



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 29 July 2016

Collie to host National Children's Day event

Collie will host a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day next Thursday, 4th August, as a cultural celebration.

Held at the Collie Community Garden from 11am until 1pm, the free event is for all children aged 0-5, and will feature cultural activities, entertainment, traditional food, vegetable seedling planting and an interactive walk.

South West Aboriginal Medical Service Maternal Child Health Coordinator Julie-Ann Dowdell, said the event is a great example of key community service providers working together to create a special day of celebration.

Ms Dowdell said the collaboration of services includes, Ngalang Boodja, Collie Community Gardens, Collie Child and Parent Centre, Wilson Park Primary School, WA Country Health Service - South West Boodjari Yorgas & Koolangka program, and SWAMS.

"Children's Day is an important day to celebrate the strengths and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children," Ms Dowdell said.

"The event is for all children and will be a great chance for our Aboriginal children to share their culture with all of their kindy friends.

"We have been overwhelmed by the support of local service providers who will help make the first official National Children's Day in Collie special."

The day will include a performance from Wilson Park Primary students, who will sing songs in Noongar language, and a Welcome to Country by respected custodian Joe Northover.

Organised by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), the first Children's Day was held in 1988 and has grown every year, becoming a major event in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and community organisations.

Ms Dowdell said the aim of the day was to provide a space in a local setting for everyone to come together, feel connected and proud in culture.

“It’s also a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of these services and the families and children they support,” Ms Dowdell said.

“The plan is to run this every year, so we hope our first one is a huge success.”

For more information contact SWAMS Maternal Child Health Coordinator Julie-Ann Dowdell on (08) 9726 6000, or the toll free number on 1800 779 000 or email julie-ann.dowdell@swams.com.au

Photo caption: Getting ready for the first National Children’s Day in Collie on Thursday, 4th August, are (from left) WA Country Health Service Child Health Community Nurse Suzanne Mumford and South West Aboriginal Medical Service’s Social Worker Joyce Dimer and Maternal Child Health Coordinator Julie-Ann Dowdell.

For media enquiries please contact SWAMS Public Relations Officer Tahnia Creedon on (08) 9791 1166.

