

Thursday 24 May 2018

## **COUNCIL VOWS TO DO MORE TO STAMP OUT RACISM IN RYDE**

The City of Ryde has vowed to do more to combat racism in the community as a direct response to the racist signs that were recently found in Ryde.

Council resolved to take the action at its May meeting as part of a Mayoral Minute, which in a City of Ryde first was published in three languages – English, Chinese and Korean.

Earlier this month, the Ryde community was left shocked and appalled after racist signs targeting the Asian-Australian community were found in a number of public places in the Ryde area.

In condemning those responsible for the racist signs, the City of Ryde reaffirmed its commitment to the 'Racism! It stops with me' campaign and vowed to continue to promote the initiative's message that racism has no place in any parts of Australia.

In addition the City of Ryde will seek feedback from the Community Harmony Reference Group, Festivals and Events Advisory Committee as well as the Ryde Youth Council on ways Council can further promote multiculturalism and inclusiveness.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the Ryde community would not stand for racism in any form.

"The Ryde community stands together in condemning the racist views of the people responsible for producing and distributing these abhorrent signs. The signs are hurtful and seek to divide our community," Clr Laxale said.

"Our City is one of the most diverse cities in Australia with most residents celebrating the area's multiculturalism and taking pride in making the area an inclusive society for all.

"Despite this, it is now evident that Council and the wider Ryde community have an important responsibility to do more to promote social inclusion to ensure incidents of racism no longer occur."

Clr Laxale repeated his appeal for anyone with information or CCTV footage that may assist in identifying who was responsible for the racist signs to contact the City of Ryde or the Ryde Police Area Command.