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Racist coronavirus graffiti sprayed on Chinese-Australian family's home in Melbourne

By Jason Fang, Samuel Yang and Bang Xiao

Posted 3ddays ago, updated 3ddays ago

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Duration: 13 seconds13s

A Chinese-Australian family's home has been graffitied with a racist slur, and a rock thrown through their window.

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A Chinese-Australian family's home has been targeted by vandals for two nights in a row, leaving their garage covered in racist graffiti about the coronavirus pandemic, and one of their windows smashed with a large rock.

Key points:

- The incidents happened on Monday and Tuesday morning in Knoxfield
- One of the occupants said they were "afraid these people will come back"
- It's the latest in a series of apparently racially-motivated attacks

"COVID-19 China die" was spray-painted on the garage door of the family's home on Monday morning in Knoxfield, a suburb in Melbourne's east.

Then on Tuesday morning at around 2:30am, someone smashed one of their windows with a large rock.

Resident Jackson, who requested not to disclose his surname, said he reported the two consecutive nights of vandalism to police.

Coronavirus update: Follow the latest news in our daily wrap.

A racist message was spray-painted onto the family's garage door. (Supplied)

"I'm just scared. I'm busy buying CCTV systems, repairing glass and buying lamps," Jackson said.

"I'm afraid these people will come back tonight."

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews condemned the vandalism as "awful behaviour".

"There's no place in our Victorian community for that sort of conduct. It's just evil," he said during a media briefing today.

"At a time when we should be coming together and supporting each other, it needs to be called out for what it is. It's just appalling, absolutely appalling.

"And it won't help us save lives, it won't help us save jobs, it's not only the wrong thing to do, it's just not smart either.

"We need to be close, we're all keeping our distance, and that's very important, but we also need to acknowledge that we are in this together."

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Duration: 43 seconds43s.

Daniel Andrews responds to coronavirus related racism

A Victoria Police spokesperson said police were investigating two incidents of criminal damage, and that it would be "inappropriate to comment further at this stage".

Camera footage supplied by Jackson showed a person loitering outside the property on Tuesday morning.

In another clip captured a few minutes later, a loud crash can be heard, before a person is seen running through the driveway and jumping over the fence.

A large rock was thrown through a window in Jackson's house. (Supplied)

Loading

A Chinese-Australian online neighbourhood watch group, SOS-AUS, has alerted its members in Victoria to the incident, and encouraged residents to remain vigilant.

Acting Immigration Minister Alan Tudge also took to Twitter to condemn the vandalism.

"This is appalling. The perpetrators are cowards and hopefully will be brought to justice," he wrote.

"No family should have to put up with this. No racism is ever acceptable in our great multicultural nation."

The attack is the latest in a series of apparently racially-motivated incidents in Victoria during the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the weekend, a Geelong doctor was subjected to racist abuse while waiting in line at a takeaway restaurant.

Last week, two female international students were allegedly assaulted by two other women in Melbourne's CBD.

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Video of an alleged assault on two female international students in Melbourne.

Speaking on Tuesday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison hit out against those who were targeting Chinese-Australians, saying "now is a time to support each other".

"Stop it. That's my message. And I think that is the message of every Australian," he said.

Stay up-to-date on the coronavirus outbreak

- <u>Download the ABC News app and subscribe to our range of news alerts for the latest on how the pandemic is impacting the world</u>
- You can also get up-to-date information on the Federal Government's Coronavirus Australia app, available on the <u>App Store, Google Play</u> and <u>the Government's WhatsApp channel.</u>

Mr Morrison said Chinese-Australians provided one of the "greatest defences" for the wider public during the earliest stages of the pandemic.

"They were the ones who first went into self-isolation, they were the ones who were returning from family visits up into China ... It was through their care, it was through their commitment, their patience that actually Australia was protected in the first wave," he said.

"So absolutely I deplore that sort of behaviour against any Australian regardless of their ethnicity or their religion or whatever it happens to be."

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