

Reconciliation Action Plan

Annual Report 2019/20



Our Vision for Reconciliation

The Foster Care Association of Victoria's (FCAV) vision for reconciliation is for Australia to be a nation that acknowledges historic truths and their current impacts and where First Nations' cultures are recognised, understood and celebrated by all, as part of our community and country's identity.

The FCAV advocates for a child protection system that ensures Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are safe and connected to their family, culture and community. We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination in all areas of the care of children and young people.

Our RAP

The FCAV is implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to support growth towards excellence in cultural safety within our organisation and to promote the principles of reconciliation within our membership of foster carers across Victoria. The RAP provides the platform for the FCAV to recognise, monitor and increase the integration of cultural awareness, safety and support into our relationships and membership support. This includes developing our relationships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) colleagues and subscribers to support communities' focus on self-determination and healing. The FCAV is committed to Aboriginal Child Placement Principles and the Wunggurilwil Gaggapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement.

Activities and Events

The FCAV recently had our second Reconciliation Action Plan (Innovate) 2020–2022, endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. This will be launched on 27 August, 2020. Brent Ryan, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) Leader, Learning & Development, will be opening the event.

Due to COVID-19, we are celebrating the launch online. As part of the celebration, we are inviting Staff, Board, RAP Working Group members and sector colleagues to watch a virtual film screening of 'Twelve Canoes'.

The FCAV recently had a professional development session for all staff with Sue-Anne Hunter in relation to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles.

Sue-Anne Hunter is a proud Wurundjeri and Ngurai Illum Wurrung woman, committed to self-determination and advocating for the rights of all First Nations peoples.

Prior to establishing her business in 2019, Aboriginal Cultural Consultancy, Sue-Anne worked in the Aboriginal



Above: FCAV Staff, Board & RAP Working Group Members Walking on Country with our Board Member and Wurundjeri man, Daryl Sloan.

Right: We purchased this original artwork from Paul McCann, a Marrithiyel artist. It was wonderful to have Paul come to our office to present his artwork 'Connections' and explain the meaning to staff. The artwork is displayed in our foyer and used throughout the design of our RAP.



Child and Family Welfare field for over 18 years and has been appointed director on several boards. Following this session, the CISS team has participated in case consultations with Sue-Anne in relation to specific cases and she has provided meaningful guidance and support to the team.

A Team Planning session is being developed to further explore issues in relation to Aboriginal children in care and the impact on children and families.

The FCAV is intending to further develop connections and relationships with ACCOs to assist in the advocacy work with agencies and Department of Health and Human Services.

A Guiding Principles document has been developed with Dana Payne, Executive Manager, Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance and is ready to be presented at our next RAP working group.

The FCAV is part of the Working Group - Transition of Aboriginal Children to ACCOs. Meetings have been postponed this year by DHHS due to COVID-19.

Read the FCAV RAP here: www.fcav.org.au/about/rap



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.