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## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION POLICY

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St Patrick's College acknowledges the Dharawal people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is built.

### PREAMBLE

St Patrick's College values the close relationship it holds with the local Aboriginal community, Elders and its families of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It recognises the uniqueness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and students, their culture, spirituality and community.

We acknowledge the importance of providing a supportive environment that has a focus on cultural and educational experiences within the context of a broader community. Through connecting community, school and family, the girls will develop into strong, well-educated Aboriginal women.

### RATIONALE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education at St Patrick's College includes both the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and the provision of a curriculum which incorporates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives for all students. It is through this curriculum and other rich experiences that all in our community develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their culture, spirituality, history and experiences.

Through education that is inclusive, culturally sensitive and focused on the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student, girls will experience gains in their education, which will enable them to reach their potential.

It is through the experience of success in their learning and inclusion in their culture that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls will build on their levels of confidence to stand proudly as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women.

### PRINCIPLES

- St Patrick's College creates a culture of hospitality and inclusion to families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and as such does not tolerate racism within the community.
- The College will draw on the advice and the wisdom of the St Patrick's Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee in creating a learning environment that seeks to nurture the development of the whole student.
- Days and events of significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are celebrated and acknowledged in the College community.



- The Aboriginal Educator will liaise with community members, state bodies and agencies to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have access to resources and opportunities that may enhance their future prospects.
- Teaching and learning programs work towards improving the educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Families of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are encouraged to work in partnership with the College in supporting their daughter's education.
- Aboriginal agencies are invited to work in partnership with the College through contributions in programs, activities and/or days of significance.
- The College supports the professional learning opportunities for all staff in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The Aboriginal Educator will play a significant role in facilitating and implementing this in partnership with College leadership.