

# Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

*One voice for every child in public education*



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## HARMONY WEEK 2020 – EVERYONE BELONGS

# MEDIA RELEASE

This week is officially recognised as Harmony Week across Australia and the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) encourages school communities to take this time to reflect and celebrate the diversity of our nation.

“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, opening their doors to all” stated Andrew Bidwell, 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 and focused on in particular, this week”

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

This year, due to the pre-cautions in place for Covid-19 events may be scaled down – however the conversations at school continue and we encourage families to continue them at home. At this time we also need to be mindful that many other nations/cultures are also in the grip of COVID-19, kindness and solidarity across the borders should be a key feature in our discussions.

“We know classrooms across Australia are taking the time to share each other’s story; be inspired by the journey and celebrate the traditions. It’s a way we can learn and gain a greater understanding” he concluded

For further comment

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