

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

From: Kasey McCulloch, Media Officer, Mercy Health

Event: 2.00pm, Wednesday 15 February 2017

Mercy Health celebrates the launch of their first Reconciliation Action Plan

An historic milestone in Mercy Health's journey towards culturally safe healthcare will be celebrated on Wednesday 15 February with the formal launch of the organisation's Health Services Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Mercy Health is a key healthcare provider to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities of northern and western Melbourne, and the Albury and Young regions of NSW. The organisation has long recognised the need to provide services and work environments that are appropriate, accessible, and sensitive to the culture, and values of First Australians.

The Community will join Mercy Health RAP Committee members, staff and leadership to mark this significant event. Celebrations will include a performance from acclaimed singer/songwriter and Mutti Mutti man Kutcha Edwards.

Chief Executive-Health Services Linda Mellors said the RAP launch will be a watershed moment in the organisation's history. "This is an extremely exciting and important development in our commitment to equity and access in our services," explained Adj Prof Mellors. "Our RAP calls on all staff to think carefully about the factors that contribute to health disparity and the ways in which we can make a tangible difference.

"It also builds upon the many well-established initiatives already in place across Mercy Health-Health Services. We are looking forward to continuously improving our engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities and key organisations in designing and delivering our care."

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For interviews, photo or filming opportunities, please contact:

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