’t know how to comfort her and realised what an impact this incident had on her.
- I was in Coles supermarket buying baby food for my kid. A white woman in her 60s was wearing a heavy duty face mask clenching toilet paper and paper towels in the same aisle. Before I could even enter that aisle, she yelled at me to stop walking: “just wait there, don’t come any closer. Let me get out of the aisle and then you can come down, as I don’t want to be close to Asians”. But I was several metres away from her. She then proceeded to another aisle, which had no Asians and went to do her business as usual. I later overheard her tell the staff there are too many Asians in this store and it needs to be controlled.

Workplace Discrimination

- Reporting to Superior on work status, and was racially abused for my ethnicity. Complained to the Australia Human Rights Commission (AHRC), and eventually the complaint went nowhere and the case was closed. My conclusion is that it is better to suffer in silence and go through my day to day work.
- Multiple comments from colleagues in the workplace which were thinly veiled racist jokes delivered as jokes. To put it into context, I work for a multinational Financial services company which has training and policies against this. There were multiple comments around insinuating that I had Coronavirus (given my ethnicity), statements that Chinese shouldn’t be allowed into the office and general derogatory comments around what Chinese eat in general to imply that was the cause of the outbreak.
- People I work with are deliberately avoiding me and not talking to me with eye contact. This just started to happen when the outbreak started.
- I was sitting at a table near a lift area at work, eating lunch while waiting for someone. 2 white female junior colleagues came out of the lift and spotted me. They asked me why I was eating there instead of my own desk or somewhere inside the office area. One of them followed this question with “Oh, so you are self isolating because that’s what

Asians do” in a sort of jokey way. I was taken aback by this explicit reference to “Asians” and felt it was inappropriate to reduce a colleague to a race. I didn’t respond to this specific question, and started to talk about other things. By now more of my colleagues joined in the conversation. She then repeated the same question “So, are you self isolating like all other Asians?” - my other colleagues looked so uncomfortable, and she then said “I was just joking”.

- This incident has happened multiple times at my close family’s workplace. Many people have questions and refuse to communicate with my family members’ due to them being of Asian appearance and frequently told to wear a mask. No one had intervened during the altercation despite it being in public.

DIGITAL

Online

- We were having an online class and it was the first class. One of my classmates who entered the online classroom is Vietnamese background. Another classmate said “coronavirus is here”, and he said that whilst laughing. No one, even the teacher said anything to reprimand him - absolutely pathetic.
- I was commenting on a Facebook post on a news site about the racism coming out of the baby milk formula reporting, and someone replied under my comment: “Stupid Chinese, deport them, no more Chinese welcome in Australia”.
- A friend shared a post highlighting the recent concerns over COVID-19. On commenting, a friend of theirs started to abuse me and all Chinese, stating that we should all die and go to hell.
- A lady who has been in positions of power in the Perth art scene expressed concern about her children’s school being only “50% us whites”. She then started to refer to her fears of catching the disease from Asian people online.
- A former colleague of mine made a comment under a post about lack of toilet paper supply in shops and saying it is all the fault of the “Chinese” who are hoarding and that it is the “Chinese” who are the source for COVID and that anyone who is Chinese needs to go back to China.

KEY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The majority of survey respondents (60.1%) identified themselves as female. A similar survey conducted by the American Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Centre for the period 19 March 2020 - 31 March 2021, found that 64.8% of their survey respondents within that period identified as female (Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Centre, 2021). Factors for this higher statistic include:

- A long history of harmful stereotypes of Asian females in Western culture dating back to colonialism. This has popularised perceptions of Asian females as weak, meek, petite in size and obedient to the male gaze. (Lang & Cachero, 2021)
- Violence against Asian females could be exacerbated through normalisation in online pornography, where Asian females are disproportionately presented as victims of rape. This has perpetuated sexual racism and normalised the racial tropes about Asian females, leading to fetishisation and sexualisation. This was fatally demonstrated as the motivation behind the Atlanta spa shooting in March 2021, where eight women (six of whom were Asian) were shot dead, with the shooter Robert Long saying that he acted violently because of his self-proclaimed “sex addiction”. (Leong & Kuo, 2021)
- General oppression of women of colour in all sectors of Australian working society leads them to being viewed as softer targets. For example, six in ten women of colour in Australia experience discrimination at work. (Bell, 2021)

The majority (95.2%) of respondents who identified as international students were of Chinese origin. A survey on international students by The Migrant Workers Justice Initiative found that, since March 2020, more than half of Chinese respondents (52%) reported that they had experienced racism in Australia. For those from other East Asian or South East Asian countries, it was over 40 per cent. (Faculty of Law, University of Technology, Sydney et al., 2020). A steady stream of videos and posts in social media documenting racist incidents has shown that Asian international students are often a soft target for hate and racism in Australia (Mittelmeier & Cockayne, 2020). Factors that may have contributed to this include:

- Growing sinophobia in Australia and increasing negative attitudes towards China have contributed to the racism experienced by Asian international students. While this has not just been limited to international students as those of Asian appearance have also been targeted (Coorey, 2017), there are often claims that there are “too many” Chinese international students in Australia and that they may potentially be Chinese spies. (The Centre for Independent Studies, 2019).
- Public perceptions of China have shifted dramatically over the past few years. In 2021, the Lowy Poll found 63% of Australians saw China as more of a security threat than an economic partner, up from only 12 per cent in 2018 (Lowy Institute, 2021). This shift in perception has allowed those with Asian ancestry to be used as political scapegoats. For

example, four in ten Australians stated that they believe Australians of Chinese origin can be mobilised by the People's Republic of China to undermine Australia's interests and social cohesion. (Collison & Burke, 2021)

- In November 2020, the Lowy Institute polled people of Chinese heritage in Australia about the last twelve months. 18% said they had been physically threatened or attacked and 31% said they had been called offensive names because they were of Chinese heritage. 66% said the COVID-19 pandemic and 52% said Australia-China relations contributed to it. (Lowy Institute, 2021)
- The 2020 Scanlon Social Cohesion report found 27% of Chinese in Australia experienced discrimination because of their appearance, ethnicity or national origin and 41% experienced "more/much more" racism during the COVID pandemic. 39 percent agreed with the statement that 'I feel conscious / nervous in public, particularly when I'm alone'.
- Negative community sentiments and stereotypes of Asian international students by the media and the Government, including being meek, unwilling to integrate and having poor English skills. Four in ten Australians believe international students take places from domestic students. (Collison & Burke, 2021) Other stereotypes assume Asian, and particularly Chinese, international students are "wealthy", are mainly interested in residency and negatively affect the academic standards of education. (Power, 2018)

The survey found that the overwhelming majority of survey respondents (84.8%) did not report their incident of COVID-19 related racism to the police. This statistic is not surprising given generalised under-reporting of racist incidents among the Asian/Asian Australian community (Wibawa, 2021). Factors pertaining to this include:

- Many who are naturalised may view Australia as an adopted country and thus consider themselves as "guests" and not permanent residents with equal rights. They may be often reminded to be "grateful" to be in Australia, discouraging them to speak out.
- Fear of negative personal consequences and not wanting to draw attention to themselves or cause trouble.
- Lack of knowledge of, and confusion about, reporting avenues. Personal experiences in their country of origin may lead to a distrust of the police and/or authorities, as well as a lack of confidence in getting adequate redress.
- A language barrier to reporting may exist given that English may not be their first language. The large number of non-English respondents to the survey indicates a need for a more simplified and/or multilingual reporting process to be available.

- They may feel that casual racism is an inevitable part of living in Australia, and that racial discrimination is not a crime if it does not involve violence.
- For those who are on student, working or bridging visas, uncertainty about their rights may lead them to believe that reporting to authorities may compromise their visa situation. This may also be compounded by the large number of people working illegally or being underpaid in cash, especially in the service industry.

COMPARISON OF RESULTS BETWEEN TIME PERIODS

The first preliminary report published in June 2020 (Asian Australian Alliance, 2020) was based on 377 reports of COVID-19 racism incidents over a 2 month period (April 2, 2020 - June 2, 2020). This report is based on 541 reports of COVID-19 racism incidents inclusive of data collected in the first preliminary report, from April 2, 2020 to June 28, 2021. This section separates the time periods to analyse data changes and trends.

The first time period is April 2, 2020 - June 2, 2020; and the second time period is June 3, 2020 - June 28, 2021.

The first time period included 377 reports of COVID-19 racism incidents, and the second time period comprised 164 reports.

TABLE: COMPARISON OF DATA

COMPARISON	TIME PERIOD	TIME PERIOD
	02/04/2020 - 02/06/2020	03/06/2020 - 28/06/2021
TYPE OF INCIDENT		
<i>PLEASE NOTE: Respondents were able to select more than one category. Percentages reflect this variable.</i>		
Racial slurs/name calling	35%	38.2%
Physical intimidation/harassment	6.1%	9.3%
Verbal harassment	9.2%	8.9%
Getting spat/sneezed or coughed on	8.0%	6.4%
Making it out as a joke	13.4%	11.4%

Shunning	7.2%	5.0%
Barred from establishment (Restaurants, shops, bars etc)	1.8%	2.1%
Barred from transportation (Trams, buses, taxis, Uber etc)	0.9%	1.07%
Workplace Discrimination	2.4%	1.8%
Graffiti-ed comments on shop fronts, car windows or the home	0.6%	1.2%
Denied access to essential services (Medical practice, counselling services, childcare etc)	0.6%	1.07%
Denied access to any rentals by owners/landlords	0%	0.36%
Other	14.8%	13.2%
GENDER		
Female	65%	61.1%
Male	32.7%	36%
Self-described gender	1.2%	2.3%
Prefer not to say	1.1%	0.6%
LOCATION OF INCIDENTS		
<i>PLEASE NOTE: Respondents were able to select more than one category. Percentages reflect this variable.</i>		
Public street/sidewalk	40.1%	28.1%
Supermarket/grocery store	22%	11.6%
Shopping centre	9.9%	8.9%
Restaurant/bar	6.5%	7.6%
Public park/community areas	2.4%	6.7%

Public transport	4.7%	6.7%
Taxis	0.6%	0.9%
Rideshare vehicles (Uber, Didi etc)	0.9%	1.3%
Workplace	1.6%	3.1%
School	1.6%	2.7%
University	1.6%	2.7%
Other private/meetings/gathering areas	1.3%	0.9%
Private residence	2.4%	4.5%
Place of worship	0.5%	0.9%
Airport	0.8%	1.8%
Other	3.1%	11.6%
OTHER		
Online	9.4%	23.1%
International student	15%	19.5%
Unknown assailant	85.1%	89.5%
Non reporting to authorities	90.3%	83.5%

KEY CHANGES:

- Type of incident:
 - Increase in racial slurs/name calling and physical harassment
- Location of incident:
 - Significant decrease in incidents in public streets and supermarkets
 - Increase in incidents at public parks/spaces, on public transport and workplaces
- Significant increase in online harassment.
- Increase in percentage of international student respondents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Commonwealth Government needs to clearly and unequivocally acknowledge the growing anti-Asian racism and make an official statement condemning it. A bipartisan motion should also be passed in Australian Parliament to show our nation's leaders take the growth in racism seriously...
- Individual state Governments need to consider funding statewide centralised tracking systems for racism and hate crimes against Asian/Asian Australians, and/or provide funding for Asian/Asian Australian community organisations who are already tracking racism and hate crimes. A similar model to consider would be California lawmakers allocating \$1.4 million towards helping Asian Americans report and tracking attacks to the Stop AAPI Reporting Centre. The bill passed in the California State Legislature is called AB85. (Wong, 2021)
- The Commonwealth Government needs to hasten the pace to implement the proposed new National Anti-Racism Framework (community consultations currently held on the proposed framework) associated with the AHRC. (AHRC (Race Discrimination), 2021)
- Police, relevant state anti-discrimination bodies and the AHRC should work together to improve data collection on racially motivated incidents and enable nationally consistent data on incidents of racism.
- Peaceful, community based volunteers to be organised into “community safety patrols” to “patrol” areas where there is a high concentration of Asian/Asian Australian residents and businesses to provide a type of neighbourhood watch. These “patrol” groups should include Asian/Asian Australians, those who have fluency in another Asian language and allies who want to lend their time and support. These “community safety patrol” groups need to be trained by reputable community and law enforcement groups on bystander intervention training, how to de-escalate compromising situations, communicating effectively with the local community, residents and local businesses, and to escort Asian/Asian Australians to their destination as a safety precaution. These “community patrols” need to be peaceful and only focus on keeping the community safe and working together with law enforcement authorities to ensure clear communication. (Law, 2021)
- A creation of simple multi-lingual reporting avenues to facilitate reporting of incidents for those for whom English is not a first language. Services should not just be mere translations from English, but adapted and contextualised to the various culturally and linguistically diverse community needs. This may involve the creation of specific ‘language offices’ which can be the bridge for these communities in accessing government services in general.
- Removal of legislative barriers to prosecution for racially motivated criminal actions and strengthening of anti-vilification laws, noting problems in New South Wales (NSW) with

existing laws. The NSW anti-vilification laws was reformed in mid 2018, and it has not been used for years until 2021, and with that came a host of problems for the police trying to use the law to prosecute racism cases. The main problem which botched the case prosecutions was due to administrative technical errors and not seeking approval from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to commence proceedings. These problems could be solved with the removal of legislative barriers and it is an injustice to victims of racism cases to see their cases not get prosecuted or annulled due to these problems. (Knaus & McGowan, 2021). The Victorian Government is seeking to strengthen the anti-vilification legislation in Victoria based on the recommendations of the Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections, tabled earlier this year in the Victorian Parliament.

- Governments, local councils, community organisations and other institutions sign up to support the #RacismNotWelcome campaign and install street signs to publicly reinforce that racism is unacceptable.
- The Australian Press Council, working with the Australian Human Rights Commission and Race Discrimination Commission, should consult with diversity groups and appoint a diversity officer to help develop advisory guidelines for reporting on issues concerning and affecting migrant/CALD communities to ensure balanced reporting and eliminate potential negative bias
- Social media platforms should be required to make it easier to report and remove trending content confirmed as false that may encourage COVID-19 related racism. Individuals who share removed content should be directly informed by platforms that the content was verified as false.

#STOPASIANHATE AUSTRALIA CAMPAIGN

- The #STOPASIANHATE campaign is a global campaign created as a social media hashtag to highlight the increase in violence and discrimination against Asians since the start of the global pandemic. Following this campaign, the Asian Australian Alliance (AAA), in partnership with Kozziecom, Jenny Leong - NSW State Member for Newtown, Amnesty International and GoFundMe Australia coordinated vigils in Sydney (April 24, 2021), Melbourne (May 23, 2021) and Brisbane (May 29, 2021), the purpose of which was to create a peaceful movement where Asian/Asian Australians and their allies could come together to reflect on the pandemic of racism against Asians domestically and internationally. The vigils were successful in attracting over 500 Asian/Asian Australians and allies (SBS News, 2021)
- The #STOPASIANHATE vigils has led to a partnership and collaboration between the Asian Australian Alliance (AAA) and GoFundMe Australia, with the launch of the website #STOPASIANHATEAU/AUSTRALIA, following the lead of collaborations and partnerships with GoFundMe in the USA and the UK. The purpose of the website is to

provide resources and support for those looking for information on this issue. (Asian Australian Alliance & GoFundMe Australia, 2021)

- The second part of the campaign was to fundraise money for the Asian Australian Alliance (AAA) to continue the work in this area for greater awareness, upcoming training and education programs. So far, the campaign has raised over \$11,000. (Asian Australian Alliance & GoFundMe Australia, 2021)
- The third part of the campaign was to bring on Asian/Asian Australian celebrities as ambassadors. These ambassadors would represent the campaign and front the media to highlight the urgency about the issue of racism and hate against Asian/Asian Australians. The ambassadors include prominent actors such as Chris Pang (Crazy Rich Asians), Remy Hii (Crazy Rich Asians), Pallavi Sharda (Lion, Beecham House) and Arka Das (Lion, Mulan). This campaign is still currently ongoing. (Bassi, 2021)

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