

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION POLICY

APPROVED BY:

EREA Council

APPROVAL DATE:

August 2009

APPLICABLE TO:

All in EREA

SCHOOL ACTIONS:

EREA Policy – Schools are to ensure their practices are consistent with this policy.
A local policy is not required.

LAST REVIEW DATE:

April 2014

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

December 2023

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

The Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition

EREA Reconciliation Action Plan (May 2019)

EREA Cultural Practice – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education (May 2019)

EREA School Inclusive Education and Reconciliation Review Process

Narragunnawali RAP for Schools Program – Reconciliation Australia

POLICY STORED:

EREA CompliSpace Policy Plus

Policy Statement: Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) continues to walk together in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Through collaborative and respectful partnerships, EREA commits to providing an inclusive, welcoming and sustaining environment and to offering a quality and culturally enriching education for all young people.

EREA commits to furthering Reconciliation and valuing the wisdoms and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by deepening an understanding, appreciation and practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowings throughout the curriculum, the cultural life and leadership of EREA and its schools.

These goals are achieved through the three domains of the EREA Reconciliation Action Plan:

- Relationships
- Respect
- Opportunities.

Rationale: Edmund Rice Education Australia values, respects and formally acknowledges the unique place and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country/s. EREA seeks to clearly articulate its commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples:

- to provide a truth telling history of Australia through a liberating education for all students;
- to be an advocate for the building of an Australian society that is fair, just and equitable; and
- to remain faithful to Catholic Social Teaching and the message of St Pope John Paul II's Alice Springs speech (1986)

Principles: EREA's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education is inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and the wisdoms, spiritualities and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowings as distinct and we champion their essence. We also seek to embed them in our practice.

In accord with the *Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition* and EREA's Reconciliation Action Plan, we are guided by the following principles:

- a commitment to caring for and understanding Country;
- a fundamental recognition and acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country/s and a commitment to working in relationship with local Elders;
- a commitment to reconciliation, justice and action as foundational to policy, action and outcomes;

- a willingness to walk in the pathway of the Gospels, with a mindfulness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritualities;
- a recognition and valuing of the intrinsic worth and contribution of all members of the community through significant sharing and celebration of cultures and spiritualities;
- ongoing, authentic and respectful relationships and holistic approaches which are inclusive of families and local communities, for transformative outcomes;
- recognition of the diversity of cultures and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
- a commitment to the ongoing resourcing and stewardship of resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education;
- a commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership within EREA;
- a commitment to provide a culturally safe environment for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, families and staff members; and
- a commitment to the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice in the implementation of this policy – *'nothing about us without us'*.

Applicable to: EREA Community

Key Responsibilities: EREA Council

EREA Council endorses and approves this policy

EREA Board

EREA Board approves this policy for referral to Council for their endorsement and approval.

Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the implementation of this policy and the development of the EREA Reconciliation Action Plan.

Principals

Principals are responsible for the implementation of this policy and the development of local school procedures in accord with the EREA policy.

Review: This policy will be reviewed every four (4) years