

A focus on Reconciliation

Being brave and making change!

Through a reflective conversation between Rose, the Director of Butterflies International Childcare Centre and Laura Field, the service's Inclusion Professional, it was identified that it was a challenge for the service to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within their daily program because the team of educators came from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, did not grow up in Australia, and had minimal knowledge of First Nations history.

To support the service to build their knowledge and understanding together, the Inclusion Professional shared some links to support learning about the Cammeraygal people, the traditional owners of the land, some reflective questions to support team discussion, and a link to the ABC Playschool episode *Walking Together* that focused on reconciliation.

Some of the educators watched this ABC episode and participated in a reflective conversation in their team meeting. Rose reported that the reflective questions provided were key to igniting curiosity

and a developing understanding of the importance of reconciliation. Following the team meeting, the service began to change their environments to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and create a culturally safe space. They have received some positive feedback from an Aboriginal family attending the service.

Several educators have now started projects in their rooms, which have flowed into the foyer and shared spaces. The service has registered a Reconciliation Action Plan with Narragunnawali, and educators are involved in creating the actions.

The service has also connected with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through the local council and is preparing to have an Elder visit the service. Educators are actively 'doing the work', researching to increase their knowledge and identifying how their connection with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community can support reconciliation.

In preparation for the Elder's visit to the service, the educators collated some questions they felt would



increase their knowledge and confidence to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into their program. To incorporate the children's voices, educators also asked them what they would like to know. All the questions were emailed to the local Elder before their visit. The service is already planning on how to increase family participation in their reconciliation journey.

Rose commented on the importance of educators 'being truly curious' and their acknowledgement that 'we need to do our part first'. Rose emailed, 'Thanks for your support and guidance in relation to our Reconciliation Action Plan. We have gained some confidence to start for sure!'

The service has since engaged in a conversation with a visiting sports provider who had expressed that he didn't have knowledge or understanding about reconciliation. They shared the link to the Playschool episode Walking Together and the sports

provider then used this information to include a focus on reconciliation in their program the following week.

Being curious, being brave and sharing your learning will support progress towards reconciliation!

Contact your Inclusion Professional to discuss how you could plan for reconciliation.



Questions to support reflection

- ▶ How could your service engage in conversations about reconciliation and make plans for action and change?
- ▶ What changes could you make to your environments and educational programs to include all cultural perspectives?
- ▶ How can you connect with and listen to First Nation Peoples in your community?