



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 22 January, 2021

ECA WELCOMES 2021 STATE OF RECONCILIATION IN AUSTRALIA REPORT

This week, Reconciliation Australia released the [2021 State of Reconciliation in Australia Report Moving From Safe To Brave](#). The report explores the current status of reconciliation in Australia and identifies actions to achieve 'a just, equitable, and reconciled Australia'.

ECA welcomes the report findings, including that 95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 91% of Australians in the general community feel our relationship is important.

The report urges all Australians to 'be brave' by actively addressing issues of inequality and racism — in the workplace, local community and early learning settings.

'ECA is pleased to see the call towards braver and more impactful reconciliation, progress has been made but more needs to be done,' said ECA CEO Samantha Page.

ECA strongly supports the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* including the call for a Voice to Parliament. We understand that self-determination and individual empowerment are the key to healing the trauma of the past and building a better future.

ECA also recognises that January 26 is an inappropriate date for celebrating 'Australia Day' and we urge the Australian Government to engage in respectful dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to change the date.

'With January 26 fast approaching, we know that many early childhood educators and teachers will be feeling conflicted or troubled, uncertain about how to manage the expectations of families. Explain the complexities to children and find ways to practice genuine and respectful reconciliation,' said Ms Page.

CONTINUES OVER

We also congratulate the early childhood profession for embracing reconciliation. The uptake of professional learning, use of resources and participation in reconciliation — including the number of services with Reconciliation Action Plans — is a testament to the ethical foundations of this profession.

‘Early childhood educators understand that a reconciled nation would be an extraordinary legacy to leave for future generations of Australian children and they want to be part of that. Early childhood educators play a vital role in Australia’s reconciliation journey through teaching our children the histories, cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.’

ENDS

Helpful sites/resources for educators:

- [Narragunnawali](#)
- [Healing Foundation](#)
- [Australia Day, Invasion Day, Survival Day](#)
- [Embed, Enable and Strive: A Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan for Early Childhood Australia](#)

ECA CEO Sam Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Media Officer: Katie Golding 0475 554 999

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, click here: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/

Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children from birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.