



## SECTION 5 GENERAL POLICIES

### 5.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy

#### Aim:

1. To plan an early childhood program that includes respect for, recognition of and reflects Aboriginal culture.
2. To recognise the past mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and work together to right the wrongs.
3. To recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the oldest living cultures in human history.
4. To provide for the cognitive, cultural, social and emotional development of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
5. To recognise that, central to learning for Aboriginal children, is a focus on identity and self-determination.
6. To develop an understanding of Aboriginal culture.
7. To provide children and families with a positive appreciation for Aboriginal culture.

#### Process:

1. As educators, we aim to do our part by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians in a mutually respectful way.
2. At The Gums, an '**Acknowledgement of Country**' is an opportunity to acknowledge, and pay respect, to the Traditional Owners and ongoing custodians of the land in which we play and learn - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
3. We will adopt measures to try to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members who can participate in and help deliver cultural programs.
4. We will provide professional development activities that aim to educate staff on the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
5. We will aim to provide learning environments where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families feel welcome and encouraged to participate in the educational program.