

	Policy Governance Infrastructure	
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement	GI-HLP-1.05

Rationale

SDN formally acknowledges the unique position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and custodians of the land, and the Elders past and present and emerging. We also recognise that at certain times people face barriers that make accessing services difficult and therefore experience disadvantage, and that 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 vision for an equitable world where all children thrive. and reflects our purpose to promote and enhance children’s wellbeing, learning and development in inclusive environments.

Ngara Nanga Mai (pronounced *inggara naga my*) is a word from the Gadigal language of the Eora Nation that means ‘Listen and Dream’.

Policy

SDN will promote and enhance practices that are free from discrimination and that promote acceptance and inclusion and by acknowledging and embracing diversity.

We will implement the Ngara Nanga Mai strategy by:

- listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to understand their history, experience, knowledge and capabilities, the inequalities they face and their preferred ways to address these, and the impact on them of intergenerational trauma.
- providing high quality inclusive and integrated early childhood education and care, children’s therapies and family support programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families
- providing professional learning for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to enhance their understanding of indigenous culture and knowledge
- delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific services and services that are inclusive of cultural practices
- developing resources and pathways with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and staff members
- implementing, evaluating and reviewing our *Reconciliation Action Plan*.

Each service will provide environments and opportunities that:

- recognise and value the traditional custodians of the land

Minor/ legislative amendment or modification history 9 November 2020	Details: Modification made Added NDIS Quality & Safeguarding Framework to relevant regulations list
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- enhance the understanding of children, families and staff about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 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
- 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

- GI-ADD-1.05-A: Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Land and Traditional Owners
- Ngara Nanga Mai Logo Use Guidelines
- SDN’s Strategic Plan 2019-2023
- SDN’s 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
- NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework

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