

MEDIA RELEASE

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COTA Celebrates and Honours First Nations Elders for NAIDOC Week

COTA Australia proudly shares its commitment to celebrating and paying respect to First Nations Elders for NAIDOC Week. Embracing the 2023 theme for NAIDOC Week, COTA Australia CEO, Patricia Sparrow paid tribute to the rich cultural heritage of First Nations Elders and its role in shaping a better future for Australia.

“NAIDOC Week is a simple yet powerful occasion for us all. It is about coming together to celebrate the oldest living culture in the world.

“The theme 'For our Elders' embodies a celebration of the wisdom and lived experiences of First Nations Elders, and recognition of the profound impact they have had on shaping our nation.

“Look no further than the recipients of the NAIDOC Male and Female Elder awards for this year. Both Aunty Dr Matilda House Williams and William Tilmouth embody what we are celebrating this week. Their outstanding contributions have made our country a better place and are an inspiration to us all.

“We’re proud to stand as allies with First Nations Elders during NAIDOC week. But we also recognise that this is something that should not be limited to one week of celebrations.

“It’s about committing ourselves to ongoing listening, learning, and practices that elevate First Nations voices within our wider communities.

“As an associate member of the NATSIAACC, we understand the need to prioritise the wellbeing and contributions of First Nations Elders in our society. The knowledge they possess, gained through a lifetime of experience, is something that should be.

“We encourage everyone to actively participate in NAIDOC Week celebrations. This is great chance to engage in meaningful conversations and express our deep gratitude for their enduring contributions that have made our communities better and stronger.

COTA Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which its activities take place and pays deep respects to their Elders, both past and present.

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