



# ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY AND  
TRADITIONAL OWNERS ACROSS  
THE ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA NETWORK



### **About the artwork**

Anglicare NT's Reconnect Youth Homelessness Early Intervention Service engaged with eight students from Taminmin College to create the artwork featured in Anglicare Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan. The artwork was initially created for Anglicare Australia in 2016, and has been featured as part of Anglicare Australia's National Conference and National Awards. Aboriginal Artist Sarrita King provided guidance on colour use, symbols and cultural meanings over three sessions. The artwork symbolises family, coming together, land and becoming more connected. The artists are Joseph Cameron, Justin Leech, Callum Clough, Frances Campbell, Mikayla Russell, Tamika Villaflor, Katidjah Booth and Kyal Dahlhelm. The artwork is also featured in Anglicare Australia's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

### **A note on terminology**

In parts of this document, First Nations People is used in reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, in acknowledgement as the First Peoples of our nation. This term honours the continued sovereignty and custodianship of the land. It acknowledges the uniqueness of each nation. Anglicare Australia pays respect to each First Nations that are included within Anglicare Australia's membership.

# ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY

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Our hope is that this document will serve as a reminder of the richness and diversity of First Nations communities, made up of many different and distinct groups, each with their own culture, customs, language and laws

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Anglicare Australia is a network of independent local, state, national and international organisations that are linked to the Anglican Church and are joined by values of service, innovation, leadership and the Christian faith that every individual has intrinsic value. Our services are delivered in partnership with people, the communities in which they live, and other like-minded organisations in those areas.

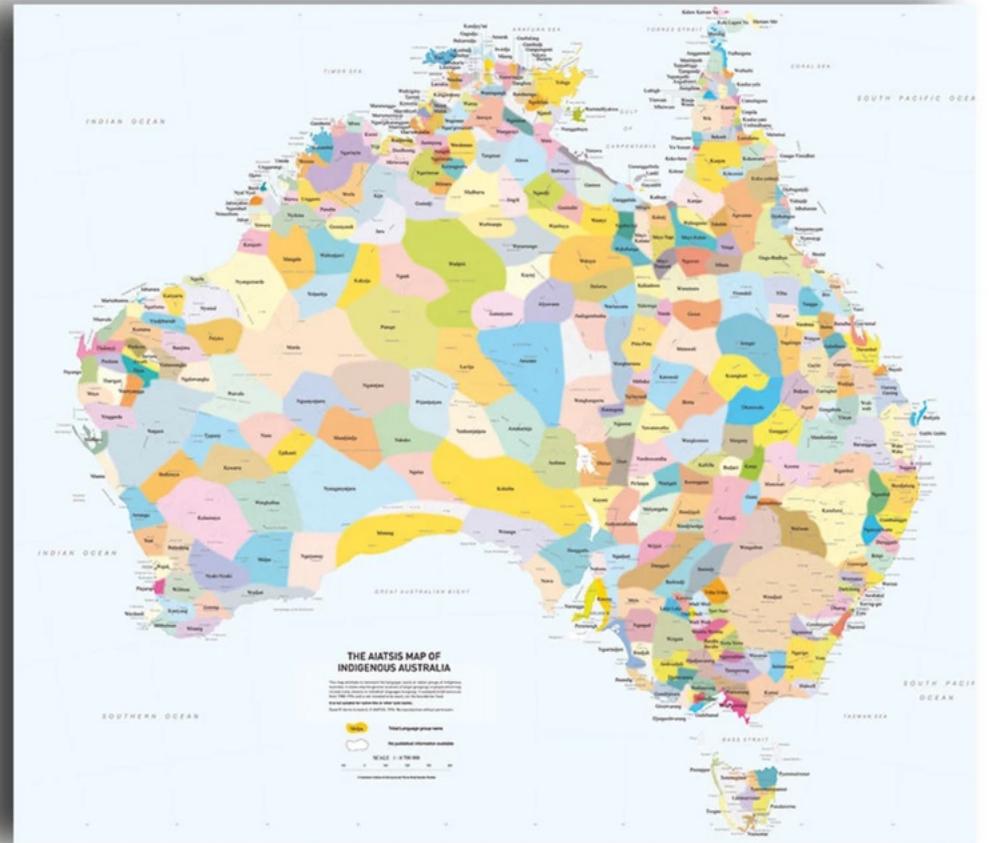
For Anglicare Australia, incorporating welcoming and acknowledgement protocols into our meetings and events is an important way to show our recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We are grateful for the work of our First Nations Staff Network in this area, who have prepared a protocol on how to incorporate Welcomes to Country, Acknowledgements of Country, and Smoking Ceremonies into Anglicare Australia conferences and events. These practices are helping us promote an ongoing connection to place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and demonstrate our respect for Traditional Owners.

This year, as one of our measures to mark NAIDOC Week, we have prepared this document to bring together the language that is used to acknowledge country across the Anglicare Australia Network. As our First Nations Staff Network has noted in Anglicare Australia's Cultural Protocols, acknowledging country "demonstrates respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognises the importance of

acknowledging Traditional Owners/Custodians of the land and/or sea. It is offered as a way of showing respect and acknowledgement to the people who occupied the land for over 60,000 years prior to colonisation.”

Our hope is that this document will serve as a reminder of the richness and diversity of First Nations communities, made up of many different and distinct groups, each with their own culture, customs, language and laws. It will also highlight the breadth of our Network, and build understanding of First Nations cultures among our members.

We have prepared this document with the help of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Map of Indigenous Australia. We thank AIATSIS for this invaluable resource.



# OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Anglicare Australia

Anglicare Australia acknowledges that we live and work on the country of the Ngunnawal People, and that their sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respect to elders past and present. We also acknowledge the Ngambri and Ngarigo people who traded on, travelled through, and connected with this land.

*The Ngunnawal people are the traditional owners of the lands of the ACT, where Anglicare Australia is headquartered.*

## ac.care

ac.care acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Boandik people are the traditional owners of the lands of Mt Gambier, where ac.care is headquartered.*

## Amana Living

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Noongar Whadjuk people are the traditional owners of the lands of Perth, where Amana Living is headquartered.*

## Anglicare Central Queensland

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land on which we work, live and visit. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

*The Darumbal people are the traditional owners of the lands of Rockhampton, where Anglicare Central Queensland is headquartered.*

## Anglicare North Coast

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Bundjalung people are the traditional owners of the lands of Grafton, where Anglicare North Coast is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare North Queensland**

On behalf of Anglicare North Queensland, we apologise to the Traditional Owners of the land, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, for the injustices suffered as a result of European settlement and the forced removal of children from their families, communities and land. We deeply regret the effect that the policies and practices of the past had, and continue to have, on the identity, dignity and spirit of Indigenous Australians. We also affirm our desire for reconciliation and for a better future for all people. We are committed to building a future that is respectful of, values and embraces the heritage and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and provides justice and equality for all.

*The Gimuy-walubarra yidi people are the traditional owners of the lands of Cairns, where Anglicare North Queensland is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT**

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of our land and seas. We acknowledge the history of this land and for the stories of resilience and survival which make up Indigenous Australia. We give thanks Aboriginal Elders and Knowledge Keepers of every generation, including the many Aboriginal families and communities which contribute to the life of our region.

*The Ngunnawal people are the traditional owners of the lands of the ACT, where Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare NT**

Anglicare NT acknowledges and celebrates the Traditional Custodians and Owners of this country and we pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

*The Larrakia people are the traditional owners of the lands of Darwin, where Anglicare NT is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare SA**

AnglicareSA recognises that we meet on the traditional lands of the Kurna people.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land;

Our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing;

And our hope that we may walk together in harmony, in the spirit of Reconciliation.

*The Kurna people are the traditional owners of the lands of Adelaide, where AnglicareSA is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare Southern Queensland**

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land upon which our corporate office stands – the Yuggera, Jagera and Turrbal peoples – and the Traditional Custodians of the lands where our other services, across the breadth of southern Queensland and in Townsville, stand.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We also extend that respect to all of our clients, partners and Anglicare First Nations staff.

*The Turrbal and Jagera/Yuggera peoples are the traditional owners of the lands of Brisbane, where Anglicare Southern Queensland is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare Sydney**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the traditional owners of the lands of Sydney, where Anglicare Sydney is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare Tasmania**

Anglicare would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land lutruwita (Tasmania) and acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.

*The Palawa people are the traditional owners of the lands of Hobart, where Anglicare Tasmania is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare Victoria**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live. We recognise their continuing connection to country and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Anglicare Victoria respects our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and diversity.

We recognise the impact of past and current injustices. We value, celebrate and learn from Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander culture and traditions, and we listen with joy and humility.

*The Wurundjeri people of are the traditional owners of the lands of Melbourne, where Anglicare Victoria is headquartered.*

### **Anglicare WA**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Noongar Whadjuk people are the traditional owners of the lands of Perth, where Anglicare WA is headquartered.*

### **Benetas**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Wurundjeri people of are the traditional owners of the lands of Melbourne, where Benetas is headquartered.*

### **Brotherhood of St Laurence**

The Brotherhood of St Laurence acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways on which our organisation operates. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.

*The Wurundjeri people of are the traditional owners of the lands of Melbourne, where the Brotherhood of St Laurence is headquartered.*

### **The Buttery**

The Buttery acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work.

*The Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal people are the traditional owners of the lands of Byron, where the Buttery is headquartered.*

### **Echo Youth Mentoring**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Wurundjeri people are the traditional owners of the lands of Emerald, where Echo Youth Mentoring is headquartered.*

### **EPIC Assist**

EPIC Assist acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

*The Turrbal and Jagera/Yuggera peoples are the traditional owners of the lands of Brisbane, where EPIC Assist is headquartered.*

### **Samaritans Foundation**

Samaritans acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work; the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr, Kamilaroi, Wanaruah, Worimi and Wiradjuri nations.

*The Awabakal and Worimi peoples are the traditional owners of the lands of Newcastle, where the Samaritans Foundation is headquartered.*

### **St Bart's**

St Bart's acknowledges the traditional owners of the Noongar country that we live and work on. We are privileged to work with, and alongside, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and we pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

*The Noongar Whadjuk people are the traditional owners of the lands of Perth, where St Barts is headquartered.*

### **St John's Youth Services**

St John's Youth Services acknowledges with genuine respect the Kurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains region, the region where St John's Youth Services' sites and services are situated. We acknowledge the Kurna peoples' continuing cultural, spiritual, physical, emotional, economic and intellectual connection with the land.

We honour and pay our respects to Kurna Elders both past and present, and all generations of Kurna people, including children, young people and families for their continuing struggle for recognition and respect in this country.

We further honour and pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders, both past and present, and all generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other language groups within South Australia and from this sacred land of Australia.

Australia is home to the oldest continuing living culture in the world.

St John's Youth Services recognises and celebrates this.

*The Kurna people are the traditional owners of the lands of Adelaide, where St Johns Youth Services is headquartered.*

### **The Willochra Home**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*The Ngadjuri people are the traditional owners of the lands of Willochra, where Anglicare Willochra is headquartered.*

### **WorkVentures**

WorkVentures acknowledges traditional owners of country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present, and emerging.

*The Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the traditional owners of the lands of Sydney, where WorkVentures is headquartered.*

### **Contact Information**

Inquiries about this document can be directed to Anglicare Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Champion:

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