


Statement Toward Reconciliation



We, as Good Shepherd people, Indigenous* and non-Indigenous in all our cultural diversity, affirm to all the people of this nation:

- That Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the traditional custodians of this land that we now share, and as such hold a unique place in our nation;
- That the European colonisation on this land ushered in a period of traumatic dispossession that we must strive, together, to heal;
- That, as part of this healing, reconciliation between Indigenous Australians and other Australians is central to the renewal of this nation;
- That reconciliation is achieved through a commitment - as individuals, as a movement, and as a nation - to awareness of Indigenous perspectives, acknowledgement of any past or present wrong-doings, and clear action to redress those wrong doings;

- That in working towards reconciliation we are striving for genuine partnership, not just service; striving for a partnership in which we accept and endorse the leadership of Indigenous people;
- That until we achieve this reconciliation and this partnership we, and our nation, will be diminished.

We will walk together Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians - acknowledging our diverse gifts, stories and spiritualities as we embrace the vision of Reconciliation Australia for:

An Australia that recognises the special place and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians values their participation and provides equal life chances for all.

**Indigenous refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

