

Monday 20 February 2017

Dietitians Association of Australia launches Reconciliation Action Plan

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is launching its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which maps out the Association's commitment to building the relationships, respect and opportunities essential to reconciliation.

The launch (21 February) will be introduced jointly by DAA President Liz Kellett and General Manager of the Reconciliation Action Plan Program Darryl Monaghan, and include a welcome to country by Aunty Agnes Shea.

Ms Kellett said she was proud to unveil the Association's first Reconciliation Action Plan.

"We want to recognise and support diversity in cultures and practice areas, and foster collegiality, collaboration and reconciliation between the First People of Australia and the wider Australian community. Our Reflect RAP formally outlines this commitment," said Ms Kellett.

She said DAA's RAP has provided a focus for the DAA board, staff and members and has been a prompt for considering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in various forums.

As the peak body for dietitians in Australia, DAA represents more than 6,300 members, who are passionate about improving the mental and physical health of all Australians, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through good nutrition.

"Improved nutrition and better food security among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is essential to 'closing the gap' in chronic diseases and life expectancy among non-Indigenous Australians.

"We aspire to engage, partner and work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, communities and organisations, in a meaningful way to improve food security and health outcomes," said Ms Kellett.

Mr Monaghan congratulated DAA for embracing reconciliation and taking real action.

"This Reflect RAP will assist you to develop a solid RAP governance model and build the business case for future commitments to cultural learning, practising cultural protocols, and promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment. We look forward to following your reconciliation journey," said Mr Monaghan.

Ms Kellett praised the efforts of the DAA Indigenous Nutrition Interest Group and the Association's RAP Working Group for championing the development of the Reflect RAP.

By adopting a Reflect RAP, DAA commits to:

- Build relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Encourage respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Take opportunities for reconciliation
- Track progress against our intentions.



MEDIA RELEASE

DAA will support Australia's key awareness-raising week for reconciliation, National Reconciliation Week, from 27 May to 3 June.

ENDS

For further information or to organise an interview, contact Felicity Curtain, Dietitians Association of Australia, on 0409 661 920.

Media opportunity:

What: Dietitians Association of Australia Reconciliation Action Plan February 2017-February 2018, to be launched by DAA President Liz Kellett and General Manager, Reconciliation Action Plan Program, Darryl Monaghan.

When: Tuesday 21 February, 2-3pm

Where: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, 245 Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach, Canberra.

DAA thanks Leigh Harris from Ingeous Studios for designing the graphic artwork for our RAP.

Note to Editors: The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the professional body representing dietitians nationally. Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) is the only national credential recognised by the Australian Government, Medicare, the Department of Veteran Affairs and most private health funds as the quality standard for nutrition and dietetics services in Australia. For more information visit www.daa.asn.au. For the Media section on the DAA website contains DAA's media releases and position on topical nutrition issues in the media.