

Media statement

12 February 2019

Take the time to reflect on our nation's history

13 February is National Apology Day, the anniversary of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivering the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples, especially the Stolen Generations. For Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, this date holds deep meaning.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) encourages everyone to engage in state-wide events that mark the 11th Anniversary of this Apology.

SCHHS Cultural Practice Workforce Trainer, Janita Adams, said on this day she hopes all Australians will reflect on our nation's history.

"It is important people attend an event or participate in some way. If you can't get to an event, reach out to someone to ask about the day or do some research into the impact the Assimilation policy had on many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

"Apology Day is a day of mixed emotions, a feeling of sadness remembering the pain and loss of separation for many families. It's also a day where I feel glad those times have changed and have a feeling of hope for the future of my children and grandchildren."

Acting Improve the Patient Journey Coordinator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team, Chris Gorrie says we cannot change the past but together we can change the future and heal together.

"Coming together on occasions like this to listen and share stories, storytelling, will help with the healing process.

"Every year I think about the stories that my grandmother told me about her separation from her siblings. I remember my grandmother having tears coming down her face when she was telling me this story all these years later."

In the spirit of coming together, SCHHS developed a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to support the national reconciliation movement with the input and support of the community.

The RAP builds on the current activities which have raised the profile of programs and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the health service, by providing education, awareness and leadership for dialogue and understanding.

Chris said: "The RAP demonstrates practical actions and measures, both within our health service and our community. The Elders were glad to be part of the consultation process."

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Apology Day celebrations are being held at Gympie and Sunshine Coast University Hospital. The Gympie ceremony will include an Open Mic where community members are given the opportunity to share their stories.

ENDS

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

You're invited to join the Apology Day Celebration, being held at Gympie Hospital.

Where: The Peaceful Garden (behind Little Haven)

When: Wednesday 13th February 2019, 10.00am

OR

The 11th Annual Apology to the Stolen Generations Morning Tea, being held at Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI)

Where: Meet out the front of SCHI at 9:55am sharp

When: Friday, 15 February 2019

There will be an opportunity to film Aunty Judi Wicks addressing attendees and interviews afterwards with Janita Adams.

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