



**Equal Opportunity
Tasmania**

Equal Opportunity Tasmania

Phone: 1300 305 062 (in Tasmania) or (03) 6165 7515

E-mail: office@equalopportunity.tas.gov.au

Office: Level 1, 54 Victoria St, Hobart TAS 7000

Post: GPO Box 197, Hobart TAS 7001

www.equalopportunity.tas.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

14 February 2020

Coronavirus spreads discrimination

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be an issue of global concern, signs of racist behaviours are escalating around the country.

There have been reports from around Australia that abuse towards people of Asian appearance have escalated.

Tasmania is not immune from discriminatory behaviours directed at people who are Asian in appearance.

Race discrimination is against the law in Tasmania under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* (Tas). Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Sarah Bolt, has heard reports of people who are Asian in appearance or who have Asian names being refused service, and refused holiday accommodation. Making racist comments to international students is also discrimination.

It is also against the law to incite hatred, serious contempt or severe ridicule of people because of their race.

Ms Bolt encourages people who have experienced racism to make a complaint or report any incidents to Equal Opportunity Tasmania.

Sarah Bolt, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Equal Opportunity Tasmania

**Celebrating Difference
Embracing Equality**