

Media Release
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Celebrate NAIDOC Week

UnitingCare NSW.ACT's Indigenous Employment Officer, Mary Day, is urging all Australians, regardless of ethnicity and beliefs, to participate in NAIDOC Week from Sunday 5 to Sunday 12 July 2009.

The occasion presents Australians from all walks of life with an opportunity to acknowledge and show respect for the traditional and cultural heritage of countless generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme, "Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth" is particularly special says Mary as it encourages different generations to recognise the contributions each has made to their communities.

"Our Elders have so much to teach us about life – not only their skills but about our history and what makes us who we are.

"Just as it is important to acknowledge their leadership and life lessons, we need to encourage younger generations to embrace their heritage and be positive role models", Mary said.

NAIDOC Week is not only a chance to recognise and respect the culture and contributions of Indigenous Australians in our community but a chance to see how we ourselves can contribute to closing the gap in areas of employment, medical, housing and education.

UnitingCare NSW.ACT is committed to closing the employment gap which still exists for Indigenous Australians by being an employer of choice in the community sector. Having signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education, Employment

and Workplace Relations, the organisation has established an Indigenous Employment Strategy.

This strategy aims to provide employment, learning and development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across all levels of UnitingCare NSW.ACT and its three Service Groups – UnitingCare Ageing, UnitingCare Children’s Services and UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families.

“I would love all Australians to recognise this important occasion and think about the ways in which they could help”, Mary said.

To see how you can participate in NAIDOC Week visit your local council website for community events in your area.

For more information on UnitingCare NSW.ACT and our Indigenous Employment Strategy please visit www.unitingcarenewswact.org.au.

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For further information or an interview with Mary Day, Indigenous Employment Officer, UnitingCare NSW.ACT please contact Ingrid Hoff, Public Relations Assistant on 02 8267 4374 or email ingridh@nsw.uca.org.au.