



## THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS

The one voice for every child in public education

### Celebrating 15 years of Harmony Day - 2015

March 21 is officially recognised as Harmony Day cross Australia and the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) encourages school communities to take time to reflect and celebrate the diversity of our nation. Harmony Day is held every year at this time to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is everyone belongs. It's a day to celebrate Australia's diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

“Our country is diverse in many cultures; we have a rich blend of languages, foods, music, dance, tradition and faiths. No more evident is that than in our public schools, that open their doors to all” stated Margaret Leary, President

“Our school playgrounds and classrooms are ideal places to celebrate these differences and develop a deep understanding and respect for the diversity. It should be embedded in daily practice”

Schools across the country are celebrating in many ways throughout the week– through storytelling, cooking, sports, dance, are and sharing differences. Participating in Harmony Day gives school communities time to show cultural respect for everyone who has made Australia their home – from our traditional owners to those who have come from the many lands around the world.

“We know schools communities across Australia are celebrating and sharing each other's stories; be inspired by the journey and celebrate the traditions. Our schools are rich in cultural diversity – this helps identify who we are” she concluded

For further comment  
Margaret Leary - 0419986547

MEDIA RELEASE