

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA Reconciliation SYMPOSIUM

Advancing reconciliation in early childhood education and care

Engage in reconciliation and discover practical tips!

2025
16-17 MAY

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Day 1, Friday 16 May: What is reconciliation?

7.30 am – 8.30 am

Registration

8.30 am – 8.40 am

Welcome to Country
Marun Fourmile

8.40 am – 8.50 am

Welcome and Blessing
Uncle Gabriel Bani

8.50 am – 9.00 am

Welcome message and program overview
Joanne Goodwin and Catharine Hydon

9.00 am – 9.30 am

Keynote address:
How do we Bridge Now to Next?
Karen Mundine, Reconciliation Australia

9.30 am – 9.45 am

Table introductions

9.45 am – 10.25 am

Keynote address:
Children Deserve the Truth: The promise of Makaratta to create a better future for our children
Catherine Liddle, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children

10.25 am – 10.55 am

Morning tea

10.55 am – 11.35 am

Keynote address:
From assimilation to emancipation: Rethinking reconciliation and recentring the Indigenous learner in early childhood education
Professor Chelsea Watego, Author

11.35 am – 12.35 pm

Bwgcorman Way (of many tribes) Truth telling and Healing
Aunty Rachel Atkinson, Palm Island Community Company
Table discussion integrated into session

12.35 pm – 1.25 pm

Lunch

1.25 pm – 2.05 pm

Partnering with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
Catherine Liddle in conversation with Cassy Bishop, Rachael Ham, Sahsha Ghee and Tahnee Rapson

2.05 pm – 2.25 pm

Table discussion

2.25 pm – 2.35 pm

State of reconciliation in Queensland
Erin Lang, Reconciliation Queensland

2.35 pm – 3.45 pm **Reconciliation: What now? What next?**
Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali team

3.45 pm – 4.15 pm **Afternoon tea**

4.15 pm – 4.55 pm **Building high expectations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the early childhood education and care sector**
Dyonne Anderson, Stronger Smarter Institute

4.55 pm – 5.00 pm **Closing remarks**

5.00 pm **Close of Day 1**

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm **Networking function**

Day 2, Saturday 17 May: How do we progress reconciliation?

9.00 am – 9.30 am **Summary of journey and welcome back**
Joanne Goodwin and Catharine Hydon

9.30 am – 9.50 am **Address**
Caroline Hannigan, Queensland Department of Education

9.50 am – 10.50 am **EYLF V2.0—Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives**
Joanne Goodwin and Catharine Hydon
Interactive workshop

10.50 am – 11.20 am **Morning tea**

11.20 am – 12.30 pm **Weaving and Connecting to your Community**
Cecelia See Kee and Jackie Bennett, Connecting the Dots through Culture
Interactive workshop

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm **Lunch**

1.30 pm – 2.20 pm **Closing Keynote Address:**
Failing forward: How setbacks paved the way to success
Marcus Pedro

2.20 pm – 2.40 pm **Cultural celebration**
AFL Cape York Cultural Dancers

2.40 pm – 3.00 pm **Closing remarks**

3.00 pm **Close of the 2025 ECA Reconciliation Symposium**

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm **Afternoon tea, networking and farewell**

NB: Program subject to change without notice.

Artist acknowledgement

The Seven Sisters has been designed by Indigenous artist Joyce McLean

