



# SVHA STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

As Australia's largest for-purpose provider of health and aged care services, St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) pays respects to all First Nations' elders past, present and emerging, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

SVHA's commitment to improving health and well-being outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is at the heart of our Mission. From our earliest days, we have sought to work with and for the First Nations peoples of this land and their descendants, and are grateful for their ongoing support and guidance in our work.

We respectfully acknowledge the diversity of cultural practices, customs, traditions, kinship, languages and spiritual beliefs connected to the land and sea held by First Nations peoples.

We recognise that our organisation's buildings stand on the lands and near the waterways of traditional owners who also prioritised the sustenance and flourishing of their respective communities. Our staff work across the lands of many Aboriginal nations.

In the authentic spirit of reconciliation – and in partnership with communities, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and staff, and government agencies – SVHA is committed to practical action to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including providing equity of access to high quality health and aged care services.

We are dedicated to developing workforce recruitment and retention strategies that increase the participation and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all levels of our organisation and across the health and aged care sectors.

In all our work, we are committed to honouring self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, so that the support we provide is culturally appropriate and serves the needs identified and prioritised by local communities and leaders.

We recognise that past government policies, injustices and inequalities continue to create marginalisation, disadvantage and poor health and well-being outcomes among many Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people.

We sincerely express regret at our own missed opportunities to establish respectful relationships with First Nations peoples in the past.

SVHA rejects racially prejudiced attitudes, actions and ideologies that impede culturally inclusive relationships.

Alongside greater healing and reconciliation, SVHA acknowledges its responsibility to help close the gap across all health and well-being indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 2033 as outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

SVHA pledges to walk alongside our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters to create stronger communities of hope and unity for all.



**ST VINCENT'S  
HEALTH AUSTRALIA**

UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES