



MEDIA RELEASE

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UNITINGCARE NSW.ACT WELCOMES GOVERNMENT APOLOGY

Leading community service provider, UnitingCare NSW.ACT welcomes the Federal Government's historic apology to the stolen generations made in Parliament this week.

"The Government has finally recognised and apologised for the harm caused to stolen generations as a result of past policies. On behalf of the nation, they have also offered respect to the resilience and dignity of stolen generations. This marks a positive step forward towards building a reconciled Australia," says Executive Director of UnitingCare NSW.ACT, Reverend Harry Herbert.

"The Uniting Church itself entered a covenant with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more than a decade ago and State Parliaments and other institutions have also done so. It is to the credit of the Prime Minister that he has taken this up in the national parliament as one of his first initiatives", Reverend Herbert said.

UnitingCare NSW.ACT provides a range of services including aged care and disability programs, services for vulnerable families, children and young people and quality preschool education and care. Motivated by a drive to address injustice, UnitingCare NSW.ACT is strongly committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve health, education and employment outcomes.

"Denying past wrongs makes it difficult to build long-term, positive relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities," Reverend Herbert said.

"An apology allows people to heal, and lays the foundation for a future that promotes true social inclusion and achievement of social justice," he continued.

"We look forward to building upon this meaningful first step towards a truly reconciled Australia, and importantly, continuing our work in addressing the serious impacts of disadvantage facing too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across NSW today."

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