



YWCA CANBERRA

Media Release

YWCA CANBERRA'S STRETCH RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED

18 August 2014: YWCA Canberra launched its Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at a lunchtime event at the Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre last Wednesday.

The launch was a celebration of the work YWCA Canberra has contributed as a champion for reconciliation in the Canberra community. It was attended by Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Agnes Shea, local school principals, representatives from the community sector, and YWCA Canberra staff from across the region.

Aunty Agnes Shea, who spoke at the event, said, "YWCA Canberra embraces a grass-roots approach to its work, involving all of its clients, program participants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners, staff members and its Board of Directors in the reconciliation journey."

She commended YWCA Canberra on its ongoing work supporting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women through initiatives like scholarships for the She Leads Conference, the Great Ideas Grants Program, and the Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Leadership Program.

Executive Director Frances Crimmins said YWCA Canberra is dedicated not only to taking action on reconciliation within the organisation, but also to championing reconciliation among the broader Canberra community.

"An important part of our role as a leading not-for-profit organisation in Canberra is to educate others about the importance of reconciliation and constitutional recognition," Ms Crimmins said.

"Our RAP is an important educational tool, not only for our staff, but also for the communities we work with, like the children who attend our children's services and their parents for example.

“Our ethos is to include everyone in the conversation – it’s like that saying, ‘Don’t have a conversation about us without us’.

“But what makes the RAP program really powerful is that it’s about taking action, and making a measurable contribution to reconciliation.”

YWCA Canberra's stretch RAP will cover the period from August 2014 to August 2016, and sets out clear goals and objectives to achieve within that timeframe.

Ms Crimmins said that while the launch event was an important time to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of YWCA Canberra and the progress to date, she added, “We know we have a long way to go, and we remain committed to reconciliation in the long term.”

Aunty Agnes wished YWCA Canberra well on its way forward. “As you all embark on the implementation of this journey, I wish you luck and thank you for continuing to walk and work with us, the Ngunnawal people,” she said.

Frances Crimmins is available for interview.

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About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women’s issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 350 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children’s services, community development, housing, youth services, women’s leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women’s leadership. For more information visit:

www.ywca-canberra.org.au