

Rationale

SDN formally acknowledges the unique position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and custodians of the land. We also recognise that at certain times, people face barriers that make accessing services difficult and therefore experience disadvantage, and as a result of past experiences of colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experience particular disadvantage.

Our Ngara Nanga Mai strategy for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people stems from our underpinning philosophy and our vision of a world where the promise and potential of every child is realised, and families and communities are strong and caring. It reflects our mission to address inequalities faced by children, and our values of inclusion and respect.

Policy

SDN will support communities by fostering and encouraging practices that are free from discrimination and that promote acceptance and inclusion and by acknowledging and embracing diversity.

Ngara Nanga Mai are words from the Gadigal language of the Eora Nation, that means ‘Listen and Dream’. It reflects SDN’s vision for and commitment to our past, present and future work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families, communities and our own staff.

We will implement the Ngara Nanga Mai strategy by:

- listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and acknowledging the inequalities they face and their preferred ways to address these
- providing high quality, inclusive and integrated early childhood education, and care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families
- delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific services and service inclusive of cultural practices
- developing resources and pathways with, and for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and staff members and
- implementing, evaluating and reviewing our Reconciliation Action Plan.

Each service will provide environments and opportunities that:

- enhance the understanding of all children, their families and staff about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their culture
- understand and respect knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and contextual contemporary issues that continually impact on children and families living in communities

- assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families to belong and have opportunities to participate in our services and
- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to feel confident with their own identity and to support their colleagues with knowledge and skills to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families, and communities.

Related SDN Documents

Policies

- GI-HLP-1.04: Equity, Social Justice and Social Inclusion
- SD-HLP-2.01: Priority of Access to SDN Services

Other SDN Documents

- Ngara Nanga Mai Logo Use Guidelines
- SDN's Strategic Plan for 2016-2018
- Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan

Relevant Legislation/Regulations

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
 - Schedule 1: National Quality Standard, standard 4.2, elements 1.1.5, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 6.3.3 and 6.3.4

Other Reference/Related Document

- Welcome To Country and Acknowledgement of Land and Traditional Custodians Wording and Protocols

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ENGAGEMENT POLICY		GI-HLP-1.05	
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