

"We long for the day when we are fully the Church that Jesus wants us to be, a Church where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make their contribution to her life, and that contribution is joyfully received by others."

(Pope John Paul II, Address to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples, Alice Springs, 1986)



To view the full Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane RAP, head to: archbne.org/drdg

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Photos: Tony Robertson Photography



What is a

RAP?

A **Reconciliation Action Plan** is a strategic document with practical actions that drive an organisation's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates.

Why does the Archdiocese of Brisbane have a RAP?

Reconciliation, one of the seven sacraments of our faith, provides a foundation to guide us in our journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Like the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it is about the call to repentance after a process of conversion of heart.

We can do this by formally undertaking a number of actions (outlined in the RAP) to build on the works of the Church in her relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Archdiocese. As a Christian people, we are called to forge the path of healing between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.



Who is this RAP for?

This RAP is for the Archdiocese of Brisbane as a whole – for all of its agencies, parishes and communities.

All are invited to read, absorb and implement the RAP in their own setting.

What follows is an example of how you can start implementing the Archdiocese of Brisbane RAP.

Acknowledgement Of Country

At the beginning of any major public meeting, you are invited to conduct either a 'Welcome to Country' or 'Acknowledgement of Country'.

Welcome to Country

A 'Welcome to Country' will always be done by an appropriate Elder (Traditional Custodian)—someone widely recognised as having ancestral connection with the country where the meeting is taking place.

Acknowledgment of Country

An 'Acknowledgment of Country' can be done by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person that is not a traditional owners of the country you are meeting on, or by non-Indigenous Australians. There is no set wording for an Acknowledgement but it will often:

- *Acknowledge the traditional owners/custodians*
- *Pay respect to their Elders past and present*

For example:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on today, and pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging. I pray that God will continue to bless us, turn His countenance upon us, and give us peace as we walk this journey of reconciliation together."