

Narragunnawali  
Reconciliation in Education

# NAKRA GUNNA WALI

## RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Emmaus College  
May 2020 to May 2021





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## VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Our vision for reconciliation at Emmaus College Rockhampton is to respect, recognise and advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to continue to practice their cultural heritage, values, customs, ceremonies and special relationships with lands and waters. We will work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff, families and community members in achieving equal and equitable opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through improved services within the Catholic education system and through educating students about health, wellbeing and the importance of reconciliation in the early years of their education.

An integral component to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' engagement with school, and engaging all students in learning about the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions, is to work in partnership with families and community. To ensure success with connection to families and community,

Emmaus College will continue to work on developing a school environment that welcomes both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families through the promotion of their identities and cultures. All students at Emmaus College are encouraged to have high expectations of themselves, and of each other and we will continue to promote high expectations relationships in the implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan.

We want to empower all students, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, to be proud of the cultural diversity that they bring to Emmaus College and to show their communities the power that comes with sharing, caring and celebrating diversity in the school and within the community.

Our aim is for all of our Emmaus College students and community members to respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures and to embed this respect in the Emmaus College community.

## RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Sarah Kane	Staff (Indigenous Education Worker)
Julie Maher	Staff (teaching)
David Armstrong	Parent/carer
Eamon Hannan	Principal / Director
Angela Maclaine	Staff (teaching)
Aine Toman	Staff (teaching)
Matthius Mann	Staff (teaching assistant)
Ian Fatnowna	Staff (teaching assistant)
Michelle Conway	Staff (teaching)
Cassandra Burgen	Community member



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Classroom	We are committed to welcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into our classrooms as guests to work alongside our students and children in learning activities. Having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in learning environments is vital when teaching about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.	Sarah K, Julie M	Ongoing
Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and Children	We commit to providing opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to celebrate their cultural identities. These opportunities positively impact the well-being 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.	Sarah K, Julie M	Ongoing
My Time, Our Place (School Age Care)	We commit to seeking out meaningful connections between our vision and plans for reconciliation and the principles, practices and outcomes of the My Time, Our Place Framework. We commit to establishing a strong relationship between the two in order to ensure reconciliation is meaningfully embedded in everyday early learning environments.	Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representation on Committees	We commit to inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, parents/carers and community members to be active representatives on our school's committees. We commit to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives inform decision-making processes by respecting the experiences and knowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can bring to our committees.	Sarah K, David A	Ongoing
Elders and Traditional Owners Share Histories and Cultures	We are committed to forging a meaningful and ongoing relationship with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, and people recognised in their community as Traditional Owners. We hope this relationship can be of mutual benefit, and that our local Elders and Traditional Owners will feel safe, and confident, to share their historical and cultural knowledge with our staff, students and children.	Sarah K	09/03/2017 - 30/12/ 2017
Cultural Competence for Staff	We will reflect on our current level of cultural competence and provide staff with a range of opportunities to build and extend their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We also commit to supporting staff to independently seek out and participate in a variety of cultural awareness experiences that assist them on their own journey of understanding.	Sarah K, Julie M	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Reconciliation Projects	Our school will collaborate on projects that visibly and authentically embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in learning programs and the physical environment. Through this culture of collaboration across the school and with the community, we commit to creating an environment where young people, staff and community members acknowledge, respect and experience connection to the First Australians.	Sarah K, Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
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 their Land.	Sarah K	Ongoing
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.	Sarah K, Aine T	27/05/2019 - 03/06/ 2019
Build Relationships with Community	We commit to building relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that are built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We value these relationships and their role in helping to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and community members.	Sarah K, Julie M	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
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.	Sarah K, Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T	Ongoing
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.	Sarah K, Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T, Matthius M, Ian F, Michelle C	Ongoing
Explore Current Affairs and Issues	We are committed to raising awareness of current affairs and issues in the public domain that are of particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of reconciliation. This will be done through curriculum delivery, policies and procedures, and will be integrated into the ethos of our school.	Sarah K, Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
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.	Sarah K	Ongoing
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.	Sarah K, Julie M, David A, Eamon H, Aine T	28/02/2019 - 30/01/2020





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
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.	Sarah K, Aine T	Ongoing
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies or displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag as a demonstration of our pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. Flying or displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.	Sarah K	Ongoing
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.	Sarah K	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Take Action Against Racism	Racism can have serious negative consequences for the people who experience it, for those who witness it, and for wider society. When racism is properly understood it is easier to overcome. We commit to building awareness of what racism is, the impacts of racism and how to respond effectively when it occurs through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.	Sarah K, Julie M	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Curriculum Planning	Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in curriculum planning, development and evaluation processes is a key and ongoing consideration across all year levels and learning areas. Curriculum documents have or will be audited to identify the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions are already embedded, and to identify opportunities for strengthening the representation of this content in the curriculum.	Sarah K, Julie M, Angela M, Aine T, Michelle C	Ongoing
Australian Professional Standards for Teachers - School Specific	All teachers are supported to understand and meaningfully engage with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, specifically Focus Area 2.4: 'Understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians'.	Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Inclusive Policies	All staff in our school are aware of policies that refer specifically to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increasing knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. We have a plan in place to ensure all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice. Our internal policies have been, or will be, amended to ensure they are also inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increase knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia.	Sarah K, Julie M, Eamon H, Aine T	24/03/2020 - 30/12/2020
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.	Sarah K, Julie M	Ongoing
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.	Sarah K	Ongoing



# OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE COMMUNITY



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Employment Strategy	We commit to the development and implementation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategy. This will assist in attracting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates to vacancies, as well as supporting current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.	Julie M, Eamon H	Ongoing
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.	Sarah K, Julie M, David A, Eamon H, Angela M, Aine T, Matthius M, Ian F, Michelle C, Cassandra B	Ongoing
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages	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.	Sarah K	09/03/2017 - 30/12/2017



