



STATEMENT OF

Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT COUNCIL > JULY 2009

The University of Ballarat Australia acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jadawadjali, Jaadwa, Wathaurong, Dja Dja Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples as the traditional owners of the land where its campuses and centres are located.

The University shares the vision of Reconciliation Australia that recognises the special place and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians.

The University also recognises that reconciliation will only be achieved if the past is acknowledged, the present understood and the future based on equality, respect and genuine opportunity.

For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, devastation to their lives, laws, languages, culture, customs and traditions has been caused by non-Indigenous settlement of Australia. Today, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to experience racism, racial discrimination, injustice and oppression in their daily lives.

In recognition of these historical events and their on-going effects, the University of Ballarat Australia will contribute to the process of reconciliation with measures to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in education, health, employment and opportunity.

The University acknowledges that access to, and participation in, education are fundamental to closing the 17-year life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians.

As a multi-sector institution delivering secondary school level, TAFE, higher education, further education and research programs and courses, the University is well placed to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access and participation rates by strengthening its pathways and raising aspirations and confidence levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff.

The University will continually strive to provide a learning and working environment which promotes and values diversity and offers equality of access and opportunity to all. It will ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are able to participate actively in the life and activities of the University.

To further the process of reconciliation, the University has developed a Reconciliation Action Plan focussing on: improving education, training and research opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students; improving the visibility and status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, knowledge and studies on all campuses; recruiting and retaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at all levels of the University; and ensuring that there is involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the decision-making and governance of the University.