

Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal People

We at NCNS have adopted the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation's Vision Statement which reads:

*"A united Australia which respects this land of ours;
values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage,
and provides justice and equity for all"*

Further to this Statement we acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we live and work, the Darug people. The Darug people had traditional rights over the Penrith area, including the ownership of sacred and significant sites.

The establishment of European settlement in the Penrith area had severe consequences for the Darug people including attacks from settlers, exposure to new diseases, loss of their land and disruption to their traditional way of life.

We acknowledge the prior ownership of this area by the Darug people who were dispossessed by European invasion more than two hundred years ago and we celebrate the survival of Aboriginal people and their culture following this invasion and support their right to determine their own future.

We therefore accept our responsibility to develop an awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal history and society in our community and to protect and preserve the environment and significant and sacred sites.

In doing so we acknowledge that Aboriginal culture continues to strengthen and enrich our community.

The Penrith area is now occupied by people drawn from many different lands who share the values of respect and acceptance of one another.

We at NCNS encourage Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to work to overcome their differences and continue to go forward together, united in our search for justice and equity for all.

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