Coronavirus: a sense of proportion matters

Australia’s peak public health organisation, the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), said continued vigilance in the face of the Novel Coronavirus outbreak should also be met by public calm and kindness supported by the evidence.

“We join the Government and health authorities in calling on Australians to explicitly acknowledge and condemn racism with zero-tolerance for anti-Chinese sentiment,” PHAA CEO Terry Slevin said.

“In terms of risk and containing the spread of the virus, it’s where you have been rather than who you are that matters.”

As of this morning, ten Australians were being treated for the virus (now called COVID-19) and five have recovered. There remains no evidence to date of transmission in Australia.

“These are low numbers which, and certainly no reason for prejudice of any nature.”

“The rate of people recovering is potentially a good indicator of progression of an epidemic,” said Mr Slevin.

“It looks like the COVID-19 has a mortality rate around less than 2%, and this appears not to be rising.”

“There has been very little reporting of the number of cases diagnosed with the virus who have recovered. This number is growing rapidly every day. It is likely to continue to do so.”

“Understand the epidemiology of infections is difficult but the good news is that we are seeing more data being rapidly published compared to previous outbreaks.”

“The best course of action remains continuing to follow the advice of experts who have been effective from the very early stages of the virus in reducing its spread in Australia,” Mr Slevin said.

ENDS

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