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Harmony Day – Everyone Belongs

Held each year on 21 March, Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year celebrates the 20th anniversary of Harmony Day.

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country and it's our diversity that makes Australia such a great place to live. Harmony Day is a celebration of this cultural diversity; it's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

There are some fascinating statistics about Australia's diversity:

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- More than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are spoken in Australia.

'In light of the tragedy that has occurred in Christchurch New Zealand, there is no more pertinent time to show kindness and solidarity and to also show that we support and treasure everyone's contribution to our great country. Harmony Day is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate that everyone belongs in this diverse community of Australia including right here in Gawler' says Mayor Karen Redman.

This week the Evanston Gardens Library has been making Harmony Day friendship bracelets and Thursday's pre-school storytime session will be Harmony Day themed.

Also on Thursday, the Gawler Community House is having a Harmony Day Celebration and Sausage Sizzle from 12 - 1pm. A gold coin donation is requested and all members of the community are welcome.

On Saturday 6 April at 6.30pm, a Multicultural Social and Shared Meal is taking place at the Zion Lutheran Hall. Again, all members of the community are welcome to join in this event and bring a plate of food to share.

For more information about Harmony Day and events that are taking place in Gawler and across the region, go to <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Connect Online with Gawler:

Your Voice Gawler: www.gawler.sa.gov.au/your-voice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/townofgawler

Twitter: www.twitter.com/townofgawler

Instagram: @townofgawler

You Tube: www.youtube.com/townofgawler

ENDS

The media may wish to make contact with:

Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359

Gawler Community House re Harmony Day Sausage Sizzle - 8522 4601

Pat Sheahan re Multicultural Social – 8525 4121