

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI**

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Merici College

August 2024 to August 2025



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VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Merici College is committed to continuing to integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures into classes and wider school environments and events. Our vision for reconciliation is that we not only integrate a focus on First Nations histories and cultures because of curriculum and legislative requirements, but because we genuinely understand, acknowledge and respect the living cultures of those who have been on Ngunnawal Land for thousands of years.

Using the Reconciliation Action Plan as our guide, we continue to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families feel a sense of belonging at the school and are afforded equal and equitable opportunities to engage with culture and Country, and with culturally responsive learning experiences. We are seeking opportunities to welcome and engage Ngunnawal People in both school and community and facilitating genuine opportunities for connection to Country.

We want all students to learn not only about the injustices faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples since colonisation, but also about the resilience and the unique and continuing cultures and contributions First Peoples have to offer. Students should all have opportunities to respectfully engage in this learning in and out of the classroom; to learn on Country and about how to serve Country; and to actively listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As members of the Merici College community, we would like to acknowledge the living cultures of the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we meet, and we recognise any families who have connections to this Land.

We pay respect to Elders past and present and recognise the stories that have been passed down for thousands of years to educate and inspire generations to come.

We appreciate the significance of connection to Country and all that the Ngunnawal people have continued to do to preserve the Land that the foundations of Merici are built on.

We aim to strive for reconciliation and justice in all we do, say and are as a Merici College community and beyond.

(Written by Merici Mob 2023)



RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Anna Masters	Principal / Director
Alyssa Markmann	Staff (Indigenous Education Worker)
Bianca Porcheddu	Staff (teaching)
Nicola Bartasek	Staff (teaching)
Nicole Commins	Staff (teaching)



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Classroom	We are committed to engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our learning activities. Having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in learning environments is vital when teaching about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.
Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and Children	We commit to providing opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to celebrate their cultural identities. These opportunities positively impact the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and children, and create shared pride for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, contributions, identities and histories in the wider school community.

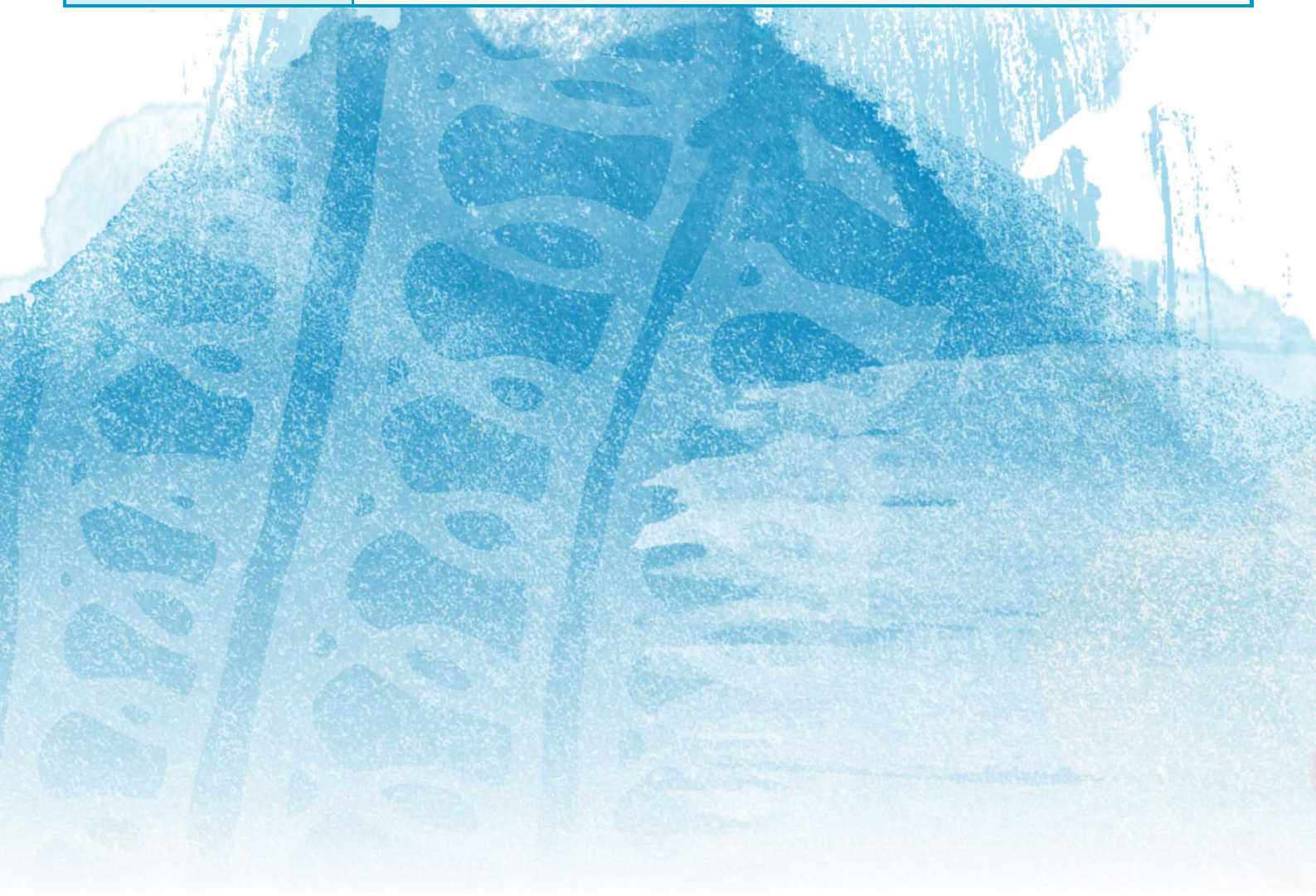


RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Cultural Responsiveness for Staff	We are supported to reflect on and build our cultural responsiveness to improve our practice and best support the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We are provided with a range of opportunities to build our knowledge and understanding of our own positionality and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, contributions and cultures.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Welcome to Country	Where appropriate, significant events at our school commence with a Welcome to Country. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. By incorporating these protocols into formal events and important occasions, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Custodians of the Land.
Celebrate National Reconciliation Week	Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is held from 27 May to 3 June each year by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school, and celebrating with the community. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.
Build Relationships with Community	We commit to forming ongoing relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Our relationships will be built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We value these relationships and the way they make opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and the community.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Teach about Reconciliation	Our school community is committed to learning about reconciliation in Australia. Having an understanding of the concept, history and progress of reconciliation is an important part of continuing the reconciliation journey. This understanding also helps to strengthen engagement with our school's RAP by positioning it within the broader story of reconciliation in Australia.
Explore Current Affairs and Issues	We commit to knowing the news and being responsive to current issues significant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of reconciliation. We will do this through delivering our curriculum, policies and procedures, and integrating it into the way our school operates.

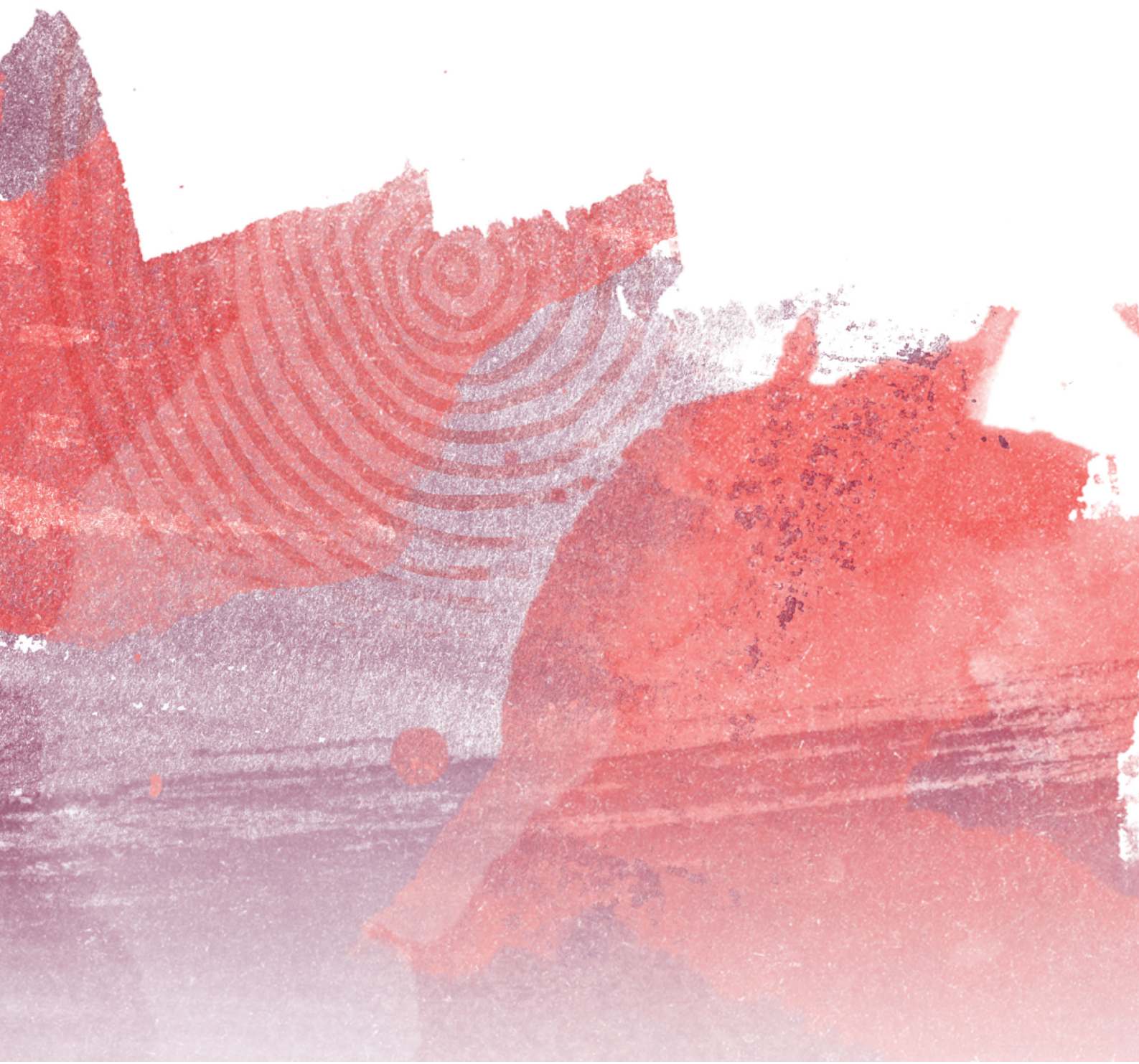


RESPECT



AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Acknowledgement of Country	Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.

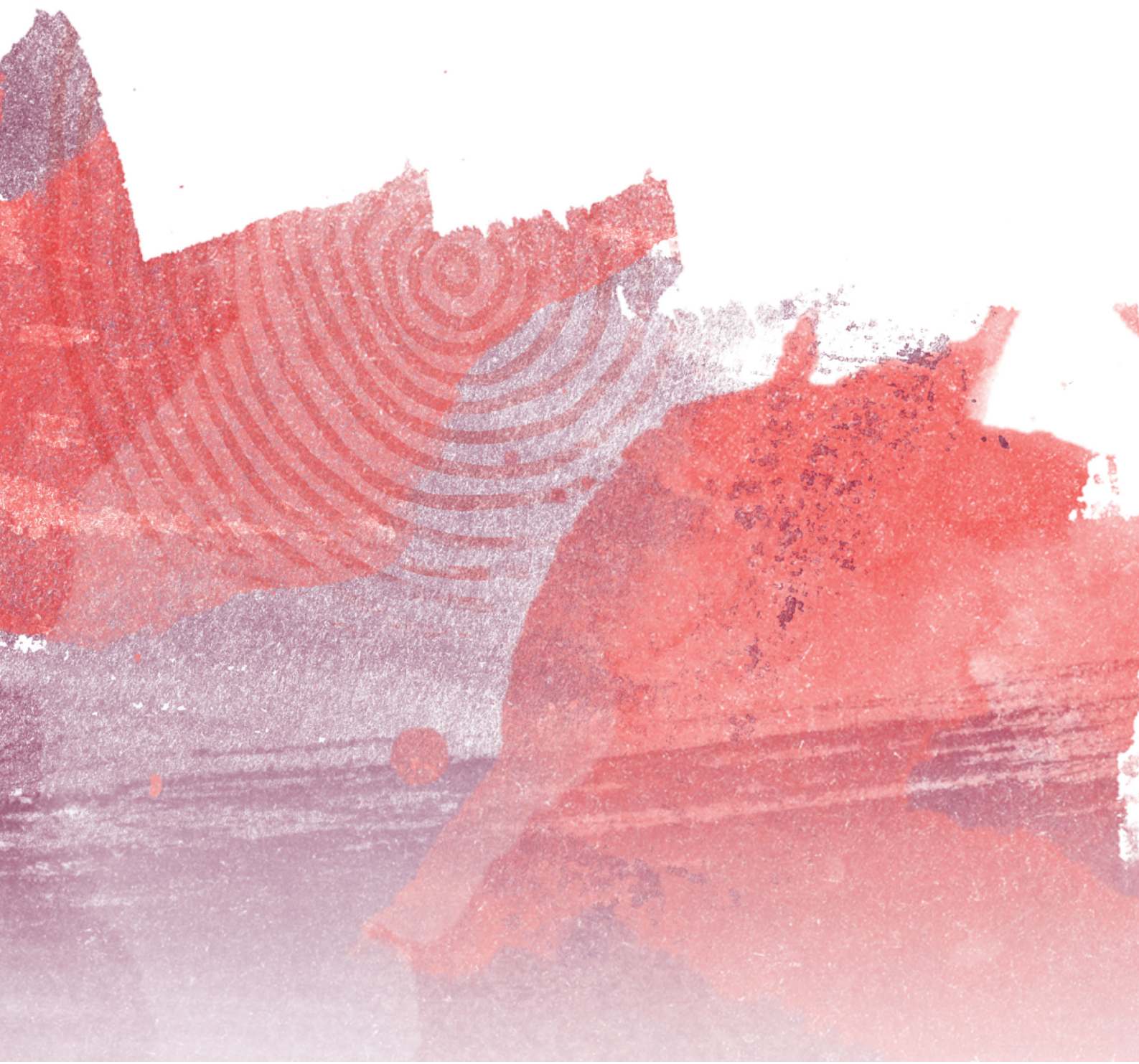


RESPECT



WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies/displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag at your school to demonstrate respect and recognition for the histories, cultures and contributions of the First Peoples of Australia. Flying or displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.
Take Action Against Racism	We will raise awareness of racism, its impacts and how to respond effectively when it happens. We will do this through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.



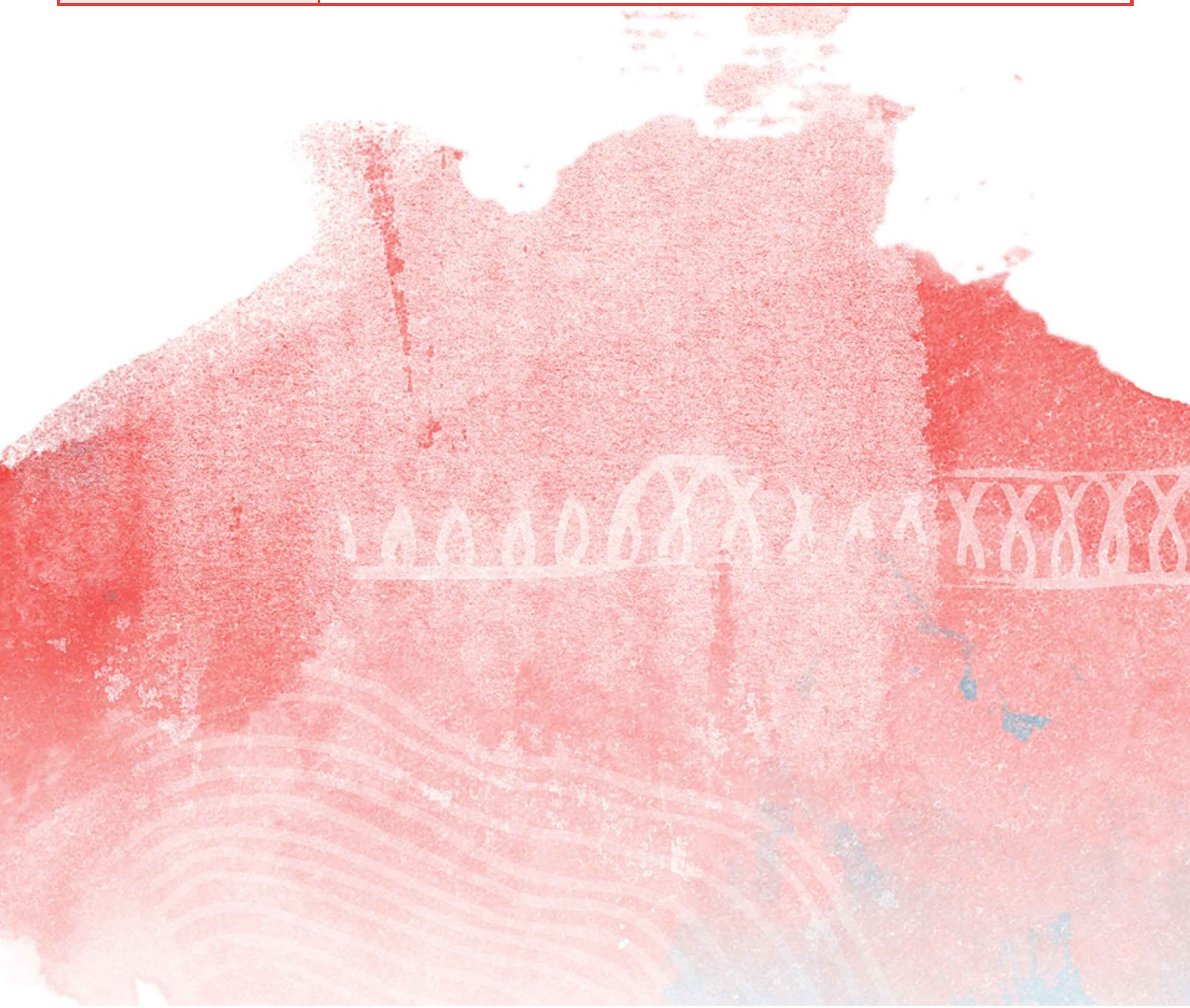


RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Curriculum Planning	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are a key, ongoing part of curriculum planning, development and evaluation across all year levels and learning areas. We will review curriculum documents to find out where we include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and to what extent and where we could include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in the curriculum.</p>





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Inclusive Policies	All staff at school are aware of policies referring to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and building knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. When internal policies are reviewed and developed, we will ensure that they are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and perspectives, and that there is a plan in place to ensure that all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice.
Staff Engagement with RAP	Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from all staff is essential for developing a RAP that is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way. All staff will be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of our RAP through staff development opportunities facilitated by the RAP Working Group.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Celebrate RAP Progress	We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school. We will track the progress of our RAP, continually revisit our commitments, and celebrate our achievements, while generating new ideas to develop and sustain our RAP into the future.

