

31 May 2018

Working with Aboriginal communities, for Aboriginal communities

South Western Sydney Local Health District is encouraging the community to acknowledge this year's National Reconciliation Week theme "Don't Keep History a Mystery. Learn. Share. Grow".

As part of National Reconciliation Week, all Australians are invited to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, to share that knowledge and help the nation grow.

The Health District is honouring the theme by highlighting its many services supporting Aboriginal Health and is holding a number of events across its facilities and in the community.

One of the District's new initiatives is the Indigenous Cultural Adaption of the GOT IT Program, Getting On Track In Time.

The program is part of the District's commitment to work in collaboration with Aboriginal communities to achieve equal health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal children and their families in south western Sydney will be first to benefit from a \$2.7 million trial of an innovative mental health program designed to better support Aboriginal children in the early learning environment.

NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sarah Mitchell said under the Aboriginal GOT IT! Program, Aboriginal mental health professionals will reinforce the importance of participants' cultural identity, help manage their feelings, develop strong social relationships and build resilience.

Nathan Jones, the District's Director of Aboriginal Health said the program was being designed in close consultation with the Aboriginal community to ensure a strong focus on culture and highlight its importance as a protective factor for children and their families.

South Western Sydney Local Health District is home to more than 16,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with the largest communities in Campbelltown and Liverpool.

The District launched its Aboriginal Health Plan 2017-2021 to highlight its determination to closing the gap in health outcomes and life expectancy for Aboriginal people and through this plan the community has a healthy future.

The NSW Government is investing more than \$270,000 on upgrading the Aboriginal Community Health Centre at Bankstown, with additional funding of \$150,000 from the South Western Sydney Primary Health Network.

This week the District is hosting several events to celebrate Reconciliation Week and the District's commitment to improving health outcomes for the Aboriginal community in south western Sydney.

- Monday 28 May 4-7.30pm - Movie night for young people aged 12-24 years at Fairfield Liverpool Youth Health Service, 53-65 Mitchell Street, Carramar. Contact Tamika-briggs@health.nsw.gov.au or 0459 861 486
- Wednesday 30 May 10.30am – Reconciliation Week artwork unveiling at the District's Health Promotion Office, Bolger Street, Campbelltown
- Friday 1 June 4-7.30pm – Movie night for young people aged 12-24 years at The Corner Youth Health Service, 101 Restwell Street, Bankstown. Contact Tamika-briggs@health.nsw.gov.au or 0459 861 486

For more information on National Reconciliation Week visit www.reconciliation.org.au