

A Culturally Safe Environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

"I am going to... gather you together... and bring you home to your own land... I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... You shall be my people." (Ezek 36:26)

"The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ speaks all languages. It esteems and embraces all cultures. It supports them in everything human and, when necessary, it purifies them. Always and everywhere the Gospel uplifts and enriches cultures with the revealed message of a loving and merciful God".

Pope John Paul II - To Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders of Australia in Alice Springs (November 29, 1986)

We acknowledge* with deep respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Australia and acknowledge all of the First Nations peoples on the lands across which we work.

We acknowledge the richness, diversity, and sophistication of the cultures of First Nations peoples.

We acknowledge with sorrow the wrongs of the past that have taken place and continue into today.

We pay deep respects to Elders past and present and honour the strong leadership that is evident in the emerging Elders of tomorrow.

We hope to partner together and work to build a more just and compassionate society for the Traditional Owners of this land.

At Resurrection Parish we have adopted the St Vincent de Paul's society's acknowledgment.

Policy

We establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

To that end:

- A child's ability to express their cultural rights is encouraged and actively supported.
- Strategies are embedded that equip all personnel and members of the community to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and understand its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children and young people.
- Measures are adopted to ensure racism is identified, confronted and not tolerated. Any instances of racism are addressed with appropriate consequences.
- We will actively support and facilitate participation and inclusion of Aboriginal children, young people and their families.
- We will create policies, procedures, systems and processes collectively create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal children, young people and their families.