



REFLECT - RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN
OCTOBER 2022- SEPTEMBER 2023

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The Artwork

‘WALKING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER’

The 3 circles in the painting represent working in many communities with the ‘u’ shapes represent the people within them and also represent the people in those communities. The brown represents the earth that grounds us and the white represents the healing that happens along the way.

The surrounding circles represent the surrounding communities that people come from to engage with play therapy services. The footprints represent the journey made with the people as they make the journey together.

The surrounding colours represent the many different countries and lands that surround us but also where many mobs identify with or come from. The rainforest, red dirt, beach, freshwater springs or waterholes and the bush.

The story is about Play Therapy taking the journey with you and your little ones, walking the journey together.



The Artist



Silvia Jones-Terare is a Gooreng Gooreng, Kabi Kabi, South Sea Islander and Welsh woman. Silvia has been working in the community services sector for over a decade in many different areas such as engagement in schools, family support, youth work, and Cultural Support Planning. In her role as Cultural Support Planner at Life without Barriers, Silvia facilitates connecting or returning young people back to country, relationships with families and the community. Silvia undertakes this through gathering information on family and community connections as well as delivering and supporting cultural camps.

Through these roles, Silvia has been able to connect and reconnect young people to culture, community, and family. Silvia has been able to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through programs, events and linking individual, families, and groups to community; guided by the local Elders and community.

Cultural support and wellness have always been a passion of Silvia's as she believes this is a crucial piece of Australia's young people's identity as well as a big part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and who they are. Silvia has been privileged to work alongside some amazing mentors supporting her through this journey in her career.

Silvia is also a member of the Play Therapy Practitioners Association (PTPA) Board of Directors and RAP committee. PTPA is eternally grateful to Silvia for her generosity in creating and donating this incredible artwork which is proudly displayed on the pages of the PTPA inaugural RAP.

President's Message

At the core of Play Therapy Practitioners Association's values for practices is our vision to grow an inclusive community. Building on this vision is PTPA's commitment to provide a safe and welcoming space for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where their language, heritage and culture is respected and valued.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the oldest continuous living culture on the planet. They want and deserve to take greater control over the language used to describe their experiences and the ways in which their stories are told. It is critical for PTPA practitioners who want to be using best practice to listen to these voices, including the diverse voices amongst all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recognise that our commitment to Reconciliation is ambitious, but we are invested in working alongside our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We are committed to building and facilitating positive working relationships, promoting Reconciliation through our local communities and members, encouraging positive race relations through anti-discrimination strategies, and developing PTPA and member specific cultural protocols to enhance current and future member practices.

We know that this starts with us. Our commitment to our own members and the local communities we service is a key stepping-stone to achieving genuine reconciliation.

This was, is and always will be Aboriginal Land.



Kylie Ellison

About Play Therapy Practitioners Association

Play Therapy Practitioners Association (PTPA) was established in 2018 in response to an identified need to provide opportunities for counsellors, therapists and professionals working with children to gain suitable recognitions for their training and experience working as play therapists in Australia.

The Association seeks to establish a not-for-profit professional body for play therapists in Australia that promotes access to suitable training opportunities, networking events, advocacy of the profession and establishment of professional standards for practice.

The Association aims to work alongside training providers across Australia to promote accreditation standards for practice, along with the creation of a community of play therapists to ensure more children have access to play therapists in each state.

It is the hope of PTPA that the evidence-based approach of play therapy will become the preferred therapeutic framework for working with children across Australia.

Our Locations

PTPA is based in Brisbane but welcomes members from varying locations throughout Australia and the world.

Current members are located in the following areas:



Our Vision and Mission

Vision

For play therapy to be recognised as the preferred method for supporting children and young people therapeutically. For practitioners in the community to be able to qualify as play therapists and to allow for the growth and establishment of the profession in Australia.

Mission

Play Therapy Practitioners Association (PTPA) is a registered not for profit association. Open to professionals with an interest in play therapy, PTPA's mission is to promote play therapy and its benefits throughout Australia. The Play Therapy Practitioners Association (PTPA) will promote play therapy through education, promotion of quality professional practices and the utilisation of play therapy practices to support children. The Play Therapy Practitioners Association (PTPA) will create an inclusive community for play therapy practitioners empowering members through education and advocacy for play therapy.

Our Vision for Reconciliation

PTPA has a multilevel vision for Reconciliation.

For play therapists throughout Australia (and all Australians) to understand and acknowledge Australia's true history including the impact of the wrongs of the past and the hurt still felt today.

For the profession to normalise and eventually require all practicing therapists to complete regular cultural awareness training.

For professional bodies training therapists or providing play therapy services to build relationships with the local Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander communities and the key services working within these communities.

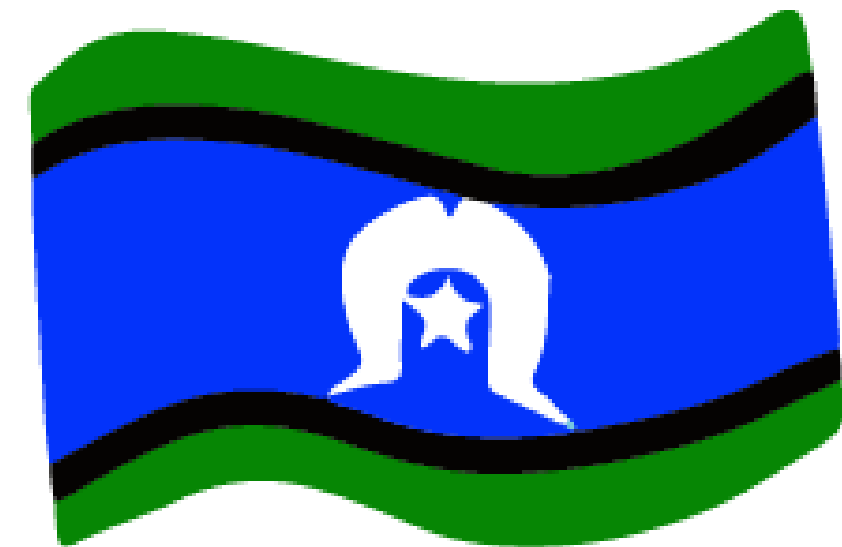
For further research in the success of Child Centred Play Therapy in First Nations communities and the importance of additional cultural considerations to promote ongoing success for all children and young people.

Our RAP

PTPA seeks to establish itself as a peak professional body for Play Therapists focussed on promoting training opportunities, facilitating networking events, advocating for the progression of the profession of Play Therapy and to establish professional standards for practice within the field of Play Therapy. PTPA recognises the importance of reconciliation and the role it can play in:

- facilitating increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,
- promotion and creation of equal opportunities for participation both as clients and as practitioners; and
- recognising and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as a proud part of our shared heritage.

The association is still in its infancy established just two years ago, however PTPA recognise their responsibility as a professional association, as an advocate for therapists in the field, and is dedicated to achieving the goals set out below.



Partnerships & Current Activities



• RELATIONSHIPS

PTPA is committed to developing new partnerships that are respectful and sustainable while improving our existing relationships with local Aboriginal organisations and individuals.

• RESPECT

PTPA is committed to achieving greater understanding of and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

• OPPORTUNITIES

PTPA is committed to enhancing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve social inclusion, economic participation and health equality.



Relationships

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.	Identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations within our local area or sphere of influence.	October 2022	The working group
	Circulate Reconciliation Australia's NRW resources and reconciliation materials to our members.	January 2023	The working group
Build relationships through celebrating National Reconciliation Week (NRW).	RAP Working Group members to participate in an external NRW event.	January 2023	The working group
	Encourage and support members to participate in at least one external event to recognise and celebrate NRW.	January 2023	The working group
Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence.	Communicate our commitment to reconciliation to all members.	October 2022	The working group
	Identify external stakeholders that our association can engage with on our reconciliation journey.	October 2022	The working group
	Identify RA and other like-minded organisations that we could approach to collaborate with on our reconciliation journey.	October 2022	The working group
Promote positive race relations through anti-discrimination strategies.	Research best practice and policies in areas of race relations and anti-discrimination.	March 2023	The working group



Respect

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Increase understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning.	Conduct a review of cultural learning needs within the industry	March 2023	The working group
	Develop an understanding of the local Traditional Owners or Custodians of the lands and waters within our association's operational area.	October 2022	The working group
Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols.	Encourage and support members to develop an understanding of the local Traditional Owners or Custodians of the lands and waters within our association's operational area.	September 2023	The working group
	Increase members' understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, including Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country protocols.	September 2023	The working group
	Create templates and examples of the above protocols to circulate to members	October 2022	The working group
Build respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories by celebrating NAIDOC Week.	Raise awareness and share information with members about the meaning of NAIDOC Week.	March 2023	The working group
	Introduce members to NAIDOC Week by promoting external events throughout Australia.	October 2022	The working group
	RAP Working Group to participate in an external NAIDOC Week event.	March 2023	The working group



Opportunities

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and professional development.	Build understanding of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing in the industry to inform future employment and professional development opportunities.	September 2023	The working group
Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier diversity to support improved economic and social outcomes.	Discuss as a Board opportunities for procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses.	July 2023	The working group
	Provide information to members and training providers about opportunities for procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses	September 2023	The working group
	Investigate Supply Nation membership – proposal for membership if appropriate	July 2023	The working group



Governance

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Establish and maintain an effective RAP Working Group (RWG) to drive governance of the RAP.	Form a RWG to govern RAP implementation.	Completed	The working group
	Draft Terms of Reference for the RWG.	Completed	The working group
	Establish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the RWG.	Completed	The working group
Provide appropriate support for effective implementation of RAP commitments.	Define resource needs for RAP implementation.	October 2023	The working group
	Engage senior leaders in the delivery of RAP commitments.	Completed	The working group
	Define appropriate systems and capability to track, measure and report on RAP commitments.	Completed	The working group
Build accountability and transparency through reporting RAP achievements, challenges and learnings both internally and externally.	Complete and submit the annual RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire to Reconciliation Australia.	2023	The working group
Continue our reconciliation journey by developing our next RAP.	Commence development of the Innovate RAP	August 2023	The working group