



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



Sorry Day Book

2022





LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

On National Sorry Day (May 26) we remember the Stolen Generations whose lives were devastated by past government policies to remove Indigenous children from their families and communities.

This Day acknowledges and signals deep regret at the impacts these past policies had, and continue to have, on Indigenous Australian communities today.





LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

A La Trobe University Sorry Book has been created to share our sorrow for the pain and trauma caused to all those stolen Indigenous Australian children, their families and communities.

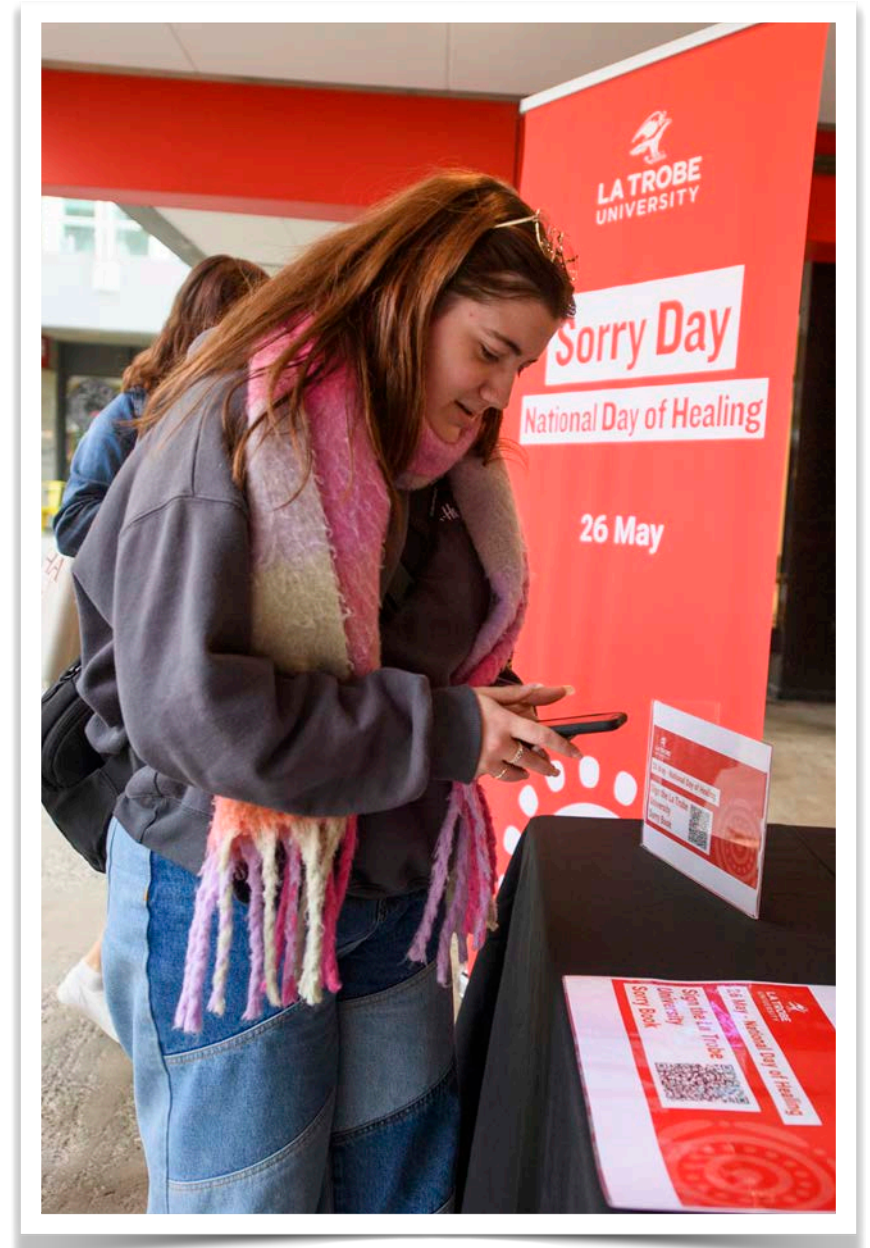
We invite the La Trobe community to join in sending a message of support. Please add your name and message below. These will be collated and presented to our colleagues in Indigenous Strategy and Education.



We are Sorry



By signing my name in this book, I record my deep regret for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Australians as a result of European settlement and I offer my personal apology for the hurt and harm caused by the forced removal of children from their families and for the effect of government policy on the human dignity and spirit of Indigenous Australians.



We are Sorry



I would also like to record my desire for Reconciliation and for a better future for all our peoples. I make a commitment to a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.



Source: aiatsis.gov.au

Signatures

Alexandra Collins
Alishya
Alysia Rex
Amanda Page
Amy Atkinson
Andrea Bowen
Andrea Daenke
Andrew Mansi
Anita Speziale
Anne-Marie Mahoney
Anthony Gartner
Ariane
Arthur Stukas
Jodi Oakman
Badraa Al-Darkazly
Beck
Benis
Blair Grossman
Brendon Murley
Brian
Caitlyn Tagliaferri
Callum Minutol
Cheri
Cherie Purtell
Cherry He
Chery Dissanayake
Cheryl Neilson
Chloe Bowen

Chloe Green
Christine Kettle
Christopher Chong
Corina Modderman
Daniel Bonanno
Daniel Charalambous
Danielle Ewington
Danielle Kairouz
Danielle Mengel
Darrren Bolitho
David Brooks
David Harris
Deb Walton
Deborah Gleeson
Deepa Sivaraman
Dirk Tomsa
Dylan Murnane
Elizabeth Brooks
Elizabeth Capp
Erik van Vulpen
Eve Conlan
Freyja Gillard
Georgia Kitchell
Gilda
Gregoria Manzin
Guinever Threlkeld
Helen Slaney
Holly

Holly Cussigh
Irena
Irene Inziani Gakonyo
Jack Sperling
Jade Williamson
Jane Mills
Janene Chase
Janet Jensen
Janine Amoddio
Jenny Morrison
Jessica Vanderlelie
Jo Ludlow
Joanna Shaw
Jodie
Jody Simmons
John Dewar
Jon Catanzariti
Jordan
Jordan Polley
Jordyn Parker Richards
Joseph Cincotta
Juan Alberto Molina Vilca
Judith Bishop
Kailah Hollingworth
Kailah Hollingworth
Kaled Idris-Said
Kara Whitbourn
Karen Todd

Kat Ellinghaus
Kat Nordern
Kate Saunders
Kellie Stastny
Kelly Bick
Kirsty Jungwirth
Kristina
Lachlan McIver
Leah du Plooy
Leesa Hooker
Lil Kennedy
Lilit Thwaites
Lilly Tye
Lily
Lily Hamilton
Linda Marikar
Liss Cowan
Liz Vagg
Lucy
Lucy Whitmore
Lydia Hartwig
Lynne Kelly
Maddie Francis
Madeline Rough
Mark Avellino
Marnie Long
Marnie Sier
Matthew

Matthew Oates
Meaghan Kearney
Melanie Tassos
Melia Donk
Melissa Gilbert
Michael Luckman
Mikaela Hemming
Mike Clarke
Moirra Doyle-Whelan
Molly Allen-Leap
Naomi Holding
Natalie De Cesare
Ness
Nick Duncan
Nina
Noha
Paul Hopgood
Paul Strickland
Phuoc Le
Prem Moss
Prue Atkins
Rachel Kennedy
Rebecca Brennan
Rebecca Eaton
Rebecca Flower
Rebecca James
Renee Sharples
Renuka Eliezer

Robert Garner
Rose Wimbush
Rozana Kekovska
Sahil chowdary Nannuri
Samantha Clune
Sarah
Sarah Forte
Sez Wilks
Shannon
Shannon Munteanu
Sitaren Sita
Sofia Kamarinos
Stephanie Kentepozidis
Stephanie Nicholls
Stephanie Ryan
Steve Rando
Susan Dodds
Suzie Janssen
Tariq hashimi
Teisha McCoy
Teresa Bruzzese
Terese Thomas
Tyson Patterson
Virginia Versace
Xiao Yan Li
Yousef Mohammad





I'm sorry that our governments have constantly perpetuated colonialist ideologies onto our First Nations people. It makes me sick and I only hope that the new government can change institutional racism and create viable policy change. I hope this creates a flow-on effect and improves the livelihoods of our First Nations people. **Alexandra Collins, Bendigo**

Sorry x **Alishya, Bundoora**

I wish that First Nations People continue to educate and inform with the hope of bringing light to the darkness of ignorance. We are sorry. **Amanda Page, Bundoora**

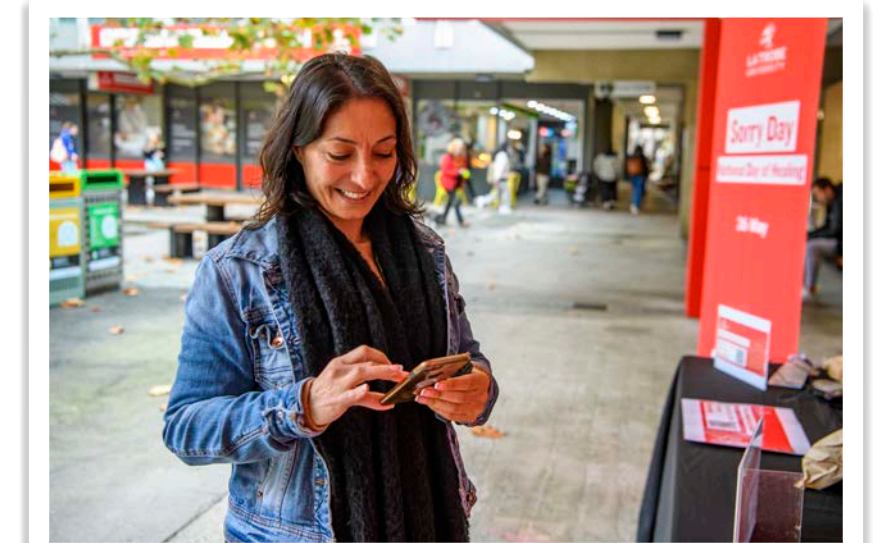
I am sorry for the on-going injustices against Indigenous Australians and respect the cultural knowledge that First Nations people hold. I hope we can move forward in a spirit of healing and community. **Amy Atkinson, Bendigo**

I hope we all continue to remember and from the pain of the stories of the past, strive to do better in the future. **Andrea Bowen, Bundoora**

I am sorry for the terrible injustice and cruelty that Indigenous Australians have experienced and continue to experience. I am deeply sorry for the pain you feel. I stand beside you as a witness to the truth, and an ally who wants to be part of the change that makes sure this stops and never happens again. **Andrea Daenke, Bendigo**

Let us work together to reconcile the hurts of the past and pave a path of unity and healing moving forward. **Andrew Mansi, Bundoora**

May this National Sorry Day bring a sense of peace within you and your surroundings. **Anita Speziale, Bundoora**





My hope for a better future for all! **Anne-Marie Mahoney, Albury-Wodonga**

I feel great sorrow about the harm and injustices perpetrated through colonisation and perpetuated through political negligence and our collective failure to act. May the voice of First Nations people ring loudly throughout this and every land from now on. **Anthony Gartner, Bundoora**

Sorry. **Callum Minutol, Bundoora**

I acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the devastating generational effects incurred by past government policies to remove Indigenous children from their families and communities. I also acknowledge that Aboriginal land was never ceded. And I look forward to enshrining Aboriginal Voice into our Constitution. I am exceedingly proud to be living in a land occupied by first nations people over a multitude of generations that exceeds any other living nation.

Chery Dissanayake, Bundoora

I would like to acknowledge, and respect the beautiful lands that I am on and acknowledge that these lands have never been ceded. I want to thank all those who have cared for for these lands forever and generously guide people like me to keep doing so. I feel so sad and sorry for how our traditional owners have been treated and continue to be since the colonisation of their lands. **Cheryl Neilson, Bendigo**

I want to say sorry for all the past harms that Indigenous Australians have suffered throughout history and will do everything I can to actively reject discriminatory behaviour of any kind and offer my support towards a better future. I look forward to a future where we celebrate the culture and heritage of all Indigenous Australians and ensure fair representation and visibility in all aspects of public life. It's time to close the gap. **Chloe Green, Bundoora**





Let's work together. **Christine Kettle, Bendigo**

Sorry. For all the injustices of the past, the persisting hurt and trauma borne by Indigenous communities, and with a shared hope for a better future and equality, together, with all Australians. **Christopher Chong, Bundoora**

I am sorry for the forced removal of Indigenous Australian children from their families. **Daniel Bonanno, Bundoora**

It was wonderful to see the support for our local Sorry Day gathering in Monash Park this morning. Shepparton has a dynamic, active and vibrant community committed to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians within this region. I am proud to be a member of this and the university community, to acknowledge Sorry Day and am committed to 'Be Brave. Make Change' this Reconciliation week and throughout the year ahead. **Danielle Ewington, Shepparton**

It breaks my heart to think of the trauma that's been inflicted upon Indigenous Australians. I'm sorry for the pain and the damage it has (and continues to) cause. As a staff member at La Trobe I will do everything I can to respect the voices of my Indigenous colleagues and students. **Danielle Mengel, Bundoora**

I am sorry. **Darren Bolitho, Bundoora**

We're with you - hang on in there. Hopefully the Uluru statement will be with us in a year. **David Brooks, Bundoora**

I acknowledge with deep regret the terrible grief and loss that this day commemorates. I am sorry. I acknowledge the glacial pace of change for First Nations Australians and the need to speed the closing of the gap. I also acknowledge that truth-telling is essential to creating an equitable and dignified place in the present for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. **David Harris, Bundoora**





All I can say is 'sorry' but I don't feel it's enough. **Deb Walton, Bundoora**

I am deeply sorry for the grief, pain and suffering inflicted by forced removal of children from their families, and acknowledge the ongoing damage this has caused to our community. The incredible strength and resilience shown by indigenous individuals, families and communities in dealing with the effects of these draconian policies is truly inspirational. **Elizabeth Capp, Shepparton**

Having lived in your country for twelve years I fully support the Uluru statement: Voice, Treaty, Truth. I have recently watched the movies from fellow dutchmen Rolf de Heer, which are as beautiful as they are disturbing. Australia cannot claim any moral authority over other countries unless they deal with their own history.

Erik van Vulpen, Bundoora

We are sorry. **Eve Conlan, Bundoora**

Sorry. **Georgia Kitchell, Bundoora**

I am sorry for the pain, hurt and sufferings caused. This is part of history and will forever be sorry for. I hope that today and future generations will be committed in making a change, listen and respect one another and acknowledge we should not be divided in any way. I will do my best to listen, respect and learn from this. I am forever grateful of this land, elders and people past, present and future. **Gilda, City**

I apologise to the Stolen Generations for the ongoing harm caused by their forced removal from family and culture and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the injustices caused by European settlement. I am committed to Reconciliation and to acting to support justice and empowerment of First Nations people.

Guinever Threlkeld, Albury-Wodonga





I would like to join the La Trobe community in expressing my grief and regret for the trauma inflicted on Indigenous Australians, both historically and in the present day. I support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and recognise the crucial importance of a First Nations Voice to Parliament. **Helen Slaney, Bundoora**

I apologise to all First Nations people for policies which inflicted profound pain and loss. **Holly, Bundoora**

'Love and Light' to everyone. **Irena, Bundoora**

Respect for first nations. **Jade Williamson, Bundoora**

On this significant day I am reflecting on the immense loss suffered by First Nations people in Australia. I am sorry for the pain and suffering you have undergone and commit to supporting and advocating for First Nations people in all of the spheres of life. **Jane Mills, Bendigo**

I recognize and abhor the unjust treatment of our indigenous people and trust that we can be united as Australians moving forward. **Jenny Morrison, Bundoora**

I am deeply sorry for the actions of my ancestors and communities. I apologise for the behaviours, systems and beliefs that have hurt and continue to hurt Aboriginal people and for the role I have played in perpetuating Western systems of belief and action that continue to disadvantage and disenfranchise Aboriginal people. I am committed to, and will continue to listen, learn and take the time to identify my own privilege and unconscious biases, so that I can live and work in a culturally safe and respectful way. I am deeply grateful to my Aboriginal friends, colleagues, students and community members for their teachings, advice, and bravery and I will do everything I can to influence change. **Jessica Vanderlelie, Bundoora**





I acknowledge the hurt and trauma caused by actions of the past and wish to play my part in assisting in healing, justice and reconciliation. I pay my respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, students and the wider University community, and acknowledge that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Joanna Shaw, Bundoora

By signing my name in this book, I record my deep regret for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Australians as a result of European settlement and I offer my personal apology for the hurt and harm caused by the forced removal of children from their families and for the effect of government policy on the human dignity and spirit of Indigenous Australians. I would also like to record my desire for Reconciliation and for a better future for all our peoples. I make a commitment to a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provides justice and equity for all. **Jodie, Bundoora**

I am deeply sorry for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Australians as a result of European settlement. I am ashamed of the forced removal of children from their families and for the effect of government policy on the human dignity and spirit of Indigenous Australians, and I am very sorry for the hurt and ongoing harm this has caused.

Jody Simmons, Bundoora

I express my deep personal sorrow at this terrible aspect of our nation's history. **John Dewar, Bendigo**

I apologise for the suffering inflicted on for at nations people as a result of the invasion of Australia and aim to help in the reparations owed by colonisers. **Jordyn Parker Richards, Bundoora**



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY





While I cannot change the past, I must acknowledge that as a modern immigrant to Australia, I was able to benefit at a great cost to the indigenous people whose land was taken, families broken and communities destroyed by colonial occupation. I am grateful for their harmonious custody of the land prior to the invasion and seek their collective wisdom to improve my understanding and connection with the land and creatures with which I cohabitate. Furthermore, I seek our indigenous community's wisdom more broadly - advocating for their representation in government and public institutions. I will never know the pain, suffering and injustice that so many Australian indigenous people have undergone, but I can make change to try and repair these wrongs, through how I vote, how I encourage learning indigenous traditions and culture, how I treat their land and the creatures that live there with me, and how I teach my children through these positive actions to continue on the path of reconciliation. **Joseph Cincotta, Other**

I am an immigrant as everyone else and pay my respects to First Nations people and their land. I am sorry for the damage from the past that still is an open bleeding wound in the present . I deeply support acknowledgement of harm, suffering and neglect towards first nations Australians. I also support meaningful action for change and support towards an inclusive future for all Australians especially First Nations Australians. **Juan Alberto Molina Vilca, Bendigo**

As a linguist, I feel deep sorrow for those Indigenous children and families whose language(s) and culture(s) have also been stolen and repressed. Maree Clarke's Lorne Sculpture Biennale entry, 'Spoken Words', spoke powerfully to the resilience and memory of these languages and cultures in Victoria: <https://lornesculpture.com/artists/item/maree-clarke>.
Judith Bishop, Bundoora

I pledge to do better than each generation before me. **Kailah Hollingworth, Bundoora**

It shall not be forgotten but we can heal through recognition and acknowledgement of this horrible part in Australian history. **Kaled Idris-Said, Bundoora**





We are truly sorry. **Kara Whitbourn, Bundoora**

I deeply apologise for the wrongs of the past and present and express my sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs and hardships suffered by the traditional owners of our land. **Kat Nordern, Bendigo**

We have much to learn from the mistakes of the past if we can only find the humility to mind the lessons.
Kate Saunders, Bundoora

I hope to be part of a meaningful reconciliation process so desperately needed to recognise the atrocities done to our First Nations people in the past and still being committed today. **Kellie Stastny, Albury-Wodonga**

I, without reservation, acknowledge that the lands on which I live, work and play have never been ceded by the First Peoples of Australia, and that Australia is currently an occupied nation without a treaty. I fully support the implementation of all recommendations of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Further more, I would like to voice my abiding respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who continually and repeatedly remain generous and open to reconciliation and moving forward together as a Nation. May we as a nation be brave enough to undertake the truth telling needed, and become one shared people. **Kelly Bick, Albury-Wodonga**

I am truly sorry for the impact of the treatment of our indigenous people in the past and currently. I make a commitment to continue to listen and learn from our staff and students at Latrobe and others in the community to ensure that I am creating a culturally safe and respectful environment here in the counselling team at Latrobe University and wherever I travel. I am grateful that the indigenous community continue to assist us in increasing our learning. **Kirsty Jungwirth, Bundoora**

Couldn't think of a more important day. **Lachlan McIver, Bundoora**





I am sorry for all the pain and trauma caused. **Leesa Hooker, Bendigo**

Sorry for all the harm and trauma that has happening in our name to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in particular members of the stolen generation and which continues to have an impact today. I hope we can move forward together and learn from the horrors of the past, by acknowledging your pain, really listening to your voices and working with you for a better future. **Lil Kennedy, Bundoora**

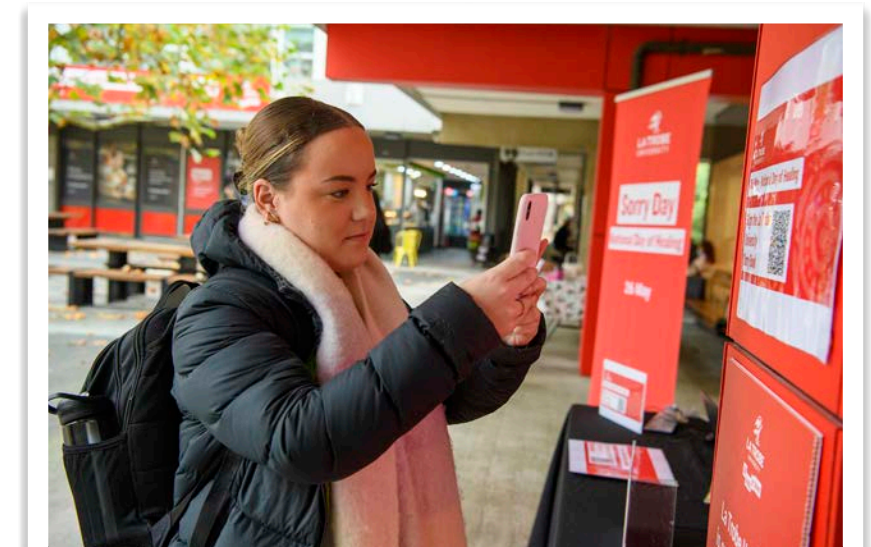
I also join others in strongly supporting the Uluru Statement From the Heart, and look forward to our new Federal Government acting swiftly to implement its recommendations. **Lilit Thwaites, Bundoora**

Sorry. **Linda Marikar, Shepparton**

I deeply apologise to Indigenous peoples of this country for the pain and trauma you have suffered, and continue to suffer from, as a result of the very cruel actions of the European settlers to remove your children from your families. **Liz Vagg, Bundoora**

We should all do more to recognise aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders as the traditional custodians of the land. **Lucy Whitmore, Bundoora**

In order to embrace the future we must acknowledge the past, this starts by apologising for the wrongs committed against Indigenous Australians and recognising the need for social change to include the traditional owners of this land in all areas of decision-making. **Lydia Hartwig, Bundoora**





I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land I live, love and work, the Wurundjeri people and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. To the Wurundjeri and all First Australians I am sorry for the pain, suffering, and hurt of the Stolen Generations, and other injustices that continue against your people to this day. I pledge to be the best ally I can be and promise to continue to listen and learn from community for the rest of my life - my cultural awareness training will never be complete it will evolve and expand every day that I am here. I will continue to always do all I can to ensure my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends have their voice heard today, tomorrow, always. #alwayswasalwayswillbe.

Maddie Francis, Other

I am completely sorry. Not just for the horrors enacted by my ancestors, not just for the incessant racism and dehumanising laws of governments claiming to represent me, but I am also completely sorry for all the pain. I have seen, to a degree, that I recognise is very different and very limited, intergenerational trauma. First, second and third hand. I live with the day-to-day pressures of trying to break cycles, and escape the coping mechanisms that trapped my parents, and their parents. I know the bad days feel like my whole life plan is ruined. But most importantly, I know nothing can ever stop me from trying, and that every attempt is a win. I'm going to do whatever it takes to be better. That means I don't tolerate when anyone is oppressed, abused, ignored or belittled. So as long as I live, you will have one more teammate. I want you to remember, particularly when on the bad days, that you will never be alone. I know that you have the strength to do this alone, the fact that you're still here proves that, but you will never have to. **Matthew, Bundoora**

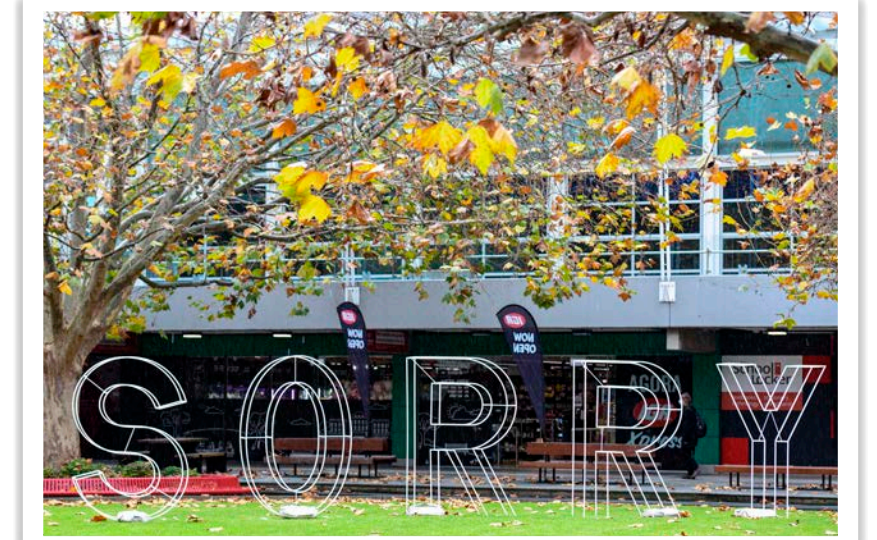
I would like to acknowledge the adverse impact of policies that allowed the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, which occurred between 1910 and the 1970s. I also acknowledge the adverse effect of current policies on First Nations Peoples. **Matthew Oates, Bundoora**

Im sorry for the inaction, inhumanity and violence that has occurred since Europeans colonised the land from the 15-1600's when the Dutch and Portuguese were scoping out the waters, to the 1700's when the British led a genocide that is still happening today. The structural violence that locks up the children and takes them away from their culture. I'm sorry.

Meaghan Kearney, Bundoora



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY





I apologise for the injustices that have and continue to occur to our Indigenous communities. We need to continue to listen and support our Indigenous children, peers, colleagues and communities because sorry means not doing it again. I pay my respects to the strength and resilience of the Stolen Generation and will continue to support change, so that the approx. ~20,000 First Nations children in out-of-home care, are returned to their community.

Melanie Tassos, Bundoora

Words on there own are never enough, but they are a start. Sorry. **Mike Clarke, Bundoora**

I recognise the pain, trauma and suffering of the Stolen Generations on this day and everyday.

Moira Doyle-Whelan, Bundoora

My sincere apologies for all the harm and injustice suffered by First Nations people past and present. I hope that there is a better future ahead and wish to hear your voices in how this can be achieved. **Naomi Holding, Other**

Sorry. **Natalie De Cesare, Bundoora**

I am thinking of my own family members who are indigenous and of all Australia's First Nation people. Today, and everyday, I am sorry for the horrendous and myriad injustices that have happened to you directly, and through the generations before you. **Ness, Bendigo**

Always has been, always will be Aboriginal land. We need a treaty and we need to hold our politicians up to it.

Paul Hopgood, Bundoora

Sorry. **Phuoc Le, Bundoora**





I am deeply sorry for the injustices and atrocities committed against First Nations people of Australia, and the ongoing effects of colonisation. **Prem Moss, Bundoora**

I offer my personal apology and deep regret for the injustices suffered by our First Nations people since colonisation and as a member of the social work profession I acknowledge the harm done by social workers played enacting discriminatory policies and practices which resulted in the Stolen Generations and inter generational trauma. **Prue Atkins, Bundoora**

I am so very sorry for the inter generational pain that seeps through the indigenous people of our country. The trauma inflicted by my family's English and European ancestors and the community of people who landed on these unceded lands is undeniable. I hope in our lifetime, we will come together as a nation of one - indigenous and migrants, recognising that we are all equals in this nation and working together to heal this land we all love and live on. **Rachel Kennedy, Bundoora**

By signing my name in this book, I record my deep regret for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Australians as a result of European settlement and I offer my personal apology for the hurt and harm caused by the forced removal of children from their families and for the effect of government policy on the human dignity and spirit of Indigenous Australians. I would also like to record my desire for Reconciliation and for a better future for all our peoples. I make a commitment to a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provides justice and equity for all. **Rebecca Brennan, Albury-Wodonga**

Sometimes, there are simply no words. **Renee Sharples, Bendigo**

We unite with you in your grief. **Renuka Eliezer, Bundoora**





I'm sorry for the past, continuing and intergenerational trauma, and its impacts, driven by Aboriginal kids' forced removal from their family, kin and culture. I'm sorry for the horrific experiences of colonisation and the Stolen Generations. I'm sorry for the discriminatory government policies, and the flawed child protection and youth justice systems, which continue to prevent Aboriginal peoples' self-determination, safety and connection to culture in this colony. I'm sorry that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids are more than 10 x more likely to be living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous kids (<https://www.familymatters.org.au/the-family-matters-report-2021/>), and 16 times more likely than non-Indigenous kids to be under youth justice supervision (<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/youth-justice/overview>). I'm sorry that change isn't happening quickly enough. **Sez Wilks, Bundoora**

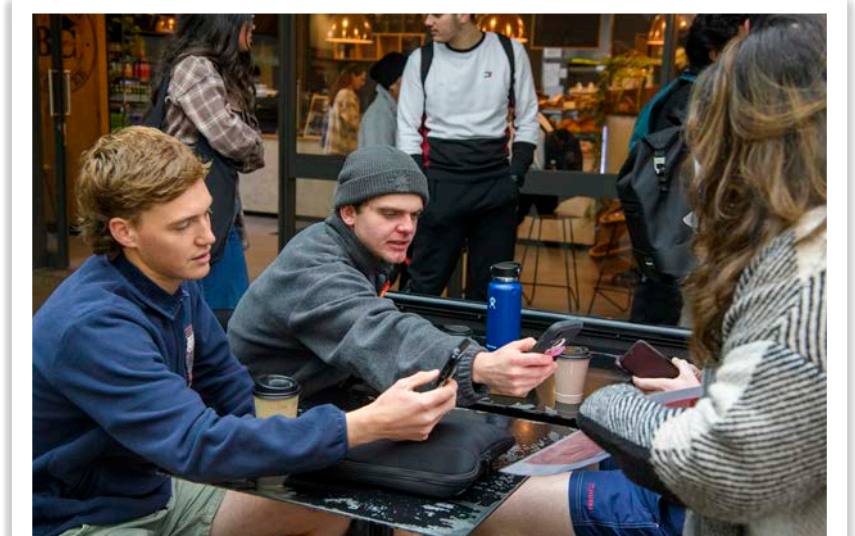
I apologise for the discrimination brought upon by white colonies. **Shannon, Bundoora**

I would like to express my deep personal sorrow for the enduring hurt, harm and damage to First Nations peoples in Australia caused by the practices of colonial dispossession and, more recently, the practice of forcible removal of children and dislocation of First Nations people from family and country. I commit to working towards increased recognition, respect and reparation. **Susan Dodds, Bundoora**

I am so sorry for the continued trauma that Colonisation has brought to our First Nations People. While we have made tiny steps forward, there is so much that needs to be done to ensure that we all live in a just and harmonious world. I pledge to acknowledge my white privilege and to call out systemic and individual racism. I am grateful for the rich culture that I have been able to experience through the work and sharing of our First Nations People. **Suzie Janssen, Bendigo**

Stay safe and respect one another. **Tariq Hashimi, Bundoora**

We unite with you in your grief. **Renuka Eliezer, Bundoora**





Sorry. Virginia Versace, Bundoora

Respect. Xiao Yan Li, Bundoora

I am sorry to hear your story. Am from Kuwait, it is a country in the Middle East. And I respect being in your land.
Thank you. Yousef Mohammad, Bendigo



Thank you



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

