

MEDIA RELEASE

31 May 2018

Carers Celebrate Launch of Reconciliation Action Plan

Carers ACT has launched its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which actively recognises and supports the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers and their families.

Launched on 31 May during National Reconciliation Week, the RAP outlines the actions the organisation is taking on its journey towards achieving reconciliation and strengthening its relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“The RAP lays a platform for us to engage our staff, stakeholders and community in working towards meaningful reconciliation,” said Carers ACT CEO Lisa Kelly. “It reflects our commitment to be part of a community which celebrates diversity, upholds equality and recognises and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians,” she said.

Deputy CEO of Reconciliation Australia, Andrea Kelly, told guests at the launch that reconciliation is what happens in every workplace, classroom, business, hospital, sporting club, university and community space.

“Community organisations, such as Carers ACT, play a pivotal role in advancing social change by fostering alternative visions of what a society can be, and by bringing those visions into being,” she said.

Carers ACT’s vision, said Lisa Kelly, is to build a more diverse, equal and inclusive community in which all carers can live, work, socialise and care equally.

“We are working to achieve this by ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers have a voice in informing how carer services can best be shaped and delivered, to provide the support they need,” said Lisa Kelly. “This reflects the organisation’s long and proud history of advocating for and raising the awareness and profile of carers,” she said.

“We are also working to reduce barriers to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have access to services, information and supports that are culturally appropriate and that meet their needs.”

“One practical cultural support has been the formation of our Nguluway Cultural Art Group, which allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers to gather together fortnightly, share food and stories, build relationships, connect to culture and have an important break from their caring role,” Lisa Kelly said.

“They also create the most beautiful artworks. Their latest collaborative project, presented to Carers ACT at the launch of our RAP, was a special eight-piece mural depicting the serpent and its journey. Each artist’s piece reflected their own cultural journey and we will be hanging the mural in our main hallway as a beautiful reminder to us all of our own journey towards reconciliation.”

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Copies of our RAP are available on our [website](#)