



Families and Children's Newsletter

April & May 2023

Email: office@therangecc.org.au Phone: 03 9397 8244

Monday – Friday 7:00am – 6:00pm

National Sorry Day

When is National Sorry Day 2023?

National Sorry Day 2023 falls on 26th May. In fact, it has been held on this date since 1998. It happens on this date as it marks the anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report.

What is National Sorry Day?

National Sorry Day for Australia is a special day that occurs in Australia every year. It is a day of remembrance and commemoration to highlight the impact of past policies of forcible removal on the Stolen Generations. National Sorry Day for Australia as a whole is very important, but it is of particular significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to remember past mistakes and build bridges for a richer, stronger future together.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 MAY — 3 JUNE

**BE A VOICE
FOR GENERATIONS**

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

#NRW2023



National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

27 May - 3 June

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, Be a Voice for Generations, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, let's choose to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

What is National Reconciliation Week?

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey: the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

Dates for your Diary

Thingle Toodle Road Safety Education Program for 4-Year-Old Kindergarten: Tuesday the 2nd of May (Green Group)

Monday the 8th of May (Purple Group) and (Red Group)

Mother's Day Stall: Friday the 12th of May

Wild Action Zoo: Tuesday the 16th of May (Joey Room, Possum Room, Green Group)

Wednesday the 17th of May (Koala Room, Kookaburra Room, Red Group)

Friday the 19th of May (Purple Group, Blue Group)

School Readiness Information Session for Families via Zoom: Monday the 29th of May from 12pm until 1pm (Zoom link to follow)



Meet & Greet

The service held a meet and greet in the evening on Friday the 17th of March where families were invited to enjoy a sausage while chatting to the educators and other families. Aiden (educator in the Koala Room) shaved his hair to raise money for The Leukemia Foundation. Aiden was able to raise \$3,200 for the charity. The Range Children's Centre also celebrated Sandy's retirement by acknowledging her 28 years of service and sharing a cake with the families, children and educators.

Sandy's Last Day of Work will be Friday the 28th of April.

Appreciation:

Thank you to all the educators for their efforts to make the event successful by preparing the indoor and outdoor environments.

Thank you to the families for attending the event and helping to raise funds for The Leukemia Foundation.

Also, thank you to Bridget (Alfie and Eva's mum) for shaving Aiden's hair.

Lastly, thank you to Williamstown Woolworths and Bakers Delight for donating items for the sausage sizzle such as bread.



Family Contribution

The service invites families to come in and share their talents and interests with the children and educators for example, playing a musical instrument, speaking another language, singing, gardening, cooking etc.

However, please ensure you have a current volunteer or employee working with children's card.



Welcome to the Team

The Range Children's Service would like to welcome our newest cook, Nicole. She has settled in very well and the children are enjoying the delicious meals she is preparing.



Mother's Day Stall

In celebration of all the special people in our children's lives, the service will host a Mother's Day Stall on Friday the 12th of May. A table will be setup near the entrance in the foyer with morning tea provided. Please help yourself to the morning tea provided.



Educators' Professional Development

During the staff meeting on Tuesday the 4th of April, the educators worked in teams to review our current service's philosophy. They looked at how the philosophy links to the child development theorists.

The service's philosophy will be reviewed in May 2023 in which families are encouraged to contribute their ideas on what should be included in the service's philosophy.

Nellie (Assistant Director) and Harriet (3-Year-Old Kindergarten Teacher) will be attending a two-day Movers Program through School Readiness Funding on Monday the 1st of May and Tuesday the 2nd of May.

Educators will be attending a safe sleep session on Thursday the 20th of April, and a music workshop on Tuesday the 23rd of May in the evening.



Importance of Influenza Vaccination in Children

Children, especially those under 5 years, can become seriously ill from influenza. It can sometimes be fatal. The best protection against influenza is an annual vaccine. It is safe, effective and free to all children under 6 months to 5 years of age under the National Immunisation Program. Families can book a vaccine appointment at a range of health services such as general practices, local council immunisation clinics, community health centres and pharmacies. It's a good idea to check your child's immunisation history before you book an appointment.

You can find out more information about the influenza vaccination for children at www.health.gov.au/flu



Child Safe Standards

On the 1st of July 2022, the new Child Safe Standards are put into effect across the state of Victoria. These new changes are being made to update the previous 7 standards established in 2016, which makes the Standards even stronger.

Additional information can also be found at the Commission for Children and Young People at: www.cryp.vic.gov.au

Child Safe Standard 4: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

The service supports families and communities to take an active role in promoting and maintaining child safety and wellbeing by communicating about their role in child safety and wellbeing within the service. (4.4 and overall outcome)

The service is open and transparent with families and communities by:

- providing accessible information about the service's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices (4.2 and 4.4)
- providing information about the service's governance and operations, how complaints are handled and how the service manages disciplinary actions and child safety risks. (4.4)

Families have an opportunity to participate in decisions made by the service that impact the safety and wellbeing of their child.

Communication with families supports the full diversity of families to participate. (4.1)

Opportunities are created for families and community members to provide feedback on the service's policies, procedures and practices including the service's approach to child safety and wellbeing. (4.3)

The service takes the feedback and involvement of families and communities seriously and takes their views into account. (4.3 and links to 7.3)



Enrolling in Primary School

Search for schools:

Visit findmyschool.vic.gov.au to find your designated local school and other nearby schools. All government primary and specialist schools are on the Find my School website.

For more information, read about different [types of schools](#) and [how school zones work](#).

Get to know your local school:

Contact your local school, and any other schools you are considering, before you submit an application. Staff can provide tours, classroom visits and information about their school. Most schools welcome enquiries and will organise a time for you and your child to visit. Schools can also indicate if they have spare places for students who do not live within the school zone.

When to enrol:

When to enrol in primary school

To start primary school your child will need to turn 5 years old by 30 April in the year that they start school. Your child must be at school in the year that they turn 6 years of age. This is the compulsory school starting age. The first year of primary school is called Foundation or Prep. Read more about when and how to enrol your child in the first year of primary school at [enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#).

If you need to enrol at a different time or year level, contact the primary school.



Message from the Educational Leader

Summative Assessments:

In May, educators will be developing summative assessments for each child in their room. The summative assessments provide a summary on children's development and learning, focusing on the Five Learning Outcomes within the Early Years Learning Framework. The Five Learning Outcomes consist of:

- Learning Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity.
- Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- Learning Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.
- Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.
- Learning Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators.

In June, the educators will give out the summative assessment to the families along with a survey which asks families for their feedback about the overall education and care the service delivers. The survey will also ask families to identify two individual learning intentions (Goals) for their child for a 6-month period (July until December).

Play School

Notes for Families and Educators

Play School: Hand in Hand

Background

Join Rachael and Luke as they speak about racism; what it is, how it makes people feel and how we can all play a part in stopping it. Play School has always welcomed opportunities to discuss the importance of respect and kindness. Perhaps this message will help facilitate further discussion about treating everyone fairly and equally.

Play School cares deeply about its capacity to reflect developmentally appropriate messages relevant to everyday life, this includes taking on the challenging topics – supporting children in their feelings of belonging, their ways of being and their opportunities for becoming.

In UNICEF's article '[Talking to your kids about racism](#)' we are reminded that "like language, prejudice is learnt over time". It is well documented that children can internalise racial bias between the ages of 2 and 4 years and by the age of 12 years, many become set in their beliefs, as discussed in the web article [healthy children.org](#). It is for this reason that racism is clearly defined in the episode and is identified as being unacceptable. This short segment touches on a topic that may be built on over time, in different ways, as parents and educators see fit.

For families looking for more information about how cultural competence is explored in early education, visit the [Educator's Guide](#) to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, (Chapter 6).

More resources

ABC Kids Early Education

- [Family, Community and Culture](#) and [extension ideas](#). We cover topics ranging from varied family structures to diverse abilities and friendships.
- [Creativity and Self-Expression](#) and [extension ideas](#). Exploring ways to engage and appreciate diversity through the arts.

Australian Human Rights Commission

- [Building Belonging](#): A toolkit for early childhood educators on cultural diversity and responding to prejudice.



ABC Kids listen - News Time podcasts including stories about:

- [National Sorry Day](#)
- [In This Together \(5 news stories from Indigenous Australia\)](#)

Articles

- [Children aren't immune to racism. Here's how you can talk to your children about it.](#)
- [Highlighting anti-bias in children's media.](#)
- [How to raise culturally aware kids.](#)

Children's Books

- 'My Place' (1988) by Sally Morgan
- 'Welcome to Country' (2016) by Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy
- 'My World, Your World' (2004) by Melanie Walsh
- 'Fair Skin Black Fella' (2010) by Renee Fogorty
- 'The Twelve Days of Kindness' (2019) by Corie Brooke and Fiona Burrows
- 'Whoever You Are' (1997) by Mem Fox
- 'Our Home, Our Heartbeat' (2020) by Adam Briggs
- 'Sulwe' (2019) by Lupita Nyong'o
- 'Malala's Magic Pencil' (2017) by Malala Yousafzai

Other television and social media segments

- BBC - [CBeebies: Everyone's Welcome](#)
- CNN - [Sesame Street: Coming Together, Standing Up To Racism](#)

Credits

Series Producer - Bryson Hall

Executive Producer - Jan Stradling

Notes for Families and Educators - Laura Stone