

Media Release



Friday, May 24, 2019

For immediate release

SEA OF HANDS RETURNS TO NEWCASTLE FOR RECONCILIATION WEEK

On Tuesday 28th May, Samaritans will join with community partners in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral to install the Sea of Hands in recognition of Reconciliation Week.

Reconciliation Week is held annually from 27 May to 3 June and this year's theme is 'Grounded in Truth: Walk Together with Courage'.

"Reconciliation can only be achieved if there is trust. And trust requires the courage to have an honest, open conversation about our history. My hope is that the Sea of Hands inspires our community to take an active part in this conversation," Samaritans CEO, Brad Webb, said.

These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

"Two years ago, we reached another milestone with the delivery of the Uluru Statement from the Heart providing Australia with a clear way forward to deliver reconciliation. We are asking the newly elected Morrison Government to be courageous and take the next steps to bring the Uluru Statement to life," Mr Webb said.

The Sea of Hands first appeared 21 years ago as a powerful statement of solidarity with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's temporary public installation of 800 hands aims to bring people together to express a strong symbol of Reconciliation.

"We are inviting community members to join us to walk together with courage, with each hand a symbol of community support for reconciliation, rights and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of this land," Brad Webb said.

The community is invited to attend the event at Christ Church Cathedral on Tuesday, May 28 at midday for a 12:15pm start.

Samaritans will support other Sea of Hands events in Wallsend, Mudgee and Taree across Reconciliation Week with further details included on our website: www.samaritans.org.au.

-ENDS-

Media Contact: Media are encouraged to attend this event which commences at 12:15pm for photos, video and interview opportunities and to participate in planting the Sea of Hands. There will be time for interviews and photos after the planting at approximately 12:40pm. For more information, please contact Samaritans Communication team on 4960 7100 or 0438 475 772.