

Statement of Reconciliation

Federation University Australia • July 2015

Federation University Australia shares with Reconciliation Australia in affirming the special place and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Australians.

The University acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jadawadjali, Jaadwa, Wadawurrung, Wathaurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung, Wurundjeri, Gunaikurnai, Barkindji, Bunurong, Mutthi Mutthi and Kureindji peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land where its main campuses, centres and field stations are located.

The University has set in place measures to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in education, employment and opportunity. It has formalised this commitment in the University's Compact with the Australian Government and in its policies, procedures and actions.

The University seeks to provide a learning and working environment that promotes and values diversity and offers equality of access and opportunity to all. Just as this commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is embedded in policy and strategy, then so too is it seated in the practicalities of teaching, learning, research and community engagement that comprise the daily business of Federation University Australia.

The University considers that closing the 10–17 year life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians is fundamental.

As a multi-sector institution delivering pre-tertiary education, Vocational Education and Training (VET), higher education, further education, research programs and courses, the University is therefore determined to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educational aspiration, participation, retention and attainment by building confidence, facilitating access, mentoring engagement, providing opportunities and fostering achievement. It will continue to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff are able to participate fully in the life and affairs of the University.

To further the process of reconciliation, Federation University Australia has developed its third Reconciliation Action Plan focussing on improving education, training and research opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students; increasing the visibility and status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledges and studies on all University campuses; recruiting and retaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at all levels of the University; and ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved in the governance and decision-making of the University.

The 2015–2017 Reconciliation Action Plan reaffirms Federation University Australia's commitment to the imperative for reconciliation.