

## Foreword

Over the course of the last two years, I have spoken with and shared community concerns about the heightened experience of anti-Asian racism since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several reports, led by community, have highlighted the disturbing number and nature of these experiences, and the urgent need to take action to prevent the harms they cause.

Concerns about anti-Asian racism have been shared with the Commission via consultations and submissions on the National Anti-Racism Framework Project.

Participants have advised the Commission about the need for more accountability for media providers, including social media platforms, and the need for regulation and action on online hate.

The Online Hate Prevention Institute's (OHPI) work on online hate, including its research, public awareness raising, and policy and law reform campaigning, brings to light the extent of racial hatred in the online world. Its work also highlights the inadequacies of current regulation and standards in protecting community members from the harms that witnessing and engaging with this content can inflict.

This report by OHPI focused specifically on anti-Asian hate, informs, adds to, and aids the Commission in its work to tackle anti-Asian hate. It makes important and sensible recommendations to begin to address the proliferation of harmful online content, including responses that are context-specific and community-centric.

The Australian Human Rights Commission had the privilege of facilitating participation in the consultation conducted as part of this research, reaching out to community representatives to engage them in the conversation on what they deem to be unacceptable and harmful content, and what they would like to see done to prevent it from circulating.

I extend my deep thanks to those who participated in the community consultation on this project for their critical contributions toward refining the recommendations that have been made in this report. It is vital that community be engaged to ensure that policy interventions respond effectively to experiences of racial harm and in this context, community standards, with respect to anti-Asian hate.

I would like to extend my thanks to OHPI and its CEO Andre Oboler for the tireless and crucial work undertaken to tackle cyber-racism, online religious vilification and other group-based forms of online hate, and the important targeted efforts to improve the operation of online systems to reduce harm.

I also extend my thanks to Meta, and their Head of Public Policy in Australia, Josh Machin, for their enthusiastic collaboration on this project.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with OHPI, Meta and members of the community to effectively address anti-Asian hate in the online and offline world. It is an urgent priority intimately connected to the protection of individuals' and communities' human rights.

**Commissioner Chin Tan**  
**Race Discrimination Commissioner**  
**Australian Human Rights Commission**