

Joint Statement regarding 2019 Conference

19 September 2018, Adelaide Conference

The Anglicare Australia First Nations Staff Network and National Reconciliation Network have discussed measures to ensure that matters relating to First Nations people and reconciliation are included and prioritised during Anglicare Australia conferences, and that conferences engage in important and pressing national conversations such as constitutional recognition of First Nations people.

We write to advocate that a First Nations representative should be included on the conference organising committee. This would ideally be a First Nations Staff Network representative from the area in which the conference will be held.

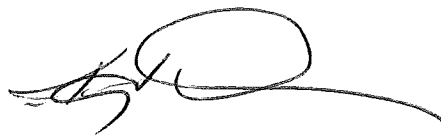
Secondly, we commend to the committee the protocols for engaging with First Nations staff regarding conference preparation which the First Nations Staff Network will prepare. This includes having a First Nations keynote speaker, workshop presenters and gifts for presenters.

The 2018 conference has benefitted from a particularly strong engagement with First Nations people, including the Greeting to Spirit of Place, dance performances, acknowledgements of Country, Aboriginal artist in attendance, high attendance of First Nations people and meetings of the First Nations Staff and National Reconciliation Network Groups. 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attended, along with 2 Maori representatives and 4 from PNG. We want to build on these numbers.

Our hope and aim is to continue to build on this strength, to ensure the Anglicare Australia conference is a welcoming place for our First Nations staff, and that the whole network can benefit from deep and growing respect, relationship and engagement with First Nations people.



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