

Student Peak Bodies Condemn Sydney Chinese Students Attack

Disturbing reports of physical and verbal attack on Chinese students in Sydney were brought to CISA's attention by a number of agitated and angry students.

On the 23rd of April, two Chinese international students were left injured and humiliated after a gang attack on a Sydney train. CISA was contacted and informed by worried students in Sydney and Melbourne.

"Incidents of this nature cause a lot of concern and unease among the international student community as the thought that the victim could have been any one of them crosses every student's mind. Racially motivated crimes are even more concerning because anyone who looks or dresses a certain way could be a potential victim."

Said CISA President, Arfa Noor.

"International students and their families consider Australia to be a safe and welcoming country and we have a duty of care to ensure that we provide them with such an environment during their stay here. A strong message needs to be sent out that racially motivated crimes will not be tolerated and that government and the education sector take safety of students very seriously." Miss Noor added.

The incident was condemned by other student peak bodies.

"The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations is extremely concerned about the general safety of international students studying in Australia. International students mainly have to rely on public transport to get from point A to B. The train attack on Chinese students in Sydney over the weekend will not be a welcoming prospect for those considering to study in Australia in future and we request an inquiry into making these services safer for our valued international student cohort." said Chamonix Terblanche, CAPA National President.

The National Union of Students also expressed shock and concern over the attacks.

"All students, regardless of their race, gender, or sexuality, should feel safe and comfortable undertaking study in Australia", said Donherra Walmsley, President of NUS. "We are particularly worried to hear about these attacks taking place on public transport considering the rising cost of living close to campus is pushing many students further and further away from the city."

"Immediate steps need to be taken to improve the safety of trains for all travellers. Transit officers and police officers patrolling trains should not just be looking to catch fare evaders, they should be looking out for the wellbeing of passengers as their first priority," Ms Walmsley said.

"We support the Council of International Students Australia's calls for more to be done to ensure the safety of international students in Australia," she said.

"The wonderful thing about international students is that when faced by a problem, they do not want sit and complain about it, they want to be a part of the solution." said Noor, talking about the students who contacted CISA and wanted to know how they could work together for the safety of their peers.



“We want students to know that CISA, NUS and CAPA will continue to work with the authorities and the local community on greater safety measures for students so that they can have a great Australian experience”