

## Chaplain's Spot

### National Sorry Day



**National Sorry Day** is held on 26 May each year to acknowledge and recognise members of the Stolen Generations. Charles Passi, a Dauareb tribesman from the Torres Straits, and Chair of *the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation* shares his thoughts on the importance of this day.

“National Sorry Day is important to us ... as Australia’s First Peoples [to help us] remember and recognise our Stolen Generations. Most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people I know have been affected either directly or indirectly by this terrible part of our history. With no disrespect intended, I am a strong advocate for turning our hurt from the past into something positive for our community and future generations, as a sign of taking our destiny into our own hands. That’s why I was very happy to hear [about] the Bringing Them Home report (26 May 1997) that a National Sorry Day be celebrated each year. And that’s what we’ve been doing since 1998. I see this as a positive contribution to our healing journey, just as the national Apology was five years ago.”

**The key to saying sorry is meaning it, and determining not to repeat the behavior [ours or others] that has caused trauma or sadness. This is true for any action that causes pain to another person – we need to apologise, and decide to change the way we act. It proves to the other party that we are sincere and honest in what we say.**



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**Alan Silverwood – Chaplain** - Pastoral care for our community, Tuesday Thursday Friday. [[silverwood.alan.l@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:silverwood.alan.l@edumail.vic.gov.au)]

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