

MEDIA RELEASE

31 January 2017

The Journey of Healing Continues for the Stolen Generations at the Annual Apology Day Community Event

Adelaide, South Australia – Relationships Australia South Australia, in partnership with Nunkuwarrin Yunti, Reconciliation SA and many of South Australia's leading service providers, will once again host the **Annual Apology Day Community Event** on Monday 13 February 2017.

Each year, the **Annual Apology Day Community Event** is held on the Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations given by the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd in 2008. It not only marks this important reconciliation event in our Nation's history, but also reminds us that without ongoing recognition, rehabilitation and reparation, the healing journey for the Survivors of the Stolen Generations cannot continue.

The **Annual Apology Day Community Event** is the only event focused exclusively on healing for the Stolen Generations and that offers a safe place for this to occur. This is achieved through the sharing of dance and song by local Aboriginal performers, traditional healing by Ngangkari and stalls providing pampering for the Survivors and their families.

"Last year we focused on 'listening'. Listening to the stories of pain and resilience of the Stolen Generations community. This year's theme of 'Look and Acknowledge' focuses on acknowledging how children were forcibly removed from their parents and separated from their family, land and customs," said Grant Pearson, Regional Manager Central and Hills, Relationships Australia SA.

This is a significant year for reconciliation in Australia; it has been 20 years since the "Bringing Them Home" Report (1997) was released; 25 years since native title was recognised in Australia during the Mabo v Queensland case; and 50 years since Australians voted in the 1967 Referendum to amend the constitution to include Aboriginal people in the census.

"This is a big year for acknowledging how far we have come and what else needs to be done, not just words but real action," said Mr Pearson. "The past haunts us, but reconciliation begins with acknowledging the wrongs of the past. We welcome all people to attend the Annual Apology Day Community Event."

Last year, the **Annual Apology Day Community Event** welcomed over 600 people to the southern parklands to listen and reflect, as stories of trauma and resilience were shared. This event is run each year on a volunteer basis.

The **Annual Apology Day Community Event** will be held on Monday 13 February 2017 from 10am – 2pm in the Veale Gardens on South Terrace.

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About Relationships Australia South Australia

Supporting you through change

We believe in the transformative power of human relationships lies at the heart of everything we do.

We work to improve the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities by providing a broad range of services including counselling, gambling help, post separation services, post adoption support, health and multicultural services.

Our education and training arm, the **Australian Institute of Social Relations** offers workforce development courses and Nationally Recognised Qualifications that equips people with relevant skills for the workplace.

For more information about how we can support you through change, call 1300 364 277, visit our the Relationships Australia SA website www.rasa.org.au or our education and training arm www.socialrelations.edu.au

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