

Narragunnawali  
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA  
GUNNA  
WALI**

# RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Stella Maris School

February 2024 to February 2025



**RECONCILIATION**  
AUSTRALIA



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## VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Our vision for reconciliation at Stella Maris is . . .

- To show our respect for and deepen our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories.
- Create an inclusive and culturally responsive community that promotes justice, honours traditions, and builds unity between non-Indigenous peoples and First Nations peoples.
- Raising awareness and recognition of the true histories of Australia and the ongoing impact of colonial injustices through a targeted educational approach.

As our faith inspires action, the RAP Actions will be achieved through our core values of courage, commitment, compassion, confidence and creativity.

The Stella Maris Community is committed to working in respectful and reciprocal partnerships with First Nations peoples to achieve reconciliation in our school and wider community.


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**Stella Maris - Acknowledgment of Country 1 (Developed by the children of the Deadly Maroochy Mob with Brisbane Catholic Education - Education Officer - ATSI Education - Erin Dougherty, in alignment with the school charism.)**

As we gather here at Stella Maris, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) Peoples. We pay our deepest respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. Through their wisdom and guidance may the Elders teach us how to be *compassionate* for others. Through their wisdom and guidance may the Elders show us how to be *confident* in everything we do. Through their wisdom and guidance may the Elders help us to be *creative* like our ancestors who have practiced dancing and art for tens of thousands of years. Through their wisdom and guidance may the Elders support us to be *committed* to taking care of the land and its animals. Through their wisdom and guidance may the Elders give us the *courage* to be honest and believe in ourselves. May we continue to walk gently and respectfully together.

**Stella Maris - Acknowledgment of Country 2 (Official School Events)**

As we gather here at Stella Maris, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) Peoples. We pay our deepest respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the wisdom, guidance and compassion of First Nations peoples, who graciously gift us with their creativity and commitment to care for the Land and its animals. May we have the courage and confidence to share the true histories of Australia and walk gently and respectfully together.



## RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Therese Maree Lecompte	Staff (teaching)
Mike Van Dalen	Staff (teaching)
Michael Low	Staff (teaching)
Denise Heffernan	Staff (teaching)
Stacey Kennedy	Staff (teaching)
Lauren Solomon	Staff (teaching)
Chloe O'Reilly	Staff (teaching)
Erin Dougherty	Education Officer
Mark Ballam	Principal / Director
Jenny Davissen	Staff (teaching)
MELANIE PETERS	Staff (teaching)



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 our 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 early learning service community.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
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 local Elders and Traditional Owners will feel safe, and confident, to share their historical and cultural knowledge with our staff, students and children.
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 early learning service 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 early learning service 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 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.







RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Teach about Reconciliation	Our early learning service 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 early learning service'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 early learning service operates.



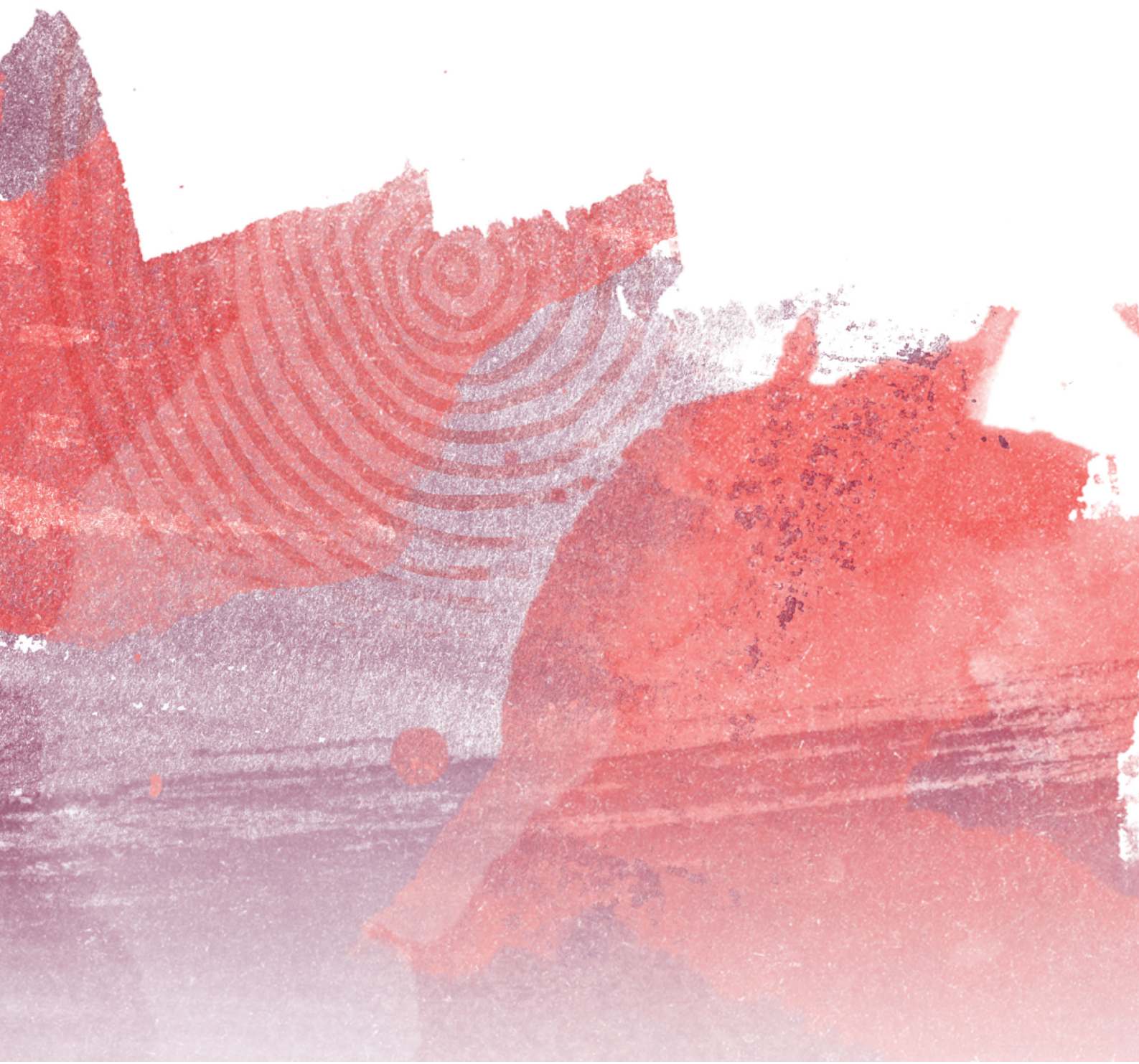


RESPECT



AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Acknowledgement of Country	Our early learning service 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.







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 early learning service flies or displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags 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.
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 early learning service.





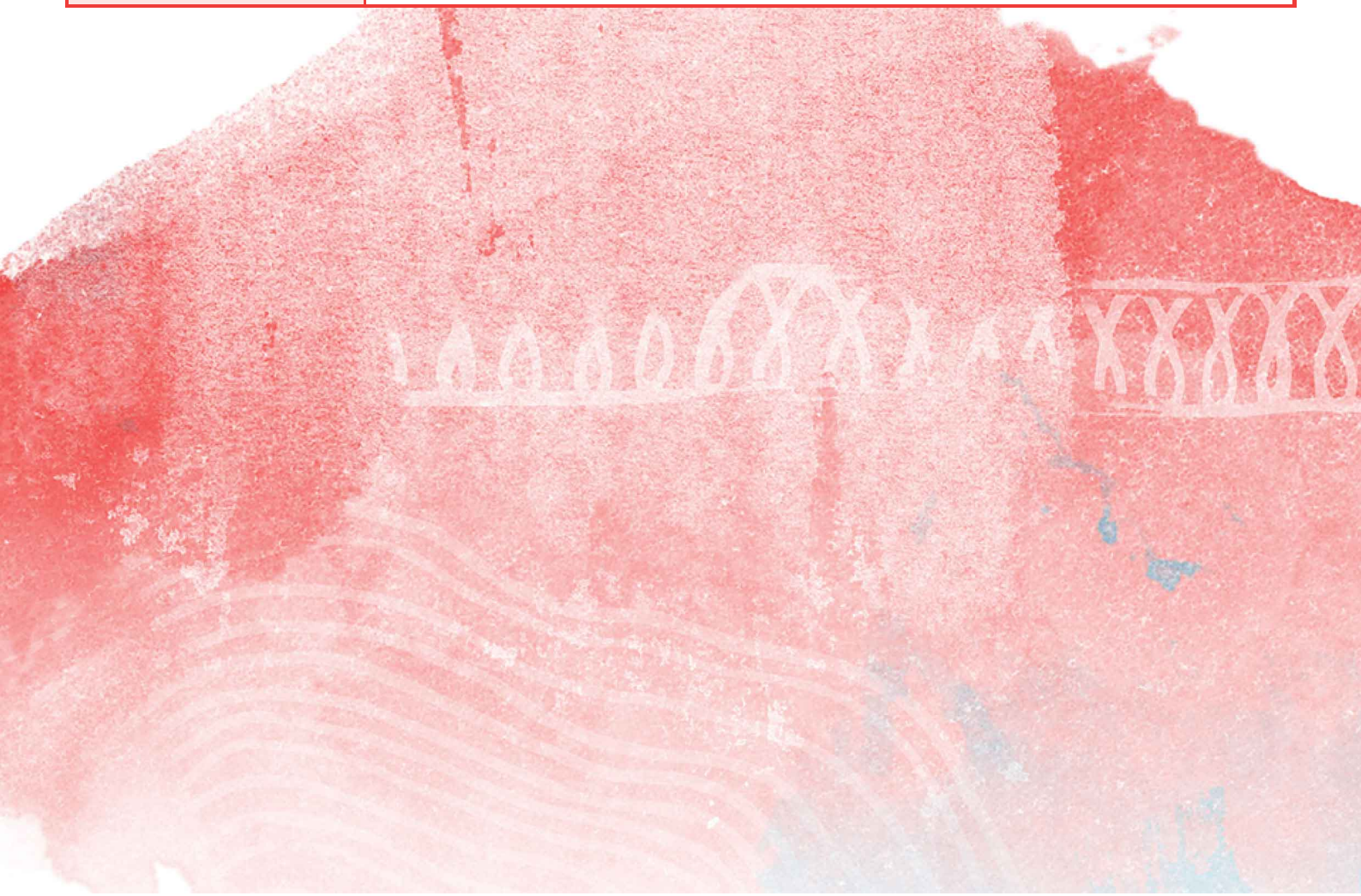
RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Curriculum Planning	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are a key, ongoing part of curriculum planning, development and evaluation across all year levels and learning areas. We will review curriculum documents to find out where we include Aboriginal and 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
Inclusive Policies	All staff at early learning service 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
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 early learning service. 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.

