

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BYS launches new action plan on journey towards Reconciliation**

BYS is proud to launch its new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to help create new and better futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Officially endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, the new RAP will be launched at the Valley Hub on 4 September 2019 with BYS Patron, Australian football legend and Gunggari and Gubbi Gubbi man, Steve Renouf.

The RAP was developed by a dedicated working group, the BYS RAP Committee, a team of 10 staff from across a diverse range of program areas, including five proud Aboriginal women.

The RAP will help support the organisation in meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in culturally appropriate ways, ensuring they are a part of the Reconciliation journey. Guided by three key focus areas – relationships, respect and opportunities – the plan outlines 24 actions and 75 deliverable outcomes over the next three years.

CEO Annemaree Callander said BYS's long-term vision for Reconciliation is a society which respects the history, rights and unique cultures and traditions of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"BYS has been supporting vulnerable young people in Brisbane for more than 40 years. 30 per cent of the young people we support identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander," Ms Callander said.

"That's why it's essential we continue to grow our knowledge of the culture and history of First Australians and offer service responses based upon respect and understanding.

"We're committed to delivering services and programs for young people which Close the Gap, and we are working towards a future where all Australians have equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

"The new RAP sets clear and measurable goals and will ensure we action all the individual projects and targets to achieve our vision for Reconciliation."

Over the past 10 years, BYS had recorded a steadily increasing level of engagement with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people.

The RAP outlines a range of symbolic and practical measures, such as meeting with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to develop guiding principles, engaging BYS employees in continuous cultural learning opportunities and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates of significance.

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