

A STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION

from the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE)

The Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians, and affirms their important position in Australian society. We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to have strong cultural traditions and to speak diverse languages and dialects. We celebrate the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples bring to AARE through willingly contributing leadership, engagement and inclusive example, and know that the Association is stronger, fairer and better able to support equity and quality in education because of this contribution.

AARE recognises the large body of evidence that clearly sets out disparities in education, health, and other outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and other Australians. Disparities in educational outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peers, across the full lifespan, are unacceptable. They are a matter of inequity and injustice in Australian society. As a national educational research association, AARE has a responsibility to lead educational change to redress these injustices.

We recognise that education and educational research have contributed to the enduring colonial legacy in Australian society, and know that these institutions have not served Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, social and legal practices, languages and lives well on many counts. It is clear that this situation continues, and that it is not acceptable.

To facilitate a change to this situation, we take the important step of recognising issues and committing to support changed practices. We apologise for harm caused by educational research, for wrongs done, for advantage gained, at the expense of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In acknowledging the failures of educational research to serve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to forge a rich and creative collective approach

that honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, we also commit to strategies to transform education for the benefit of all.

We commit to supporting positive education outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through research.

We commit to encouraging an understanding of, and engagement with, the rich knowledges and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a way to enrich the lives of all Australians.

We commit to supporting ethical, respectful research, designed through strong partnerships, with appropriate consultation, governed by agreed protocols, and aimed at ensuring benefit to the social, political, legal and cultural interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We commit to support quality educational research that is inclusive; that is productive and purposeful in its goal to drive transformation of society and education; and that aims to address the voiced concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about significant issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, families and communities. We make a commitment to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to lead research and to form strong research partnerships to foster rigorous research in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and education more broadly.

Through continued efforts, and in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members, AARE commits to continue to work toward achieving an Association that contributes to socially just education in Australia, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy the same education outcomes as expected by all Australians. We commit to strong, respectful partnerships, diverse leadership, and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members' perspectives, concerns, and opinions to be heard.

Professor Martin Mills
Immediate Past President

Professor Annette Woods
President (2017-2018)

Professor Debra Hayes
Incoming President

Tuesday 4th December 2018
AARE Annual Conference 2018, Sydney



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