

Primary Care Connect Reconciliation Statement

Our commitment to First Nations people and our local Indigenous communities

"It is a unifying poetic call to strive for true justice, reminding us all that First Nations peoples are not the problem, the problem lies in structural inequality and exclusion, where we are not ever given the authority and capacity to make the decisions that impact our lives."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar AO – 2021

Primary Care Connect is committed to the ongoing journey of reconciliation with First Nations people, recognising the historical injustices and the unique cultural contributions of Australia's Indigenous communities.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Lands where we provide services, and all other Indigenous people's residing on this country, which comprised the areas now known as Greater Shepparton, Mitchell Shire, Moira Shire, Murrindindi Shire, and Strathbogie Shire; and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are proud and privileged to share this country and lands with First Nations people's – who have been here for tens of thousands of years and are the oldest, continuous culture on the planet.

Our commitment to reconciliation is grounded in the principles of respect, the right to self-determination, understanding, and collaboration. We recognize the importance of acknowledging the impact of historical policies and practices on First Nations people's health and well-being.

We deeply regret the hurt and distress caused by past policies which included the displacement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from country from the beginning of colonial settlement, and the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families and homes. We recognise the negative impact of these policies that still exist today on the social, economic, health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and we are committed to actively doing our part as a community health organisation to rebuild trust and to close the gap.

We strive to create a culturally safe and inclusive environment within our organisation, where First Nations individuals and communities feel valued, heard, and respected.

Our Pledge:

In the spirit of Reconciliation and the development of Primary Care Connects first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, Primary Care Connect pledges to:

- Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations by giving a voice to, and listening to all sections of our community's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Increase understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge, and rights through cultural learning
- Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols, and building relationships through celebrating and recognising days and weeks of significance including National Reconciliation Week (NRW) and NAIDOC Week
- Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention, and professional development

By taking these steps, Primary Care Connect aims to contribute to the broader national reconciliation movement and promote positive change within the health sector. We understand that reconciliation is an ongoing process, and we are committed to listening, learning, and evolving in partnership with First Nations people. This statement reflects our dedication to building respectful relationships and fostering a future where health equity is a reality for all.



Tricia Quibell
Chief Executive Officer

December, 2023



Wendy Ross
Board Chair



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