

## RECONCILIATION

### Preamble:

1. The AEU acknowledges that the process of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is the responsibility of all Australians.
2. The AEU shares the vision of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation for “a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provides justice for all”.
3. The AEU believes that in any form of true reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, there must be a clear and shared understanding and acknowledgment of what are the past truths that affect present day realities. This understanding needs to occur before the process of identifying strategies for going forward to build true reconciliation. On this point the AEU acknowledges and applauds the significance of the Federal Parliament having said “Sorry” to the Stolen Generations on 13 February 2008.
4. The AEU also believes that teachers and schools are uniquely placed in the Australian community to advance the process of reconciliation.

### Action by the AEU:

In forwarding the process of reconciliation the AEU will:

- (a) promote reconciliation through Union publications, at forums and meetings of the Union and in the general work of the Union. The Union will also celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander national and cultural days.
- (b) continue to provide members with professional development about reconciliation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and cross cultural awareness.
- (c) continue to lobby for support and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in ACT government schools.
- (d) also continue to lobby the Department about the need to employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers in our schools.
- (e) continue to lobby the Department and University of Canberra for appropriate pre service training for **all** teachers about reconciliation, cross cultural awareness and Aboriginal education.
- (f) through involvement with its Indigenous members, monitor system policies and practices with regard to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.
- (g) campaign in Territory and Federal elections against any racist political platforms and candidates who do not support reconciliation.

### Action by AEU Members:

AEU members will:

1. participate in professional development about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education on a regular basis, in particular to improve understanding about cultural and intercultural communication.
2. on school based professional development committees ensure that Aboriginal education is an integral part of school based professional development days.
3. monitor and review resources in schools that support Aboriginal education.
4. implement the Across Curriculum Perspectives in all Key Learning Areas.
5. actively work against racism in schools and support the work of the school anti racism contact officers.
6. promote the school’s role in reconciliation with their broader school communities.
7. work to establish specific budget lines in school financial plans to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.
8. support and endeavour to implement aspects of the recommendations of the “Bringing Them Home” Report that are relevant to schools. They will also make sure that students are familiar with the history contained within the Report to help students understand the impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and families of the forced removal of their children.