

higher education 2019

YOUR GUIDE TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HIGHER EDUCATION

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning

What is Narragunnawali?

Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning program supports all schools and early learning services in Australia to develop environments that foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

Narragunnawali is a Ngunnawal word that means alive, wellbeing, coming together, and peace.

While Narragunnawali is a national program, it encourages educational communities to think and act locally when it comes to taking the next steps in their reconciliation journeys.

What is the Narragunnawali online platform?

The Narragunnawali online platform is free to access, and provides practical ways to introduce reconciliation

initiatives in the classroom, around the school, and with the community. Via the Narragunnawali platform, schools and early learning services can develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and teachers, educators, parents, families and community members can actively participate and access resources – including films, professional learning and curriculum resources – to support the design and implementation of learning and action towards reconciliation.

What are RAPs?

Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) are formal statements of commitment to reconciliation. By developing a RAP, schools and early learning services can commit to a practical plan of action for reconciliation. A RAP should not be one person's responsibility, nor should it be the responsibility of only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff or parents at a school or early learning service. A RAP should become

part of everyday business. It is, however, important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are involved in the development, implementation and ongoing progress of RAPs. As well as contributing to reconciliation activities, community members can provide important advice and ideas on how local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives may be respectfully incorporated at all levels, and hold schools accountable to their RAP commitments.

How does Narragunnawali support schools to respectfully develop relationships?

Relationships between schools and early learning services and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities should be founded on a commitment to building respectful and ongoing relationships, rather than taking a short-term

approach. Schools are reminded that building meaningful relationships often takes time and trust. Effective, two-way communication and collaboration should be key, and the approach should not be demanding of time and knowledge. Genuinely listening to and investing time into building relationships with communities will help support strong and lasting partnerships. Throughout Narragunnawali's resources and ideas for action, schools are reminded that it is most respectful to establish a relationship before asking community members to contribute to activities in their school or early learning service.

How can I get involved?

Reconciliation is everyone's business, and for everyone's benefit. Anyone can become part of the Narragunnawali community – whether you're a community member, parent, principal, teacher or student, you can get involved by signing up to the Narragunnawali platform to freely access a wide range of resources, join a RAP Working Group, learn about who has a RAP in your area, and join the conversation.

To learn more, visit reconciliation.org.au/narragunnawali

