

MEDIA RELEASE

THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN & CO. ANNOUNCES ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Underwood, Logan, March 11, 2021: The Centre for Women & Co launched their Reconciliation Action Plan in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS).

“Stacey – our CEO – met with Jody the CEO of ATSICHS and that is where this journey started,” said Kiana, a proud Barkindji woman and the integration and HRT case manager of The Centre for Women & Co. “Our team here has been working closely with Raymond from ATSICHS. Raymond has been eager to listen to our questions, ideas and experiences and has responded with understanding and compassion. He has been our pillar of knowledge and is incredibly invested in helping us grow and change as individuals, a team and as an organisation.”

Following several ‘Design Jams’ with the team, Raymond and Kiana cultivated a three-stage Reconciliation Action Plan. In the ‘Wisdom Phase’ (2021), the team will broaden personal insight into their own values, behaviours and attitudes. In the ‘Dreaming & Achieving Phase’ (2022) the team will be a time of listening and learning about the lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from within the local community. The ‘Connection Phase’ (2023) will be a time of building genuine friendships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community members, institutions and elders.

Delvene Cockatoo-Collins – a Quandamooka artist from Minjerrabah graciously held a raffia weaving session with the team and talked to them about their dreams for learning and growth. All of the woven pieces were incorporated by Delvene into the official Reconciliation Action Plan canvas artwork. When talking about this experience, Delvene said “it’s almost as if the conversations remain woven and embedded in the artwork.”

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Shannon Fentiman spoke via video correspondence at the launch. “I’m incredibly proud that you are launching your Reconciliation Action Plan. It will help both organisations come together and it will make sure that we really do have that crucial step in understanding the diverse and rich cultures of our First Nation’s people and create a new storyline together.”

The Centre for Women & Co. is committed to internal reflection (both the good and the bad), personal and organisational change and continued growth. It would not be possible without the support of Raymond, Jody and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community’s belief in The Centre for Women & Co.

You can view the RAP document at www.centreforwomen.org.au/about-us/vision-and-values.