



MEDIA RELEASE / STATEMENT

2 April 2020

COVID-19 and discrimination law

Equal Opportunity Tasmania has received a significantly increased number of reports about racist comments, in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Of equal concern is the number of racist Facebook posts that have been brought to our attention.

I would like to remind the public that it is against the law to:

- discriminate against someone because of their race;
- offend, humiliate, intimidate, insult or ridicule someone because of their race; and
- incite others to hatred, serious contempt or severe ridicule of people because of their race.

Racist comments posted online may potentially breach Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination laws and result in the matter being formally investigated.

I encourage community members to refrain from engaging in divisive and hostile behaviour, which only exacerbates the fear and anxiety being experienced by the wider population.

It is important that our community focuses on keeping people both physically and mentally well during this time. Racist conduct will only undermine any efforts to do this.

I continue to encourage community members concerned about racism to report conduct they have witnessed. Reports can be made anonymously.

For people who have been subjected to racist comments or behaviours I would encourage you to lodge a complaint. For further information visit www.equalopportunity.tas.gov.au.

For further information and all media enquiries:

For further information and all media enquiries:

Sarah Bolt, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner

Equal Opportunity Tasmania

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