



## Reconciliation South Australia

### Generation of Change



On 16th February, over 90 Year 8-12 students attended Reconciliation SA's *Generation of Change* Day in the Golden Grove Arts Theatre.

After a *Welcome* by our Deputy Principal and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students' Leader, **Ms Duff-Tyler**, and a *Welcome to Country* by Kurna Elder, **Aunty Ros**, we played a fast-paced warm-up game: "Have you ever...?".

Then we explored the theme of racism through talks, discussions, films, drama, song and poetry. Margaret Lovell from Reconciliation SA emphasised: *If someone of a non-dominant race experiences something that you say or do as racist, even if you don't intend it to be racist, it is.* We watched a video clip showing some heart-breaking everyday examples of 'casual racism'.

As a result, we all developed our *Intercultural Understanding*, as we started to realise the impact that casual racism, experienced daily, can have on Indigenous members of our school community and the wider community.

Then *ActNow* Theatre Company performed a play featuring a racist student. They invited students to call out "Stop!" whenever they detected an instance of racism, and to join the performance in a new role to help combat the racist behaviour.

This was powerful, as it inspired many students to have a go at helping the student who was experiencing the racism. We all admired **Becky**,

**Emily, Evan, Harry, Holly, Jemima, Lakiah, Maddy, Marian and Myles** for being brave enough to step in to try to make the situation better for the person experiencing the racism.

Finally, we developed our *Ethical Understanding* by realising that it is not enough to be informed about racism and its impacts on Indigenous students; it is now up to us to do something about it. In groups, we discussed any instances of racism we had seen at school and developed an Action Plan of what we could do, both to prevent and to tackle these issues. One group suggested that we could put '**Racism – It stops with Me!**' posters around the school, with the words: *If you experience racism, tell a counsellor. Our school community says: "Stop!" to Racism.*

Students described the day as "*fun, informative, enlightening, inspiring and empowering*". At the end, students thanked those who brought them to this event – **Ms Grant, Ms Druce, Ms Saunders** and me, and even thanked me for organising this event (which was greatly appreciated)!

For our part, Ms Grant, Ms Druce, Ms Saunders and I wish to thank all students who attended this event for their active participation and the valuable contributions they made throughout the day. The Reconciliation SA team and *ActNow* Theatre Company were full of praise for our students, and we were very proud of them!

– **Sue Lyons, EXCEL Leader**