

# MPC: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER UNDERSTANDINGS

This document has been developed by the staff team of MPC. It is a living document to support the philosophy and reflect the ethos of MPC.

*In relation to families and community we celebrate the richness of the history of Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre and the connections the centre has with the community past, present and future. We recognise the Turrabul people as the traditional custodians of this land on which we learn and play. (extract from MPC philosophy).*

The words *We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live, play and learn are included* on a print of Michael Nelson Jagamara's Painting "Kangaroo" kindly provided with permission by Fireworks Gallery. This is located in the central foyer.



## **What are the key understandings we would like children to gain?**

Strengthen awareness and acceptance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: build respect.

In line with MPC's inclusive practices, acknowledge that people may look different to each other and we all have hearts and minds with individual feelings and thoughts.

- Acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first people of Australia and make connections to their history and Indigenous perspectives.
- Acknowledge past and present Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and ways of living.
- Acknowledge that there are different aboriginal languages and cultures in different parts of Australia.
- Acknowledge the significance of the land to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. (strong connection to sustainability, Uluru is viewed as the great protector by some Aboriginal groups, sitting together around a fire is a traditional ways of gathering and having conversations).
- Acknowledge the significance of telling stories to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and languages.

We endeavour to afford opportunities for children to develop these understandings. We endeavour to build children's understandings slowly, over time and in context. Intentional teaching decisions will be influenced by the dynamics of each group of children and families and how information can be shared in a meaningful way with children.