

Media Release
For Immediate Release
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Quiet achievers pave the way to reconciliation

The contribution of one might seem small but when combined with others they become powerful. That's the message Reverend Harry Herbert, Executive Director; UnitingCare NSW.ACT is giving ahead of NAIDOC Week, which falls in the first full week of July.

Reflecting on the official theme of the week, "Unsung Heroes – Closing the Gap by Leading the Way" which acknowledges the contributions of unsung Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards reconciliation, Rev Herbert said that all Australians need to be aware of how powerful their actions can be.

"Too many dismiss the steps they take as insignificant. This NAIDOC Week, I urge everyone to take a step forward for reconciliation and help us make a difference together.

"One of the greatest steps we can take towards reconciliation is raising awareness. It's as simple as talking to neighbours, friends, colleagues and family about the meaning of events like NAIDOC Week and how we can all pave a path to reconciliation," Rev Herbert explained.

An annual event, NAIDOC Week stands for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee. This year's NAIDOC Week commences Sunday 4 July and wraps up Sunday 11 July.

Mary Day, Indigenous Employment Officer, UnitingCare NSW.ACT said that all of our 'unsung heroes' have left footprints for us to follow.

“They lead the way by standing up and contesting with passion. They ‘closed the gap’ each time and for this; we need to acknowledge our ‘unsung heroes.’ Some of them may have been a brother, sister, cousin, uncle, aunty or grandmother.

“UnitingCare NSW.ACT is dedicated to making a stand in ‘closing the gap’ through employment.”

UnitingCare NSW.ACT is hosting NAIDOC Week events across a number of its services and is encouraging everyone to do the same.

Various ways you can participate in NAIDOC Week include:

- Hosting an event at work
- Display NAIDOC Week posters to promote the event
- Invite local Indigenous groups to talk at your workplace
- Visit areas of Indigenous importance in your local area
- Attend an event during the NAIDOC week celebrations

So make an effort to spread the word about NAIDOC Week, Sunday 4 July to Sunday 11 July. You may be presently surprised at how much you can achieve.

For more information on NAIDOC Week in 2010 please visit the official website:

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/NAIDOC-about/naidoc.aspx>.

To learn about UnitingCare NSW.ACT’s Indigenous initiatives and services please visit www.unitingcarenswact.org.au.

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Reverend Harry Herbert, Executive Director, UnitingCare NSW.ACT or Mary Day, Indigenous Employment Officer, UnitingCare NSW.ACT, please contact Ingrid Hoff, Public Relations Assistant, UnitingCare NSW.ACT on 02 8267 4374 or ingridh@nsw.uca.org.au.