



MEDIA RELEASE

NNC recognises oldest living culture with official apology

29 May 2018

As part of National Reconciliation Week, this Wednesday, 30th May at 11:00am, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) will issue a formal apology statement to representatives of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council in Newtown Square. The event will include a smoking ceremony, Yidaki (Didgeridoo) performance and storytelling. Everyone is welcome!

NNC is committed to upholding the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the apology is part of marking the Centre's commitment to working with the First Australians.

Liz Yeo, NNC CEO said, "We recognise that this was, is and always will be Aboriginal land, and it has never been ceded. NNC recognises that Aboriginal culture has endured and is globally recognised as one of the world's oldest living cultures."

"We commit ourselves to opposing racism and all forms of discrimination. We commit ourselves to a reconciliation process by seeking advice from, and working with, Indigenous organisations and communities in their struggle for better health, justice, educational and housing outcomes."

"If we want to work for real change we must work together and this will not be a rushed process."

We understand that recognition of, and respect for, the Indigenous cultures of this country must include coming to terms with a history marked by racism, dispossession of land, oppression of peoples and culture, slave labour and stolen wages, the deliberate degradation of language and the forced removal of children.

As an organisation partly funded under the Specialist Homeless Services' program, NNC is a signatory to the Redressing Aboriginal Homeless Accord. Amongst other aims, signatories commit to closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples by taking a holistic and human rights approach to redressing Aboriginal homelessness. The level of homelessness experienced by Aboriginal people is totally unacceptable, and we commit ourselves to doing whatever we can, in partnership with Aboriginal people, to address this.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre exists to create a more inclusive, resilient, vibrant and self-reliant community. We are a not-for-profit incorporated association serving Sydney's inner western suburbs. We are focused on ending homelessness and social isolation in our community.

Contact

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