

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

**NARRA
GUNNA
WALI**

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Queanbeyan Public School
August 2024 to August 2025



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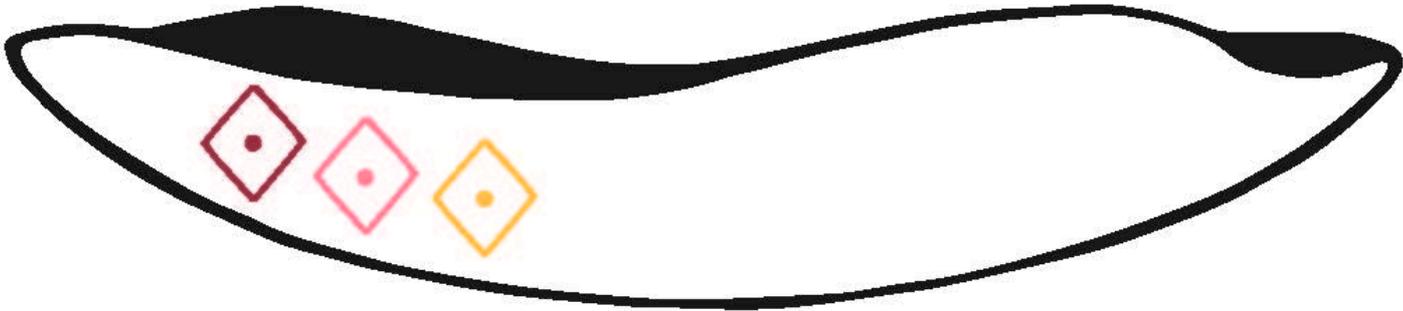
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VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Our vision for reconciliation at Queanbeyan Public School is based on a respectful shared understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories. We strive for unity within the school and local communities. Our school is moving forward as one community, where strong relationships are established with cultural understanding and a common goal of reconciliation. Through positive collaborations and high expectations, we are intent on achieving equity and equality for all within our school community. We are committed to continuing to acknowledge and respectfully promote a deep understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories in our teaching and learning pedagogy. The implementation of our curriculum aims to authentically maintain the cultural and historical integrity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our school community will continue to build a greater awareness of and participation in the reconciliation process through regular formal and informal discussions about cultural responsiveness and teachers engaging in annual professional learning based around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. Our goal is to continue on our culturally respectful journey to ensure cultural proficiency within our school and promote positive and trusting relationships for all members of the community. Through our sphere of influence, we will continue the conversations about reconciliation and promote actions for a united future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Queanbeyan Public School Community acknowledges the Traditional Caretakers of the Land our school is on, the Ngunnawal people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We live on a Land of great natural beauty and acknowledge the close connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with the Land. Today, in looking back, we have considered the colonial wrongs of the past, so we may never repeat them. Together we can journey forward with mutual respect for all cultures. The Land we are on is Ngunnawal Country. It is the limestone plains, the mountains, the fresh water rivers, swamps and streams, a place of platypus and wedge-tail eagle dreaming. Ancient songlines traverse this landscape telling of the law, history and culture of the diverse groups of people who passed through it. The annual trek of the Bogong Moth during the summer months to the high country is also told in a songline. Ngunnawal people traditionally travelled across this Land according to seasonal food sources and trade partnerships with neighbouring clans and Nations, coming together on ceremonial Country. Ngunnawal people belong to the Land as caretakers. The notion of caring for Country is the basis for much of Ngunnawal life, which involves a strong relationship between the people and the Land based on respect, obligation and interdependence, and an intimate knowledge of the Land. This Land has been a traditional meeting place, a sharing place, a learning place, and continues to hold great significance to this day. By enjoying these aspects of Country, we celebrate the people and essence of this place.



RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Wendy Attwood	Principal / Director
Kristina Thelning	Staff (teaching)
Krystal Webb	Staff (teaching)
Adam Barclay	Staff (teaching)
Alanna Raymond	Community member
Kirsten Leach	Staff (teaching)
Paola Mendez	Staff (non-teaching)
Annette Davis	Staff (non-teaching)

RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CLASSROOM

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Classroom	We are committed to engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our learning activities. Having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in learning environments is vital when teaching about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.
Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and Children	We commit to providing opportunities for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to celebrate their cultural identities. These opportunities positively impact the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and children, and create shared pride for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, contributions, identities and histories in the wider school community.



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Cultural Responsiveness for Staff	We are supported to reflect on and build our cultural responsiveness to improve our practice and best support the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We are provided with a range of opportunities to build our knowledge and understanding of our own positionality and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, contributions and cultures.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Welcome to Country	Where appropriate, significant events at our school commence with a Welcome to Country. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. By incorporating these protocols into formal events and important occasions, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Custodians of the Land.
Celebrate National Reconciliation Week	Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is held from 27 May to 3 June each year by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school, and celebrating with the community. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.
Create Stakeholder List	We will develop and maintain a stakeholder list that reflects our current and future working relationships with members of the community who are committed to working collaboratively to drive reconciliation initiatives.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
<p>Build Relationships with Community</p>	<p>We commit to forming ongoing relationships with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Our relationships will be built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We respect these relationships and the way they make opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and the community.</p>



RESPECT  IN THE CLASSROOM

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Teach about Reconciliation	Our school community is committed to learning about reconciliation in Australia. Having an understanding of the concept, history and progress of reconciliation is an important part of continuing the reconciliation journey. This understanding also helps to strengthen engagement with our school's RAP by positioning it within the broader story of reconciliation in Australia.
Teach about Days of National Significance	We commit to incorporating nationally significant days for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and reconciliation into our curriculum to increase knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, contributions and contemporary issues. We also commit to including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives when teaching about other national days, such as 26 January (Australia Day) and ANZAC Day.
Explore Current Affairs and Issues	We commit to knowing the news and being responsive to current issues significant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of reconciliation. We will do this through delivering our curriculum, policies and procedures, and integrating it into the way our school operates.



RESPECT  AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Acknowledgement of Country	Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.
Visibly Demonstrate Respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures	We commit to demonstrating our respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in the physical environment of our school. We understand that making our respect visible in the learning environment through the incorporation of meaningful, relevant and culturally appropriate art, artefacts and symbolism reinforces our work toward reconciliation. It also makes our intentions and actions clear to our students, parents and the broader community.
Recognise and Respect Rights	We are committed to recognising and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge that working within the frameworks of both declarations is important to reducing discrimination and promoting equality and equity in the educational and wider community.



RESPECT  WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Celebrate Days of National Significance	We commit to organising and participating in events to celebrate or commemorate days/weeks of national significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the reconciliation movement to show our pride in, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. We also commit to including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives when we commemorate other national days, such as January 26 (Australia Day) and Anzac Day.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies/displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag at your school to demonstrate respect and recognition for the histories, cultures and contributions of the First Peoples of Australia. Flying or displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.
Physical Acknowledgement of Country	Our school proudly commits to displaying a physical Acknowledgement of Country as a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our school is located.



RESPECT  WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
RAP Launch	Our school is proud to launch our RAP at an event that recognises the efforts of the working group and celebrates our school or service's commitment to reconciliation. We will use our RAP launch event to inform the wider community about our RAP and the many different ways they can get involved and take action toward reconciliation.
Take Action Against Racism	We will raise awareness of racism, its impacts and how to respond effectively when it happens. We will do this through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Curriculum Planning	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are a key, ongoing part of curriculum planning, development and evaluation across all year levels and learning areas. We will review curriculum documents to find out where we include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and to what extent and where we could include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in the curriculum.
Australian Professional Standards for Teachers	We support all teachers to know about and engage with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers' focus on reconciliation, in particular Focus Area 2.4. As a result, teachers understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Inclusive Policies	All staff at school are aware of policies referring to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and building knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. When internal policies are reviewed and developed, we will ensure that they are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and perspectives, and that there is a plan in place to ensure that all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice.
Staff Engagement with RAP	Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from all staff is essential for developing a RAP that is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way. All staff will be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of our RAP through staff development opportunities facilitated by the RAP Working Group.
RAP Budget Allocation	We have set aside dedicated funds from within our budget to procure relevant goods and services that strengthen the sustainability of our RAP Actions. Staff are aware that it is important to consider remuneration for people who have been involved in RAP initiatives out of respect for the time and resources that they have contributed.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Reconciliation Awards	We commit to creating opportunities to acknowledge students, children, staff and community members who are making an outstanding contribution to progressing reconciliation in our school.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Local Sites, Events and Excursions	We commit to learning more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions of the Country on which we live, work, learn and play, by working with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to learn about events of historical and cultural significance and visit appropriate sites.
Celebrate RAP Progress	We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school. We will track the progress of our RAP, continually revisit our commitments, and celebrate our achievements, while generating new ideas to develop and sustain our RAP into the future.
Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Owned Businesses	We promote supplier diversity and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses and their employees through the procurement of goods and services related to our RAP, as well as our general business. We maintain a list of local, regional, state-based and national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses to accompany procurement policies and procedures.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages</p>	<p>We commit to providing students and children with a deeper knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities by learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. We acknowledge the importance of language maintenance and revitalisation efforts and will provide students and children with opportunities to learn – or learn about – the First Language of their local area.</p>

