



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

National Reconciliation Week 2025
Event Guide

National Sorry Day – 26 May
NRW – 27 May to 3 June

Psalm 67 New International Version

¹ *May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us*

² *so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.*

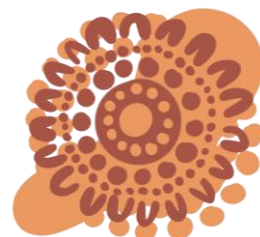
³ *May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.*

⁴ *May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.*

⁵ *May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.*

⁶ *The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.*

⁷ *May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.*





National Reconciliation Week 2025

The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, ***Bridging Now to Next***, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

At a time when Australia faces uncertainty in its reconciliation journey, this theme calls on all Australians to step forward together. *Bridging Now to Next* urges us to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

In the #NRW2025 theme artwork created by Kalkadoon woman [Bree Buttenshaw](#), native plants – which are known for regenerating after fire and thriving through adversity – symbolise our collective strength and the possibilities of renewal. This is a time for growth, reflection, and commitment to walking together.

Australia's history of reconciliation is not a linear one, we have made great strides and experienced disappointing setbacks. We continue that work in 2025, inviting all Australians to join us in *Bridging Now to Next* – building a more united and respectful nation.

“Young Voices, Bridging Now to Next”

Online Yarn of First and Second Peoples young adults from the broader Church community

The Uniting Church in Australia is committed to a Covenantal relationship as First and Second Peoples, and as part of this relationship, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress is working with the broader church to build the representation of young adult First Peoples across the life and ministry of the church.

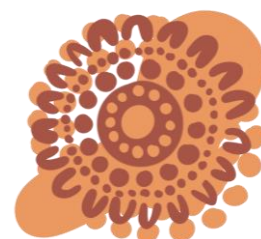
In aligning with this year's National Reconciliation Week theme of *Bridging Now to Next*, the Queensland Synod are hosting a facilitated online yarn with young adults from across the broader church community.




Venue:
Online
Webinar

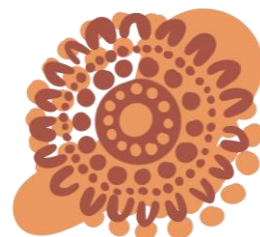
Date/Time:
Tuesday 27th
May, 10:45am-
12:00pm



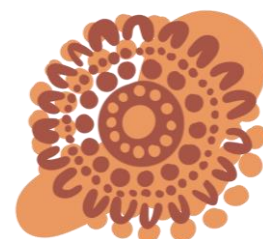
[Register here](#)
Open community event



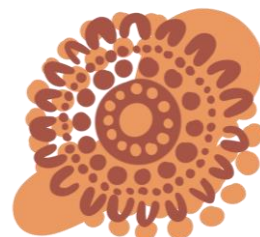
<p>The Qld Synod Office, Congregations, Institutions and Schools will be facilitating a range of activities over May and June that will continue our journey of reconciliation by engaging in truth-telling, connection to God, Spirituality and Country, sharing of culture and coming together in respectful relationship to know each other better.</p> <p><i>'Bridging Now to Next, Celebrating First Nations Innovation, Economy and Legacy'</i></p> <p>UnitingCare Hospitals First Nations Markets</p>	<p>The UnitingCare Metro Hospitals Group - St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital and The Wesley Hospital - are hosting First Nations businesses in a First Nations Marketplace to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer staff, patients, visitors and community the opportunity to celebrate National Reconciliation Week by supporting local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses; and embody the spirit of reconciliation, cultural growth and forward momentum reflect the ongoing connection between past, present and future, in celebrating the journey of their First Nations business, innovation, sustainability and legacy. <p>Join us at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital on the first day of National Reconciliation Week to support Black business, browse and pick up some beautiful goodies by First Nations creatives and vendors.</p>	<p>Venue: St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital</p> <p>Date/Time: Tuesday 27th May, 10:00am-1:00pm</p>  <p>Open community event</p>
<p>IMPORTANT INFO FOR CALD Communities.</p>	<p>Reconciliation Australia has a suite of translated resources to support engagement with NRW. Please follow this link to download posters, colouring sheets and translated info.</p>	 <p><small>NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025</small> Bridging Now to Next <small>27 MAY - 3 JUNE #NRW2025 RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU</small></p>
<p><i>'FaDS Annual NRW BBQ'</i></p> <p>Annual NRW BBQ hosted by the Coolamon Group</p>	<p>The annual FaDS BBQ is an opportunity for the FaDS First Nations Leaders within the Coolamon Group to come together to acknowledge NRW and host key guests from across UnitingCare Community.</p> <p>The event is by invitation only with all enquiries directed to: reconciliation@ucareqld.com.au</p>	<p>Venue: Hows Road, Nundah</p> <p>Date: Wednesday 28th May</p>  <p>UCQ event invite only</p>





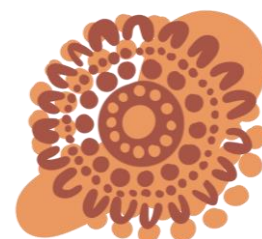
<p><i>'Bridging Now to Next, Truth-Telling Webinar on First Nations Business Initiatives'</i></p> <p>Online Webinar showcasing First Nations business leaders and dedicated Procurement specialists</p>	<p>In celebration of National Reconciliation Week, Wesley Mission Queensland and UnitingCare Queensland invite you to a truth-telling webinar focusing on First Nations Business.</p> <p>In this session, you'll hear directly from First Nations business leaders and Procurement specialists as they share their lived experiences, insights, and practical strategies for fostering meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises.</p> <p><i>Bridging Now to Next</i>, this webinar will highlight how these businesses embody the spirit of reconciliation, growth, and forward momentum.</p>	<p>Venue: Register via link below Teams Online Webinar</p> <p>Date/Time: Thursday 29th May, 1:00pm-2:30pm</p> <div data-bbox="1173 566 1417 698">  </div> <p>Invite only event</p>
<p>Symbolise our Solidarity in Pop Up a Sea of Hands installation</p> <div data-bbox="217 1075 395 1294">  </div>	<p>The Sea of Hands has been a symbol of solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues since 1997. The first landmark installation outside Parliament House in Canberra on 12 October 1997 had 70,000 hands.</p> <p>Join in and show your solidarity alongside members of the wider church in creating a Sea of Hands installation on the grounds of the Uniting Church Queensland Synod.</p>	<p>Venue: Uniting Church Queensland, Synod Office 60 Bayliss Street Auchenflower Qld 4066</p> <p>Date/Time: Wednesday, 28 May 2025 10am meet near the remembrance garden.</p> <div data-bbox="1230 1160 1353 1272">  </div> <p>Come along, plant a hand and share your hope in prayerful reflection.</p>
<p><i>'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid'</i></p> <p>AMHFA Workshop Auchenflower</p> <div data-bbox="213 1704 411 1899">  </div>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid (AMHFA) course is delivered face to face over two days by Kym Korbe who is an accredited AMHFA instructor and Executive Officer, UAICC & Covenanting with the Uniting Church Qld.</p> <p>It will inform participants how to assist Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be experiencing a mental health problem or crisis until appropriate professional support is received or the crisis resolves, using a practical, evidence-based Action Plan. Delivering these workshops is reconciliation in action.</p>	<p>Venue: Uniting Church Qld Synod Office 60 Bayliss Street, Auchenflower</p> <p>Date/Time: Thursday 29 May and Friday 30 May, 9:00am-4:30pm</p> <div data-bbox="1209 1720 1332 1832">  </div> <p>Open community event – register here</p>



<p>Symbolise our Solidarity in Pop Up a Sea of Hands installation</p> 	<p>The Sea of Hands has been a symbol of solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues since 1997. The first landmark installation outside Parliament House in Canberra on 12 October 1997 had 70,000 hands.</p> <p>Join and show your solidarity alongside members of the wider church in creating a Sea of Hands installation on grounds of Albert Street Uniting Church.</p>	<p>Venue: Albert Street Uniting Church</p> <p>Date/Time: Friday 30 May, 5:00pm</p>  <p>Open community event – come along, plant a hand and share your hope in prayerful reflection.</p>
<p><i>‘NRW Billabong Yarns with Director of Mission’</i></p> <p>Yarning Circle</p>	<p>Director of Mission, Rev Dr Peter Armstrong is hosting an invitation only Yarning Circle to acknowledge National Reconciliation Week.</p>	<p>Venue: 192 Ann Street, Brisbane</p> <p>Date: Monday 2nd June UCQ event invite only</p>
<p><i>‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid’</i></p> <p>AMHFA Workshop Toowoomba</p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid (AMHFA) course is delivered face to face over two days by an accredited AMHFA instructor from UnitingCare Queensland's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Team.</p> <p>It will inform participants how to assist Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be experiencing a mental health problem or crisis until appropriate professional support is received or the crisis resolves, using a practical, evidence-based Action Plan. Delivering these workshops across the organisation is reconciliation in action.</p>	<p>Venue: Lifeworks Uniting Church, Toowoomba</p> <p>Date/Time: Thursday 5th June and Friday 6th June, 9:00am-4:30pm</p>  <p>Closed workshop</p>
<p>Resources available through Reconciliation Australia for all members of community to use.</p>	<p>Reconciliation Australia has a downloadable resources. Please follow this link to download posters, colouring sheets and youth and young people deeper learning activities.</p>	



<p><i>'Unite on Country with Walkabout Cultural Adventure Tours'</i> Cultural Immersion on Kuku Yalanji Country</p>	<p>The RAP Team are hosting a Unite on Country experience exploring Kuku Yalanji Country with Walkabout Adventure tour guides where two precious World Heritage sites meet - the ancient Daintree Rainforest and the awe-inspiring Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>We look forward to walking in the sacred Daintree rainforest environment, learn about traditions and knowledge of native plants, and gain an insight into the history, culture and traditions of the Sovereign Kuku Yalanji people on their land.</p>	<p>Venue: Kuku Yalanji Country, Mossman</p> <p>Date/Time: Wednesday 11th June, 9:00am-1:00pm</p>  <p>UCQ event</p>
<p><i>'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid'</i> AMHFA Workshop Cairns</p>	<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid (AMHFA) course is delivered face to face over two days by an accredited AMHFA instructor from UnitingCare Queensland's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Team.</p> <p>It will inform participants how to assist Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be experiencing a mental health problem or crisis until appropriate professional support is received or the crisis resolves, using a practical, evidence-based Action Plan.</p> <p>Delivering these workshops across the organisation is reconciliation in action.</p>	<p>Venue: Cairns City</p> <p>Date/Time: Thursday 12th June and Friday 13th June, 9:00am-4:30pm</p>  <p>Closed workshop</p>



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK FIRST NATIONS MARKETS

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to *Next*

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, ***Bridging Now to Next***, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future, and resonates deeply with the journey of First Nations business, innovation, sustainability and legacy.

Celebrate National Reconciliation Week with UnitingCare's Metro Hospital group by coming along to our First Nations Markets; where you can support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, and embody the spirit of reconciliation, cultural growth and forward momentum.

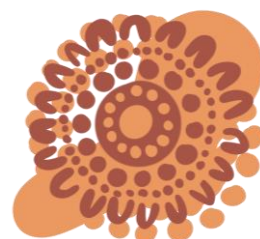
We look forward to sharing this special event with you!

Date: Tuesday 27 May 2025

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Where: St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital,
outside Little Birdee Cafe

Presented by



National Reconciliation Week 2025 Truth-Telling Webinar

First Nations Business & Enterprise Bridging Now to Next

Join us for a powerful truth-telling panel conversation focused on the strength, innovation, and leadership of First Nations businesses.

In celebration of National Reconciliation Week, this live webinar will explore how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses are bridging cultural knowledge and economic growth—driving lasting impact for future generations.

Date: Thursday 29 May 2025

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Where: Online via Microsoft Teams Webinar

Registration is required to attend

Why It Matters

This year's theme, "Bridging Now to Next," calls us to reflect, connect, and move forward together. Supporting First Nations businesses is a tangible way to walk the path of reconciliation.

Let's listen, learn, and lead with purpose.

Join us for the Truth-Telling Webinar and discover ways to actively support their growth and sustainability.

Contact the RAP Team for your link to register your attendance:
reconciliation@ucareqld.com.au

Aunty Rose Faud
Executive Support
Cultural Appreciation
Officer
Wesley Mission
Queensland

Sammy Leone
Founder of *Pass on
the Fire Aboriginal
Torres Strait Islander
Corporation*

Mundanara Bayles
Co-founder of *BlackCard*
and host of award
winning podcast *Black
Magic Woman*

Lauren Coyne
Sourcing Specialist
Central Procurement
& Fleet
UnitingCare Queensland

Candice Hamilton
Senior Relationship
Manager
Supply Nation

Jacob Faud
Managing Director
Royal Victory Group



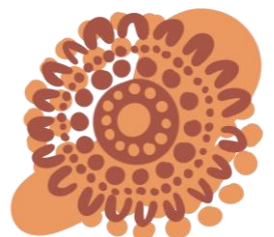
Presented by



UnitingCare



wesley
mission





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid course teaches participants how to provide initial support to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander adult who may be experiencing a mental health problem or mental health crisis, until professional support is received or the crisis resolves.

Course Name: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid, 2 Day Workshop

Venue: Uniting Church Synod Office, 60 Bayliss Street Auchenflower Qld 4066

Dates: **Thursday, 29 May 2025 and Friday, 30 May 2025 – 9:00am to 4:30pm both days**

Cost: Free of charge for Uniting Church Congregation members and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples within our local community.

Register by follow this link

Class size will be limited to 26 participants, so get in early to secure your place.

General enquiries about this workshop can be directed to covenanting@ucaql.com.au



All sessions are led by Mental Health First Aid Australia trained and Licensed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Instructors.

The course has been designed to support Instructors to draw on their own unique and instrumental local cultural knowledge to enrich the content and enable culturally informed and safe delivery. Individuals or small groups can sign up for a public course near you or online, while larger groups can find a Licensed Instructor to deliver private training in-house or at an agreed venue.



Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course participants will be able to:

- Recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health problems impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults
- Understand the prevalence and impact of mental illnesses and risk factors, with specific information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Gain an understanding of cultural considerations, from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective
- Gain an understanding of the treatments, and local and cultural supports and resources available to someone experiencing mental health problems
- Know the barriers to support-seeking and how to overcome these
- Use an evidence-based action plan to initiate a mental health first aid conversation with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander adult, in a culturally safe and informed way
- Assess for a range of crisis situations and provide initial support
- Apply self-care practices as a Mental Health First Aider.



Suitability

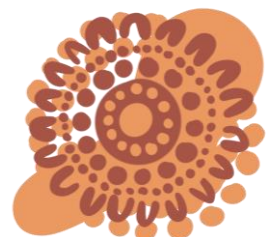
Developed by and in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, this course is suitable for individuals, workplaces of all sizes, and volunteer and community-based groups. Any adult (aged 18+) can attend.



*Proudly supported by the
Uniting Aboriginal and
Islander Christian
Congress, Queensland
(Muth arrak)*



These courses are recognised by Suicide Prevention Australia as safe, high-quality, and effective suicide prevention programs.





ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID Ed. 3.1

Facilitated by:
UnitingCare RAP Team

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Toowoomba 2 Day Workshop

Thursday 5 June 9:00 AM - 4.30 PM

Friday 6 June 9:00 AM - 4.30 PM

Cost: Free to all UnitingCare staff and
Uniting Church congregation
members



Lifeworks Uniting Church
615 Boundary St Glenvale 4350



The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid** course will teach you how to assist Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be experiencing a mental health problem or crisis until appropriate professional support is received or the crisis resolves, using a practical, evidence-based Action Plan*.

The course is delivered face to face over two days by an accredited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid instructor from UnitingCare Queensland's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Team.

To register, email reconciliation@ucareqld.com.au
For any further enquiries contact:

Nikki Burns, RAP Partner
nikki.burns@ucareqld.com.au 0448 092 680

"This course is based on guidelines developed through the expert consensus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with lived experience of mental health problems as well as professionals.

