

City of Adelaide

National Sorry Day

Acknowledgement

The City of Adelaide joins with many individuals, church, civic, educational and community groups and organisations, in recognising that this is Kurna land and that the processes of settlement which gave rise to the Adelaide of today resulted in the dispossession and dislocation of Aboriginal First Nations Peoples. While there is much in that history of settler development in which to take pride, along with that satisfaction and benefit goes a responsibility to acknowledge the continue effects which resulted for Aboriginal Peoples who were dispossessed.

In particular, we acknowledge the hurt and harm that was caused by the forced removal of children from their families. In spite of the intentions of those involved and the genuine care given in many cases to those 'stolen children', many suffered great grief, physical and mental damage, and were deprived of love and cultural nurturance. Those left behind also suffered horrific pain and grief at their loss.

Recognition that some of those who were removed, received education and opportunities unavailable within Aboriginal communities, cannot be regarded as adequate justification or compensation for this wrenching apart of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

The City of Adelaide is committed to the pursuit of a united and equitable Australia which respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders heritage and cooperates to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders disadvantage. This process of reconciliation requires serious consideration of the whole of Australian history, including the extent to which that history underlies Aboriginal Peoples disadvantage today.

Council, on behalf of the people of Adelaide, sincerely acknowledges the pain and damage caused to Aboriginal Peoples, especially to the children and families who were forcibly separated.

Council, on behalf of the people of Adelaide, endorse the National Apology to the Stolen Generations, offered as part of the healing of the nation.

As part of the City of Adelaide response to the 'Bringing Them Home' report, Council undertakes:

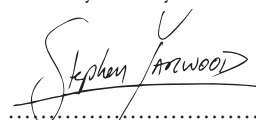
- To support 'National Sorry Day' as an annual event to focus attention to the continuing consequences of forced removal and the need to make appropriate reparations.
- To contribute to community awareness and understanding of the history of Aboriginal Peoples in South Australia, in particular the experiences and effects of forced removal.
- To work towards reconciliation in line with the City of Adelaide Vision Statement.

Council has, in line with these undertakings already commenced a program of consultation and partnership with Aboriginal Peoples which includes the following projects:

- Community education initiatives on Aboriginal issues and reconciliation, including native title.
- Local history projects such as mapping the history of Kurna occupation including Kurna names, publications and memorials.
- Maintain the Reconciliation Committee to ensure Aboriginal perspectives and aspirations are considered by Council.
- Support initiatives to improve coordination of community services to Aboriginal Peoples in the city area, especially in youth services, public health and welfare.

Signed on

Thursday 24 May 2012



Stephen Yarwood

Lord Mayor of Adelaide

Dual Chairperson

Reconciliation Committee



Yvonne Agius

Dual Chairperson

Reconciliation Committee



John Browne

Chairperson

Journey of Healing SA Inc

Deputy Lord Mayor

David Plumridge AM

Councillor Houssam Abiad

Councillor Susan Clearihan

Councillor Mark Hamilton

Councillor Megan Hender

Councillor Michael Henningsen

Councillor Michael Llewellyn-Smith

Councillor Natasha Malani

Councillor Anne Moran

Councillor Sandy Wilkinson

Councillor Anthony Williamson