Take the time to reflect on our nation’s history

13 February is the anniversary of 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 12th Anniversary of this Apology.

SCHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Coordinator, 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.”

One SCHHS initiative bringing hope to some of the hard-to-reach sections of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, leading the way in our region in closing the gap in health inequalities, is the Jabba Jabba program.

The program is a joint initiative between the SCHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team and Women’s and Family Services’ Child and Community Health team. It provides culturally appropriate access to mainstream healthcare services including vaccination services for children.

The Jabba Jabba program were honoured to accept the 2019 Queensland Health Award for Excellence in Indigenous Leadership.

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

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