

## **STATEMENT OF APOLOGY AND RECONCILIATION**

To all Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander women, your families and communities.

We, non-indigenous women of this land, apologise for the human suffering and injustice that you have experienced as a result of colonisation and generations of discrimination and marginalisation that has resulted from that.

We recognise ourselves as the beneficiaries of this colonisation process and we share with you our feelings of shame and horror at the actions and atrocities that were perpetuated against your people.

We recognise you as a sovereign people who have never given up your sovereignty of this land.

We acknowledge that the removal of children devastated individuals, families and entire communities and that the intention of those policies was to assimilate Aboriginal children. We recognise this as a policy of genocide.

We collectively feel a particular sense of responsibility around these racist policies as their implementation required the active involvement of community welfare organisations. We unreservedly apologise to the individuals, families and communities for these acts of injustice.

We acknowledge your human right to self-determination.

We commit to working in solidarity with you in ways that you choose and determine.

We recognise your leadership, we honour your visions and we join with you in your hopes for your futures and for our futures together.

*(ratified by the Board on 20 March 2008 and proudly on prominent display in our office and on our website [www.impacteurobodalla.org.au](http://www.impacteurobodalla.org.au) )*