

# Sacred Heart College Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)



Sacred Heart College

*"50 years Sharing the Spirit" 2016*



## **Our vision for reconciliation:**

As a Catholic School faithful to the Gospel and the tradition of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions:

We develop our students to respond to Jesus  
by striving for personal excellence, having the courage of their convictions and being active agents of change.

We wish to build mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians that allow us to work together to solve problems and generate success for marginalised people that is in everyone's best interests.

We wish to raise awareness and knowledge of Indigenous history and culture and change attitudes that are often based on myths and misunderstandings. We will do this through program of action and reflection where everyone plays their part in building better relationships between all Australians.

We wish to contribute to the elimination of the glaring gaps in life expectancy, health, education levels, incarceration rates and employment rates between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

*(We acknowledge <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/what-is-reconciliation>)*

## **Our school:**

Sacred Heart College is a Catholic co-educational secondary college from Years 7 to 12 with about 1272 students.

The College was established in 1967 by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions but its history can be traced back to 1898 when Sacred Heart School opened in the central Perth suburb of Highgate.

The College's motto is *Semper Superne Nitens* which is translated as 'Always Striving Upwards to you Our God'.

The curriculum is based on Christian values and offers a wide range of quality educational opportunities that foster the academic, cultural, sporting and spiritual development of students. There is a strong university focus as well as an extensive vocational education program. A Special Education Centre caters for students with special learning needs. Central to the curriculum is the philosophy of creating lifelong learners who use their potential and talents in the service of others, and for the benefit of themselves. The College recognises the value of parents and supports them on their role as the prime educators of their children. A highly successful extra-curricular program is offered to students. This enhances the excellent academic, sporting, cultural and Christian service achievements of the College, making enrolment a highly sought after option for families in the community.

### Our Reconciliation Action Plan:

Our Reconciliation Action Plan was developed by a committed group of volunteer staff members during the middle part of 2010. The group has met regularly and elicited support from the Catholic Education Office WA Aboriginal Education Team.

Much of the impetus for the development of the Plan came from a recognition in our strategic planning process that there was more we could do for reconciliation. It is fitting that the College embarks on a reconciliation strategy as year 2010 is celebrated as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures. The goal of the International Year consists in making the rapprochement of cultures the hallmark of all policy-making at local, national, regional and international levels, involving the greatest number of relevant stakeholders.

Action	Target 2014
<p>We have established a committee to develop, monitor, review and refresh the RAP. This committee includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Principal</li> <li>▪ Teachers/staff from across departments</li> <li>▪ Students</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal community members have assisted us in drawing up our plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>RAP Committee established.</i></li> <li>• <i>Four RAP Committee meetings to be held each year.</i></li> <li>• <i>Minutes and 'action items' recorded for all meetings.</i></li> <li>• <i>The RAP will be reviewed and refreshed annually.</i></li> <li>• <i>Students will be invited on to the RAP group to plan NAIDOC week in the future.</i></li> </ul>
<p>We will build relationships with our school's local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Aboriginal Traditional Owners or Elders speak about local history and culture for Sorrento where our College is located at school assemblies or other functions.</i></li> <li>• <i>Year 7 S&amp;E students visit local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sites or events of cultural significance.</i></li> </ul>
<p>We will develop a mutually beneficial relationship with a 'partner school' that has a high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Students participate in a pen pal exchange with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at our partner school. (English Dept.)</i></li> <li>• <i>Our school engages in 'virtual contact' with our partner school: video conferencing, online chatting etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Student and teacher visit scheme and exchange activities established between partner schools. This may include academic assistance, sports activities, cultural activities and other service activities.</i></li> </ul>
<p>We will publicly display our school's respect for, and knowledge of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, cultures and histories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aboriginal flag flown and hung all year round.</i></li> <li>• <i>Acknowledgement of Country takes place at significant school assemblies.</i></li> <li>• <i>Traditional Owners/ Elders perform Welcome to Country at significant school events, e.g. the opening of our new building.</i></li> <li>• <i>NAIDOC Week celebrated.</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Harmony Day celebrated.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Future targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Traditional owners acknowledged on the school website and publications, such as newsletters/bulletins.</i></li> <li>• <i>Indigenous art is displayed in our school foyer.</i></li> <li>• <i>The College considers the use of significant Aboriginal names for publications or buildings in the College.</i></li> </ul>
We will ensure all staff members at our school are culturally educated, aware and respectful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The whole staff experience an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training day from the Catholic Education Office in 2014.</i></li> </ul>
We will include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples perspectives in a range of curriculum areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples perspectives/content is included in the teaching of a range of curriculum areas across every grade.</i></li> <li>• <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples resources section, including books by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and DVDs on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, is established in the school library.</i></li> <li>• <i>All students are taught by/addressed by/worked with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander professional, or role model, at least once annually.</i></li> </ul>
We will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to reach their full potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Anti-racism objectives or statements are included within our policies.</i></li> <li>• <i>Our school has developed ways to support Aboriginal students to access places at the College if desired.</i></li> </ul>
We will monitor and refresh our Reconciliation Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Our Reconciliation Action Plan is monitored by our RAP Committee.</i></li> <li>• <i>Our Reconciliation Action Plan is reported on and refreshed at the start of each school year.</i></li> </ul>