

Acknowledging the Anniversary of National Apology Day

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The Anniversary of the National Apology acknowledges that on 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a formal apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly to the Stolen Generations. Members of the Stolen Generations, along with their families and communities were impacted by government policies of forced child removal and forced assimilation.

The **Healing Foundation** website contains a lot of information and resources relating to the Stolen Generations. For example, you can find information on:

- **The timeline of trauma and healing in Australia.**
- Many **resources**, including a video called ***This is how we heal*** and a **School resource kit** - which can be adapted and/or inspire learning activities for ECEC services.

Every child will have their own experiences and interpretations of the Anniversary of National Apology Day, including the Stolen Generations. To understand the best way to acknowledge this day, work with staff, children, their families and significant community members. Of particular importance is working with Aboriginal children, families and communities.

The Good for Kid's team have provided an illustration below of how to acknowledge the Anniversary of National Apology Day. This suggestion promotes healthy eating and embeds Aboriginal perspectives.

Exploring Aboriginal music

Select Aboriginal musicians and music to share in class.
Music can be contemporary or traditional.

Encourage children to dance and move to the music.
Facilitate discussions about music and dance, like how does it make me feel or when do I like to listen to music?

This and other activities may seem symbolic. An easy way to ensure your activities have meaning and are authentic is to work in partnership with Aboriginal people.



Artwork: 'Heart of a child'
Worimi Artist Lara Went