

15 April 2024

Statement on the recent Bondi Junction attack

On behalf of the ACPA Board we wish to send our heartfelt condolences to all those people directly affected by the recent events in Sydney on Saturday. We know that such events can have a significant impact on the lives of those directly affected as well as those who were involved on so many levels including witnesses, journalists, and medical and police professionals.

More indirectly the profound effect of these events will impact many people in our Sydney community and further afield.

Emergencies of the sort that occurred on Saturday can be extremely stressful and it is both normal and common to feel overwhelmed as a result. Assisting those who are affected by helping them feel safe, providing reassurance and care, as well as opportunities to share their feelings can be helpful. But we know that people can experience very different impacts of such events and show them in different ways. While some people may seek professional assistance others may be supported by those around them. Sensitive and supportive practical support will be a helpful initial response to assist the natural resilience in individuals exposed to traumatic events.

Where required we know that our clinical psychology members will help those most affected, with the emotional fallout of this tragic event.

Immediate help can be found through Lifeline on 13 11 14, Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636, or the Kids helpline 1800 55 1800.

Prof Caroline Hunt
ACPA President