

Heroes of our city come to the fore

Paul Nicolaou



It will take a long time, if ever, for Sydney to overcome the loss of innocence that has accompanied the terrible events at Bondi Beach.

No longer can we imagine that our wonderful city is immune from the wanton violence that is sadly so common in other parts of the world.

This week, the world is looking at us, no doubt thinking, if the killing of innocent people can happen in Sydney of all places, it can happen anywhere.

There isn't room to list all of them all here but, as a Sydneysider, I have never felt more proud of the response of our city's magnificent emergency services and health professionals.

I can also say that I am immensely proud of one of Surf Life Saving NSW and its people.

Their response is emblematic of the selfless courage of so many on that day.

As their CEO Steve Pearce has explained, his team members did all they could to assist the victims of the terrorist attack.

Not only this, at the same time, they were on their rescue boards helping people in trouble in the water and assisting a mother who was in labour.

To help the surf heroes of Bondi recover from the trauma on Sunday, every piece of equipment they used, from long boards to first-aid kits will be replaced to help erase the memories.

Business Sydney expresses profound grief and sadness for the individuals and families harmed in the terrible events at Bondi Beach. On behalf of our members, we reaffirm our solidarity with Sydney's Jewish community who have endured so much in the past two years.

They make such a wonderful contribution to the life of our city and our thoughts are firmly with them at this time of tragedy.

As a city and a people we must be resolute in working with the police, the NSW government and community organisations to ensure such a stain on our city can never be repeated.

Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney