

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI**

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Essex Heights Primary School
February 2026 to February 2027



RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA

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VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Essex Heights Primary School envisions a vibrant, inclusive community where the cultures, histories, and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are acknowledged and deeply valued. Guided by our values of Respect, Resilience, Curiosity, Kindness, and Inclusiveness, we commit to respectfully embedding First Nations perspectives in our curriculum, fostering pride and understanding among all students. We create a culturally safe environment through respectful truth-telling about Australia's shared history, addressing past and ongoing injustices with sensitive action. By building kind, respectful relationships with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong communities, we ensure their voices shape our journey. Our school embraces curious learning to promote equity, inspiring students to be kind, inclusive advocates for reconciliation, strengthening a united Australian identity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Essex Heights Primary School acknowledges the Eastern Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we learn, play, and grow. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, honouring their enduring cultural, spiritual, and educational connections to this Country. We recognise the living heritage of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including the students and families in our school community, and commit to walking together in respect and unity for a shared future.



RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Elisha Cotterell	Principal / Director
Ina Kuehlich	Community member
Aubrey Hudson	Staff (teaching)
Felicity O'Flynn	Assistant Principal
Yogini Patel	Staff (teaching)
Paul Davis	ESO



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.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
<p>Cultural Responsiveness for Staff</p>	<p>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.</p>





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.
Build Relationships with Community	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.





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.
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.



RESPECT



WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies/displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag 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.
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.



OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

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.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
<p>Inclusive Policies</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Staff Engagement with RAP</p>	<p>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.</p>



OPPORTUNITIES



WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
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.

