

MEDIA RELEASE

NAIDOC Week 8-15 Nov 2020 ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE

11 November 2020

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia acknowledges NAIDOC Week as an event of national importance for all Australians.

We stand with Indigenous Australians to celebrate not only Indigenous achievement but the history, rich culture, and survival of the oldest continuing living culture on the planet.

Together we celebrate the achievements of leaders and trailblazers of the past and we look with hope towards the future.

We acknowledge the ongoing struggle experienced by many and we work to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Always Was, Always Will Be recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

We have crafted our statement drawing directly from the National NAIDOC Committee's [statement](#) as a sign of solidarity with Australia's First Nations people.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.

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