



Melbourne Softball Association acknowledges **National Sorry Day (26 May) and National Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June)**

Melbourne Softball Association acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered. Melbourne Softball Association respectfully recognises Elders both past and present.

National Sorry Day acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. National Sorry Day provides an opportunity nationwide for all Australians to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

National Reconciliation Week aims to bringing together all Australians to recognise and share what we have in common; and to work on a greater understanding of the issues that keep us apart.

The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

The focus this year is **‘Our History, Our Story, Our Future’**.

‘Our History’ reminds us all, that historical acceptance is essential to our reconciliation journey. Historical acceptance will exist when all Australians understand and accept the fact that past laws, practices and policies deeply affected the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, often having devastating immediate impacts and causing much of the disadvantage that exists today. It is also a commitment to ensuring these wrongs are never repeated in the future.

‘Our Story’ reflects the fact that the journey towards reconciliation forms a significant part of Australia’s story, as do the stories of both trauma and triumph told by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It also encourages each and every one of us to make reconciliation part of our own story.

‘Our Future’ reinforces that reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, in the knowledge that we believe in fairness for everyone, that our diversity makes us richer, and that together, we are stronger.

Flying the flags for National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week confirms Melbourne Softball Association’s respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.