



## Media Release

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26 May 2011

### Sorry Day – respect paid at the Women's

**The Royal Women's Hospital today reaffirmed its commitment to righting the wrongs of the past and continuing along the path of reconciliation with the Aboriginal community.**

Women's CEO Dale Fisher said the Hospital is working together with Aboriginal communities to acknowledge the hospital's role in the Stolen Generations and to create an environment that is culturally safe and welcoming for Aboriginal women and families.

In 2008, Ms Fisher made an apology on behalf of the hospital Board and staff to the Stolen Generations, Aboriginal women and their families for past practices and policies of the hospital.

"Each year, the Women's acknowledges Sorry Day and provides a report back to the community on our work towards reconciliation and our aspirations for the next 12 months," Ms Fisher said.

The theme for the Women's Sorry Day event is, ***"Our Journey of Healing – Let's talk Recognition."***

The Women's is also continually trying to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's access to health care and gain a better understanding of how to treat Aboriginal women.

As part of these initiatives, Aboriginal cultural training sessions were held by AJ Williams a Wiradjuri/ Wotjobaluk man with over 20 years experience in the health and community sector, to help build on the in-services of the Aboriginal Women's Health Business Unit (AWHBU).

Ms Fisher said, through this training the Women's hospital executive gained an understanding of Aboriginal culture and history as well what language is appropriate and the impact behaviour can have on Aboriginal families experience of the Women's.

Better ways of identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, means the hospital can link women with services like the Aboriginal Women's Health Business Unit, and improve referrals to community controlled services.

Ms Fisher said over the next year, the hospital will continue its commitment to:

- Building the cross cultural skills of staff;
- Developing the hospital's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce and Staff Exchange Program;
- Using art to create a welcoming and affirming environment; and
- Improving processes for identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and babies and linking them with services and support here at the Women's and in the community.

*For more information please call:*

**Sofia Dedes, Media Manager at the Royal Women's Hospital on 03 8345 2953 or 0400 512 618.**