

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATED AT ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE

NAIDOC Week 2017 events were held at a number of St John of God hospitals and services, with a focus on celebrating the partnerships we have with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Artworks, special lunches and a smoking ceremony were just some of the events held. The events focused on celebrating the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in line with this year's NAIDOC Week theme – *Our Languages Matter*.



St John of God Health Care Group Coordinator Social Justice Advocacy Neal Murphy said the celebrations were a part of the organisation's commitment to promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.



“In May this year we released a new Reconciliation Action Plan with a vision that each person who identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander should be given the same respect and consideration as others in Australian society, with equal access to employment, health care and education,” he said.

“We will continue to promote and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the contribution they make to our organisation and society.”

In Ballarat representatives from St John of God Hospital, Ballarat Health Services, Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership and Western Victoria Primary Health Network combined to host a NAIDOC WEEK event.

The event held in the Gardiner-Pittard foyer of Ballarat Health Services, included guest speakers, welcome to country, language mapping activities and information re local sites, didgeridoo playing, local aboriginal dancers and afternoon tea featuring indigenous cuisine.