**2012 National Sorry Day – video transcript 26/5/12**

*Music: Archie Roach and Band*

**Narrator:**

The day of the Bringing Them Home report being tabled has since been observed as National Sorry Day, providing Australians with opportunity to reflect and express regret over traumatic occurrences. Since May 26, 1997 on the first Sorry Day Australians have acknowledged the stories of the Stolen Generation as well as the way in which the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders continues to be affected.

*Music: Archie Roach and Band*

At the beginning of National Reconciliation Week, La Trobe University commemorated the 2012 National Sorry Day with a ceremony on the Melbourne campus. It gave everyone the opportunity to join, share and reflect on the journey of healing.

**Professor John Dewar:**

I think it means two things, the first is that it is an opportunity for the University community to come together and commemorate Sorry Day which is a significant day in the national annual calendar, but the second is that its an opportunity for the University publically to re-affirm its commitment to work towards practical reconciliation so far as we can both in the research and teaching that we do for students and through our staff.

**Narrator:**

The two hour ceremony included special guests Archie Roach & Band and the Jindi Worabeck Wurundjeri Dance troupe, as well as a welcome to country delivered by Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin, Senior Wurundjeri Elder.

**Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin:**

I guess that’s what comes to today the involvement with our community, the many ways in which La Trobe offers itself to our community, but its more than that, its about feeling that this is a place where many aboriginal people have studied, have been a part of, and that news gets out to communities. So its really about the work that’s been done together.

**Narrator:**

During the ceremony Nellie Green, Manager of Indigenous Student Services at La Trobe provided a personal reflection recognising the National Day of commemoration and remembrance .

**Nellie Green:**

There is a lot of misconceptions too about what Sorry Day is, what the Stolen Generations are as well and I think it goes hand in hand having some kind of public event to let aboriginal people tell their stories and be empowered by that.

Very emotional, but at the same time I think people can relate to it much more readily and putting themselves in our position perhaps, particularly parents, a lot of mothers come up to me afterwards and say ‘I don’t know how I would cope if that happened to me’ and I think that’s the crux of it, just hitting people’s hearts. So that’s why we continue to do it here at La Trobe.

*Music: Archie Roach and Band*

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