

EDMUND RICE COLLEGE

Reconciliation Action Plan

2022 - 2023



As members of the Edmund Rice College community, we acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians of this Land, the Wodi Wodi peoples of the Dharawal Nation. As Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people together, we honour their heritage and extend that respect to all First Nations people of Australia. We are committed to taking the time to reflect, listen and learn from our First Nations peoples.

We acknowledge the intimate bond that First Nations people have with their Country and note the devastating impact of colonisation. May we respect our Elders who came before and commit our school to genuine reconciliation through truth telling, education and healing.



Respect



Respect is fundamental to reconciliation pathways and is a key factor to developing positive relationships and opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The College is committed to respectful positive relationships, ensuring that we build awareness, understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and peoples by embracing the histories, knowledge and lessons they share.

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.

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. Understanding that when racism is properly understood it is easier to overcome, we commit to fostering awareness of what racism is, impacts of racism and building capacity to respond effectively when it occurs, through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.



Relationships

Edmund Rice College is committed to ensuring that there is consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and a presence in learning environments, especially when teaching about the history of dispossession, racism and oppression from a First Nations perspective. The College values relationships grounded in truth telling, equity and inclusion.

CULTURAL COMPETENCE FOR STAFF

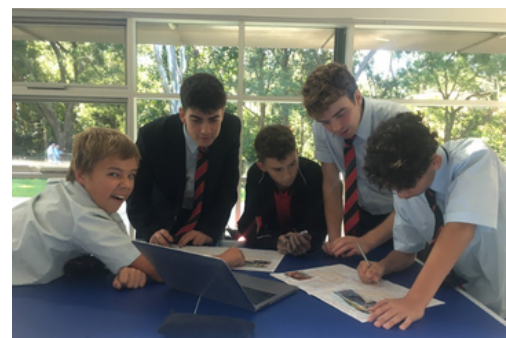
We will reflect on our current level of cultural competence and provide staff with a range of opportunities to build and extend their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We further commit to supporting staff to independently seek out and participate in a variety of cultural learning experiences that assist them on their own journey of understanding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

We commit to providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to celebrate and share their cultural identities. We aim to positively impact their wellbeing, catalysing and fostering shared pride for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, contributions, identities and histories in the College community.



Opportunities



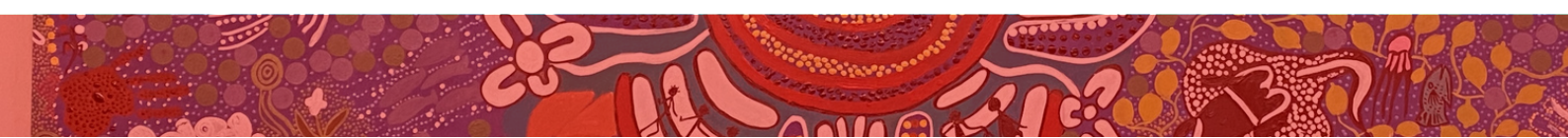
Edmund Rice College is committed to providing learning, staff development and cultural opportunities for staff and students that will enable them to engage with the goals of the Reconciliation Action Plan, deepening our engagement with, support for and knowledge of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters, their cultures, histories, languages and contemporary projects.

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 Key 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.

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 to visit appropriate sites.





The artwork in this document is Narandha Dreaming, created as a collaboration between First Nations students at ERC and Auntie Lorraine Browne and Auntie Narelle Thomas at the Kemblawarra Community Centre. It started with the meeting place in the centre - Narandha is the place where our community comes together to meet, learn about our past and imagine our future. Narandha means to hear, to listen and to perceive in the Dharawal language. It is all about learning from the wisdom of the elders and the past so that we can build the future together.

'It is very hard when you are human to see the threads between the past and the future..... life is all around us and we have to listen in order to know..... even the seasons speak to us about what we need to do. It is our duty to listen - to listen to the wisdom all around us. Let this school be a place of listening and gathering wisdom.'

Uncle Sonny Browne, Auntie Lorraine Browne (2016)



From the Principal



STEPHEN GOUGH
PRINCIPAL

Edmund Rice College is proudly a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. Our school is based on four touchstones: Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community, Liberating Education, Justice and Solidarity. In the spirit of these key understandings, we, as a Catholic school community, are committed to building and promoting respectful relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters within our community and, importantly, the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

In developing our College Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), we pledge to provide opportunities that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attain equity in all spheres of life. We aim to collaborate as a community that works towards a future committed to truth-telling, education and healing in order to contribute to a better future for all Australians.



Our Commitment to Reconciliation

Edmund Rice College is committed to creating an empowering atmosphere that facilitates the dignity and personal growth of all members of the community. As a Catholic school framed in the Edmund Rice tradition, the College recognises the need for all students to understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories, cultures and perspectives and that this is integral to their understanding of Australian society and to the process of reconciliation.



**Nadia Neal, Chairperson
(Aboriginal Education Coordinator)**

We recognise, acknowledge and respect the work and contributions of Kiarra Smalle, Jackie Scheers and Pat Callan to the historical development of initiatives to further the cause of Reconciliation at our College

RAP Committee

- Aunty Sharrolyn Robinson (Community Elder)
- Aunty Julie Street-Smith (Community Representative)
- Stephen Gough (College Principal)
- Judith Hurley (Director of Identity)
- Mitchell Lowrie (Parent Representative)
- Jed Chandler (First Nations Student Prefect 2022)
- Jake Potter (First Nations Vice-Prefect 2022)
- Gerry Sozio (Director of Teaching & Learning)
- Geoff Volk (Teaching Staff)
- Rosanna Stella (Teaching Staff)



Photos: ERC archives
Photos from the UOW
Reconciliation Week used
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Our full Reconciliation Action Plan has been published on the Narragunnawali Platform. It is a living document and as such is continually changing and being updated as we work towards all of our goals. There are 30 areas of action and improvement in our plan and we invite you to walk with us on this journey to be a community that reflects fully our values of compassion, service, dignity and solidarity. You can find the Plan here: <https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/raps/19401/edmund-rice-college>



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