



## Indigenous Recognition Policy

### National Quality Framework

<p><b>Area 5</b> - Relationships with children</p> <p><b>Standard 5.1</b> - Relationships between educators and children.</p> <p><b>Elements:</b>  <i>5.1.1: Positive educator to child interactions</i>                      Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.  <i>5.1.2: Dignity and rights of the child.</i>                      The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.</p>
<p><b>Area 6</b> - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities</p> <p><b>Standard 6.1</b> - Supportive relationships with families.</p> <p><b>Elements:</b>  <i>6.1.2: Parent views are respected</i>                      The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected, and families share in decision-making about their child’s learning and wellbeing.</p>

### My Time, Our Place Principles

<p>Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity.</p>	<p>Children feel safe, secure and supported. Children develop their autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency. Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world.</p>	<p>Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation. Children respond with diversity and respect.</p>



## Related Policies:

- Providing a Child Safe Environment
- Child Protection
- Interactions with children

## Policy Statement:

Adventure OSHC recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's cultures are valued and significant in Australia. Our aim is for Educators to assist children to understand the history, culture and lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As the National Quality Standards emphasise the importance of OSHC Services developing partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, we aim to facilitate these partnerships through our Service.

*"Aboriginal Education is not only appropriate education of Aboriginal students but must also involve the education of ALL children about Indigenous Australia."* – Aboriginal Education Policy, NSW, AEGG, Inc, 1995.

## Purpose:

To ensure Educators and children within our service learn about First Nations people in a respectful way.

## Scope:

This policy affects children, staff, Educators and management.

## Implementation:

**To develop our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in order to facilitate education in our Service, Educators, staff and management will:**

- Attend relevant training,
- Meet and talk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within our community,
- Consult with our Local Lands Council,
- Access resources,
- Understand the perspective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on different matters by reading widely,
- Learn about our local community's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history where permitted.

**Throughout our Service, we will include the following practices:**

- Acknowledgement of Country will be displayed on the service wall.



- Create a calendar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's events with the children that can be incorporated into our program,
- Invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to hold workshops for children and families in the Service,
- Network with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and partner with them on specific projects,
- Invite Elders from our local community to take part in celebrations and significant events,
- Plant native plants in our garden,
- Play traditional First Nations games,
- Ensure our Service has a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources, e.g. maps, flags, music, puzzles, books, videos, posters, toys, etc.

## Acknowledgement of Country:

An Acknowledgment of Country can be said by any person at the beginning of a significant event, meeting, or gathering as a way of displaying respect to the traditional custodians of the land.

By including an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of each day, the children will:

- Recognise and accept that historically, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the original custodians of the land,
- Be given the opportunity to start conversations about what it means to be the traditional owners,
- Support the idea that education will enable the removal of bias and racism.

The Acknowledgement of Country is a sign of respect and we will display it in the Service respectfully, framed and separate to other signs and notices.

We respect that a Welcome to Country can only be performed by the traditional owners of the local area or a person appointed by the traditional owners.

## Reconciliation Action Plan:

The Reconciliation Action Plan is about promoting equality and recognition across cultures through the everyday practices we employ. To enrich our understanding and appreciation of the land where we live, work and be with our children, we will create a Reconciliation Action Plan working group. This group will enable us to share the traditional histories of our land in a culturally respectful way and to appreciate the beliefs and customs of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The group will consist of team members from Adventure OSHC Services that will share the responsibilities of implementing reconciliation initiatives. We will review the group each year.



## Reconciliation Action Plan Vision:

The vision for our Reconciliation Action Plan working group will be to work towards national reconciliation through respectfully embedding cultural awareness of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at our Service. Rather than through formal teaching methods, we will aim to embed this knowledge through everyday play and leisure activities such as music, reading, food, conversations, gardening and art. Our Reconciliation Action Plan will be weaved into our weekly planning, providing children and Educators with the knowledge to advocate for true reconciliation where all Australians feel honoured and respected.

## Sources:

- My Time Our Place
- Aboriginal Education Policy

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<b>Reviewed</b>	2 February 2023 - Minor changes (format, business name change)
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