



African Australian Council (AAC) ACT Inc.
Motto: One Voice || ABN: 68 565 721 783

Secretary:

|| President:

Email:

Website: www.africanaustraliancouncilact.com.au

03 July 2024

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Re: Racial profiling of a Canberra resident of African descent on 27 June 2024

Dear Andrew,

We trust this letter finds you well.

We are writing to express our deep concern and condemnation of the recent incident involving Tuck, an African-Australian man who was subjected to racial profiling by his neighbour and ACT Policing. The distressing events unfolded on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at Tuck's own home in Narrabundah. He was unjustly accused of trespassing, arrested, and humiliated despite presenting his keys as proof of residency.

Tuck, a 38-year-old valued Canberra resident and well-educated health policy professional, was recovering from a recent cardiac emergency when a neighbour, without any greeting, questioned his presence with the loaded inquiry, "Where are you from?" The neighbour's subsequent actions, including calling the police, were clearly motivated by racial bias.

The police response was an overreaction. As detailed in the *Riotact* article '[Something to do with my appearance](#)' – [man arrested for trespassing at his own home | Riotact \(the-riotact.com\)](#), five officers and three police cars arrived, subjecting Tuck to aggressive questioning and demands for identification, even after he pointed out his nearby residence and provided his keys. Their refusal to believe him, despite clear evidence, and the escalation to physical confrontation where Tuck was handcuffed, are unacceptable and indicative of a broader problem of racial discrimination and profiling. Accusing Tuck of being "belligerent" underscores the deep-seated biases that influenced the situation. This incident has left Tuck feeling unsafe and unwelcome in his own home, a place where he should feel safe and respected.

While ACT Policing maintains the officers acted appropriately, we strongly disagree. The disproportionate response, refusal to accept Tuck's proof of residency, and physical restraint all point to racial profiling. Such incidents erode trust between the police and the communities they serve.

This treatment highlights the persistent problem of systemic racism in Australia, echoing the findings of the UN Working Group on People of African Descent (UN-WGEPAD) report (A/HRC/54/67/Add.2) [<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5467add2-visit-australia-report-working-group-experts-people-african>] released on September 27, 2023.

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The report underscores the systemic discrimination faced by people of African descent in various spheres, including law enforcement.

Therefore, we urge the Legislative Assembly to take the following actions:

- Conduct a thorough and independent review of this incident and make the findings public.
- Initiate a review of ACT Policing protocols to ensure they address racial profiling and implicit bias.
- Hold the officers involved accountable for their actions.
- A formal apology to Tuck and his family.
- For measures to be put in place to prevent such occurrences in the future. This includes mandatory racial bias training for all police officers, stronger accountability mechanisms, and community engagement initiatives to rebuild trust and ensure that all residents, regardless of their race or ethnicity, are treated with dignity and respect.

We believe these steps are crucial in ensuring the safety and fair treatment of all Canberrans. We look forward to your prompt response and action to address this serious issue.

Sincerely,

Dr Yvette Poudjom Djomani

President *on behalf* of the African Australian Council ACT Inc.

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