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## VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Roseberry House Early Learning Centre in Bentleigh's vision for reconciliation is for a respectful and open community that embraces and respectfully embeds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures, histories and continuing contributions in our teaching and learning with young children. We are committed to supporting our community to deepen understanding and respect the resilience of First Nations peoples and cultures and to actively listening to First Nations peoples' objectives and aspirations for the future. Our early learning community will do this by actively acknowledging the relationship Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to Country, as the Traditional Owners of the Lands across Australia on which we learn and play. We will ensure that children, teachers, and families work together to create an inclusive, culturally responsive and welcoming environment and sense of community wherein Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel culturally safe and respected. We will increase our understanding and promote reconciliation, and unity, through building respectful and reciprocal relationships with local First Nations services and communities We will develop a better understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, enriching our appreciation of the cultural heritages of First Nations peoples. We believe that reconciliation is essential to the maturity of Australia as a nation and fundamental to the development of a national identity.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Roseberry House ELC pays our respect to the Boon Wurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we learn and play. We would also like to pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Traditional Custodians past, present, and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the cultures and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the continent.



## **RAP WORKING GROUP**

Name	Position
Ashlee Johnson	Principal / Director
Phoebe Green	Staff (teaching)
Hannah Miles	Staff (teaching)
Mehrien Hussain	Staff (teaching)
Chrystalla Haidar	Staff (teaching)
Michelle Gregorious	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.



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 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 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 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.



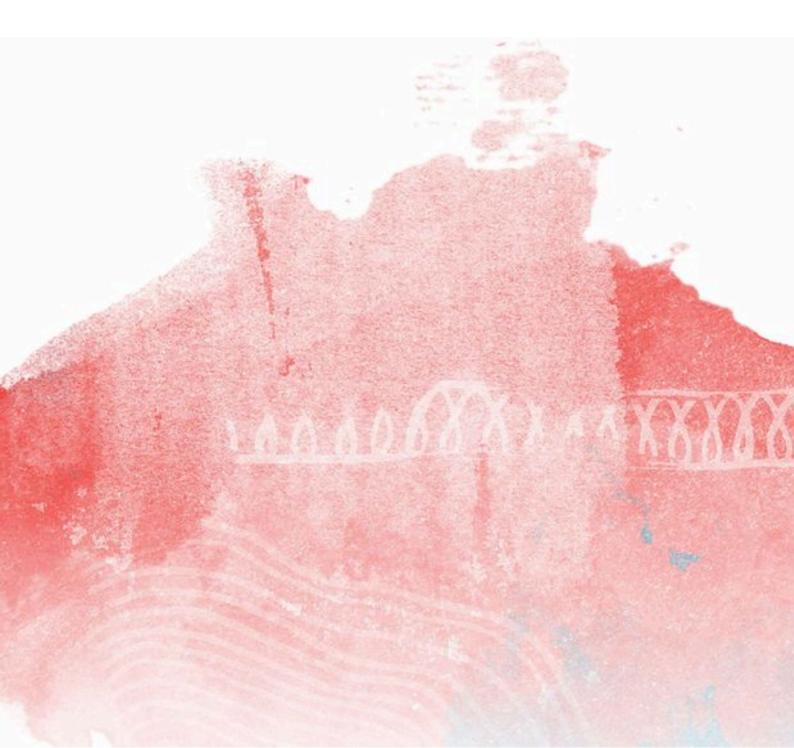
RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Acknowledgement of Country	Our early learning service recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our early learning service flies/displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag at your early learning service 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 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 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 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.

