Event: 2018 National Reconciliation Action Plan Conference

Date: 5th December 2018
Arrival time: 8:30am
Speaking time: 9:15am (3 mins)

Location: Swinburne centre, Richmond Football Club, Punt Rd, Richmond

Speech notes
Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson AO
[Introduced by Prof Andrew Gunstone]

Thank you, Andrew. Good morning everyone.

I would like to also respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and their Elders past and present. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past and present, who reside in the area and are an integral part of the region.

**Acknowledgements**

- Dr Jackie Huggins, AM, Co-chair of National Congress;
- Professor Tom Calma AO, Co-chair of Reconciliation Australia;
- Karen Mundine, CEO of Reconciliation Australia; and
- Brendan Gale, CEO of Richmond Football Club

Good morning and welcome to the 2018 National Reconciliation Action Plan Conference.

It is a privilege to open this event with our co-hosts Reconciliation Australia, Richmond Football Club – in whose great facilities we stand – and Korin Gamadji Institute.
I am pleased to have this opportunity to share the story of Swinburne’s reconciliation journey.

For more than thirty years, Swinburne has built strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities.

Our first Reconciliation Action Plan was developed in 2014 and our second RAP was developed in 2017.

Our vision for reconciliation is that Swinburne will be a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their heritage, culture and spirituality are valued, respected and celebrated.

Along our journey of reconciliation, we have learned, and are continuing to learn, a great deal.

We have learned that broad and meaningful cultural change requires a sustained and significant commitment.

We have learned to genuinely engage with communities, to empower individuals through education and help increase the capacity of organisations to determine their own futures.
We have also learned that to be a leader in reconciliation we must invest in initiatives around Indigenous governance, culture, teaching and learning, research and engagement.

Establishing the Moondani Toombadool Centre at Swinburne has been instrumental in understanding addressing and progressing reconciliation across our organisation, for students and staff through to industry partners and the broader community.

Swinburne has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to improving educational access, participation and achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In doing so, we have remained true to the values of our founders – the values of social inclusion, innovation and a determination to create positive change.

This conference will give us all the opportunity to reflect on our own reconciliation journeys, our achievements and our challenges, and the role that RAPs have played along the way.

I trust you will enjoy it.