



21 March, 2017

Schools and Harmony Day 2017 – Everyone belongs

Harmony Day is celebrated throughout Australia on 21 March, the same date as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Students, teachers and principals in schools across Queensland will again join the celebrations in 2017.

QTU President, Kevin Bates said: “Harmony Day aims to engage all Australians, particularly young people, in celebrating inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.”

Since it was first held in 1999, Harmony Day has grown to become a significant annual day for Australians to come together, celebrate our nation’s cultural diversity and share what we have in common.

“The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs’, reinforcing the importance of multi-culturalism to modern Australia,” Mr Bates said.

To highlight this message, Australians are encouraged to wear orange. Traditionally, this colour relates to social communication, stimulating two-way conversations and encouraging self-respect and respect of others.

The Queensland Teachers’ Union (QTU) and the Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch (IEU-Q&NT) have endorsed plans by our joint Teachers for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum (TRAPSA) special interest group to encourage involvement by union members in Harmony Day.

“Central to this action was the production of a special edition Harmony Day T-shirt emblazoned with the message “Everybody belongs – reject intolerance, promote respect”.

“We produced 300 T-shirts and they were all snapped up in no time,” Mr Bates said.

Contact: QTU President, Kevin Bates – 0419 789 162