

Early Childhood Australia –Reconciliation Action Plan Development

ECA Branch Reflection for the Development of the ECA RAP

Name of ECA Branch		
Question	Branch Reflection	Actions for consideration in the ECA RAP Think particularly about <i>Relationships, Respect and Opportunities</i>
What does reconciliation mean to the Branch? What does it mean for ECA?	It is important to the Branch as it is to ECA. ECA acts as advocates for all children, especially those marginalised and that don't have a voice at times.	We should have more connections to and build relationships with WA Aboriginal associations that support children and their families. This would create more opportunities to support reconciliation actions.
Do ECA and its members know why there is still a 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children?	ECAWA committee are aware as are many of the members, however, there may be some members who are not aware of this. We should all be reminded constantly	Promote this on the website and face book.
Can you name some programs and/or organisations (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) that are helping to close the life expectancy gap?	Yes- Health Dept, NAIC., ECU, CEO, DET, federal and state agencies	ECA to work with these organisations to support closing the gap.
Can you give some examples of Indigenous leadership and success?	Yes Colleen Hayward Robyn Collard Freda Ogilvie Shaha Bin Sulaman , (we can all add one name)	Short bios on web page or publications re these people.

What relationships does ECA have with Indigenous people, organisations and communities in your local area or sphere of influence? Are they formal or informal? How do you both benefit from this?	Our branch at this point only has relationships through spheres of members' work. These are dependent upon relationships between individuals rather than the organisation.	Invite Aboriginal organisations to be part of the organisation. Offer to showcase Aboriginal organisations through monthly publications etc. Offer Aboriginal organisations our free copy of publications Set 2011 as the year to focus on developing these relationships.
How would you rate ECA's and its member's current understanding and knowledge of Indigenous people and culture?	I think we all have developed some knowledge of this but through our work, however, if members have not worked directly with Aboriginal people then perhaps their knowledge is limited.	Feature stories from Aboriginal people working with children in community. What is it like in their service?
Is respect for and understanding of Indigenous culture and people developed and demonstrated in all levels of ECA?	No not all the way through as yet. More is needed at the membership level.	Discussions around what this means.
Does ECA proudly celebrate and acknowledge Indigenous people and culture?	Yes in some ways- definitely through publications and acknowledgement of traditional owners at formal meetings. Sometimes a welcome to country.	Policy and procedure around formal acknowledgements and welcome to country developed.
Does ECA value and develop Indigenous staff and actively seek more Indigenous people in all levels of the organisation? How?	Do we have any indigenous staff? ECAWA is not aware of any Aboriginal staff.	If no Aboriginal staff why not? Examine this issue. Maybe a commitment to employ Aboriginal people where possible.
Do ECA values and goals contribute to closing the life expectancy gap? If so how?	Yes I believe so- publications, work for quality.	Always more needed til the gap closed.
What specifically does ECA have to offer to reconciliation?	A wide membership that spans across Australia. Members working with the future generations of Australia and therefore have the opportunity to	Resources developed. Training for non Indigenous working with Aboriginal children and how best to introduce Aboriginality to

	shape Australia's future.	non Indigenous children and families. .
What actions could set ECA apart from other organisations?	Reconciliation actions. Working with the children around reconciliation	Resources Training
How can ECA show leadership and best practice?	Joint projects with Aboriginal organisations, publications just for Indigenous early childhood educators. Increased Indigenous membership.	Encourage Aboriginal organisations to become a member. Offer a special Aboriginal membership deal.