



## Media Release

### National Sorry Day – 26 May 2017

National Sorry Day will be commemorated on the 26 May 2017 with a raft of activities at Collina Oval.

National Sorry Day is of extra significance this year as it coincides with the following key anniversaries and commemorations:

- 20th Anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which was passed with over 90% of Australians supporting the changes which resulted in Aboriginal people being included in the census count.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mabo decision
- Reconciliation Week – 27<sup>th</sup> May to 3 June

The forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children began as early as the mid-1800s and continued until the 1970s. The Bringing Them Home Report was the result of an inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, and recommended both an apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reparations.

The term “Stolen Generations” refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who were forcibly removed, as children, from their families by government, welfare or church authorities and placed into institutional care or with non-Indigenous foster families.

Chairperson of the Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service, Lynette Kilby said “National Sorry Day continues to hold special significance to all Australians. It is important to recognise the suffering faced by many Aboriginal families that had children forcibly removed”.

The day will have a number of activities including:

- Elders Tent
- Kids Games
- NRL Coaching Clinic
- Reconciliation Cup (Touch football Competition between Griffith High School, Wade High School and Marion Catholic College)
- Variety of Guest Speakers

Key organisers of the day Mr Stephen Collins from the Griffith AMS stated “We encourage all the community to attend and take part in the commemorations. We are excited to announce Mr Luke Carroll who is a well known Australian Aboriginal Actor will be MC for the day. Luke has been an actor on both TV and movies and featured in Home and Away from 1993-2007”.

There will be Aboriginal food available such as Lemon Myrtle Cheesecake and Curry Kangaroo Stew for people to try. The Lions Club will also be in attendance to cook a BBQ during the day.

Anyone wanting further information on the day can ring the Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service on 69620000.

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