

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Mercy Health celebrates Harmony Day with saris and grass skirts**

From India to Indonesia and everywhere in between, the dozens of different cultures that make up Mercy Health will be celebrated when the not-for-profit aged care organisation celebrates its cultural heritage next week.

Harmony Day, which is held each year on March 21, celebrates Australia's cultural diversity and promotes values of inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. These align with Mercy Health's values of compassion, hospitality, respect, innovation, stewardship and teamwork.

The day's inclusive multicultural message rings strong at Mercy Place Mont Clare, where staff and residents represent more than a dozen different countries from all over the world.

Team members will kick off the celebrations with a special morning tea organised by staff, who will be talking to residents about the traditions found in their home countries, with staff attending in their national costumes, while also bearing dishes from their countries of birth.

Mercy Place Mont Clare Service Manager, Janelle McFarlane, said Harmony Day gave residents and staff an opportunity to celebrate their diversity and heritage.

"Our residents at Mercy Place Mont Clare, along with our staff, really embrace Harmony Day; we think it's important to create opportunities for both our staff and residents to experience other cultures in a fun and inclusive way," Ms McFarlane says.

"Our home is almost like a small United Nations as we have people from a range of countries, all of whom are looking forward to seeing each other in their traditional dress, whether that's kimonos, saris, Hawaiian grass skirts or even Aussie shorts and bush hats.

"I think our whole team really respects the reasoning behind Harmony Day, which is one of hospitality and respect for each other, and these are also some of our important values at Mercy Health."

Mercy Health is a Catholic community not for profit provider of care, founded by the Sisters of Mercy and grounded in a 2000 year history of caring for those in need. The organisation is a national service provider of health and aged care throughout Victoria, Southern New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

In Western Australia, the organisation cares for over 300 people across six residential homes, with 78 independent living units.

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