



Australian Council of State School Organisations

One voice for every child in public education

PO Box 8221
WERRINGTON COUNTY
NSW 2747
☎ 0418 470 604
✉ contact@acssso.org.au
🌐 www.acssso.org.au
ABN 51 319 893 516

Celebrating Australia's rich diversity Harmony Week 2019

This year we celebrate Harmony Week 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 Week, as it is now known, is held every year at this time to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We recognized the 20th Anniversary of such celebrations.

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. This is especially significant in light of the recent events in New Zealand, and the many other acts of racism occurring around the world

"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 Kevan Goodworth, ACSSO Chair

"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 Week 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 school 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" he concluded

For further comment
Kevan Goodworth - 0419986547

MEDIA RELEASE