

RECONCILIATION

Scope: This policy applies to all staff employed in Catholic schools, colleges, kindergartens and outside school hours care centres conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Catholic Education promotes attitudes, behaviours, perspectives and knowledge so that reconciliation lives in peoples' hearts, minds and souls.

2. DESCRIPTION

Reconciliation starts with an acknowledgement that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the traditional custodians of this country with a deep spiritual connection to land, seas and waterways. Reconciliation acknowledges past injustices and embraces a spirit of mutual respect.

Spirituality is a universal aspect of human nature. Spirituality of the Aboriginal peoples and of the Torres Strait Islander peoples is unique and has developed over many thousands of years. God was always here in the land, the lore, the kinship and the spirituality of the Indigenous peoples.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Schools will consider developing and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans using *Reconciliation Australia* resources to develop a vision, actions and measureable targets for:
 - a) respectful relationships
 - b) respect for people, culture, land and history
 - c) opportunities for life-long education and employment.
2. Staff will participate in cultural awareness programs e.g. *Crossing Cultures, Kanyini*.
3. Schools will build a culturally safe environment by:
 - a) acknowledging traditional custodians
 - b) celebrating significant dates in the Indigenous calendar
 - c) flying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags
 - d) considering enrolment practices
 - e) recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait culture by displaying appropriate symbols in the school.
4. Members of our Catholic Education community will embrace the cultural and spiritual beliefs, values and traditions of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people and incorporate the spirit of reconciliation in all aspects of educational activities.
5. Members of our Catholic Education community will develop relationships with their local



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

WEBSITES

- *Reconciliation Australia: Building relationships for change between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians.* <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/>

RESOURCES

- *The Heart of Our Country*, Reflections on Pope John Paul II's 1986 Address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Social Justice Sunday Statement 2006, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
- The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (2000) *Corroboree 2000: Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation*