



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards

2024



PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD



Marni niina Kurna yarta-ana Pudni Pukipirra tarrkarri mankutityaḏlu.

It's good that you came to Kurna land. Learn from the past so that we can grasp the future.

We would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, the Kurna People of the Adelaide Plains. It is upon their ancestral lands that the Port Adelaide Enfield Council

meets. It is also The Place of the Kardi, the Emu, whose story travels from the coast inland. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We respect their spiritual beliefs and connections to land which are of continuing importance to the living Kurna people of today. We further acknowledge the contributions and important role that Aboriginal people continue to play within our shared community.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards 2024 publication may contain images of deceased persons.



Mayor's Message

Claire Boan | Mayor

The City of PAE and the Aboriginal Advisory Panel are once again proud presenters of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards. These awards are an important opportunity for us to acknowledge and reflect on the achievements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Awards Presentation Night is always a very special evening where we recognise the great contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, visitors, students and workers make to all of our lives every day. Their impact on the lives of individuals and groups within the community cannot be overemphasised.

As role models and Community Leaders, this year's award winners of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards demonstrate a true sense of pride and respect for traditional cultural values. Furthermore,

they have a true sense of vision and reconciliation. Their pride and respect in culture can be reflected across the whole of community, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

I congratulate each and every person and group who has been nominated and thank you for being heroes in our community and demonstrating Aboriginal excellence. I also thank those who have taken the time to nominate, and those who support people who have been nominated. This includes families, friends, teachers, employers, fellow workers, carers and so many others.

As the Mayor of the City of PAE, I am honoured to acknowledge you all, and thank you for your contribution to the good will and recognition that these awards bring.

I wish you all the very best for the future.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Background

In 1998, members of the Aboriginal Advisory Board, the late Aunty Josie Agius, Aunty Pat Waria-Read and Susan Dixon, approached the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to highlight and promote the great contribution and outstanding achievements by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within PAE.

A sub-committee was formed by Aunty Josie, Aunty Pat and Susan with support of the previous Mayor, Johanna McCluskey, and Cr Carol Martin, in consultation with the Aboriginal Advisory Panel.

A proposal was then put forward for an annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards night, which was endorsed by the City of PAE Elected Members.

In 1999, the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards were held at the Parks Community Centre.

This annual awards night is now a highly anticipated event that is celebrated by both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community as we walk together as one, in the spirit of goodwill and reconciliation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards 2024 Program

Performance - Sound Factory

Awards Opening - MC Michael O'Brien

Welcome to Country - Nicole Gollan

Minute silence

Opening speech - City of PAE Mayor Claire Boan

Award Presentation

Elder of the Year

Educational Achievement

Lifetime Achievement

Sports Person of the Year

Performance - Sound Factory

Award Presentation

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person,
Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Community

Contribution to the Arts

Person of the Year

Break

Award Presentation

Aunty Josie Youth Achievement Award

Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person,
Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Community

Performance - Sound Factory

Raffle

Close

Elder of the Year Award



Aunty Daisy Wanganeen

Aunty Daisy is a Kaurna Narungga Woman, local resident to Port Adelaide and for the last six years has been on the management committee of the Junction Community Centre (JCC). Aunty Daisy has gone from being quite shy to being at the forefront of our events representing the Aboriginal community, speaking at community events; but most importantly directing the JCC committee and staff on all matters pertaining to the Aboriginal people and culture. As a non-Aboriginal organisation, Aunty Daisy's direction has been extremely valuable to us and the local community as a whole and she has been involved in the creation of our Reconciliation Action Plan and instrumental in alerting us to cultural insensitivities to ensure we provided a culturally safe and appropriate service. Aunty Daisy is tireless when it comes to her community - demonstrating passion, commitment and dedication over many years. Her work has included teaching life skills in hostels, managing clients with co-morbidity issues, education and more recently advocating for Aboriginal children removed by Department Premier & Cabinet (DPC) to be placed in kinship care. Not only does Aunty Daisy work to link the Aboriginal community to the centre but she acts as an advocate who is well connected to the local area and uses these connections to spread her influence. She takes every opportunity to build respect for and recognition of her people, culture and land. Aunty Daisy is a great role model and spokesperson for JCC and the Aboriginal community.

Elder of the Year Award



Aunty Joan Lamont

Aunty Joan demonstrates excellence through her generational work in culture and heritage, education, including early childhood and adult education, and also in her formidable work in the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. Aunty Joan achievements and efforts have spanned over seven decades. She is a staunch Kurna and Narungga women who has been at the forefront of Aboriginal Rights for our people and at the forefront on Kurna Country with reclamation of land, culture, customs, landscape, and language. Aunty Joan also was also active in recording Kurna history with historians for future generations, she has worked tirelessly with numerous anthropologists and archaeologists to record and maintain oral histories. Aunty Joan is a member of the Yitpi Yartapuultiku Working Group and offers invaluable cultural knowledge and support to the group and to the Port Adelaide Enfield Council. Aunty Joan offers guidance and wisdom to the younger generations, and in her 80's still undertakes respite care for young family members so they have a sense of family and community. Aunty Joan today still attends and lends her voice to Survival Day events along with awareness rallies and campaigns as a respected Elder. Aunty Joan is a quiet achiever, who we know can be very passionate when it comes to her people and the Aboriginal cause. She has never received any award for her decades of work within our community.

Educational Achievement



Kobe Collins

Kobe has shown outstanding dedication to his academics this year having a rough start between 2017-2019 at a previous school. Kobe has been attending Scared Heart College and this year proven his dedication to his learning. Kobe moved to SA in 2017 and at that stage had only achieved 27 days of schooling over 10 school years. Today Kobe has extremely improved his school attendance and has the aspirational goal in becoming a teacher. Each year Kobe has improved within his academics bypassing his sporting achievements. Kobe is a fantastic role model for the youth of today, especially within the community showcasing that it is never too late to shine and engage in education.

Educational Achievement



Sophie Fatchen

Sophie demonstrates excellence in the field of Education by engaging across all facets of school life, engaging not only with the Aboriginal side of education through South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA) but being an active member of the school across other elements by participating in the school exchange to Indonesia, being a representative of the school at whole site events and learning Pitjantjatjara language at the school of language. Sophie is a great role model to her Aboriginal peers but also to all her peers demonstrating a desire to learn more each day and a strong growth mindset.

Educational Achievement



Petiola Wilson

Petiola is an Aboriginal Community Education Officer who is excellent with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, he continues to engage and makes Aboriginal students safe and secure. As a parent to one of Petiola's students, my daughter, he made her feel noticed and made her feel important and connected. He brought all Aboriginal students together so they could engage with each other and build trust and relationships. Petiola has gone above and beyond to create culture and learning and engaging the broad school in cultural days and activities. His role in working with Kura Yerlo is an extension of his approach to learn and share.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Cheryl Cairns

Cheryl has primarily worked within the sphere of education with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and currently and for many years with Tauondi Aboriginal College as a community educator and mentor. She has a history of codesigning programs, like Aboriginal leadership and Cultural Informed Trauma Training, Reporting Harm Abuse and Neglect. Cheryl also supports Tauondi Administration and supporting other staff in their progression. Cheryl is happy to share her years of experience and acquired knowledge and is a leader who will put her hand up to support and help with any task. Her years of relationship building has helped build networks to improve Tauondi service delivery. As Cheryl moves towards retirement, she will be missed by Tauondi students and staff and all those that engaged with Tauondi over the years. She can retire knowing she had an impact on students literacy and numeracy and helped path the way to student access and futures.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Wendy Warner

Over Wendy's lifetime she has and continues to play a lead role in supporting the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, she is motivated by the importance of healing and recognising historical Loss and Grief. One of the first and longest leading facilitator of Family Wellbeing Program across SA for many years and a Community Engagement Officer for Australia Bureau of Statistics travelling across the Southeast of SA. Wendy's cultural integrity and community awareness allowed her to work alongside local Elders and community members to ensure we all walk together to maintain a strong culture. She has been inspirational at Kura Yerlo Inc, as the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Childcare Centre through to supporting the Home and Community Care (HACC) Elders Program. Wendy has sat on the Nunga Court as a respected Elder. Wendy continues to be a leader, Elder and advocate for the Aboriginal community.

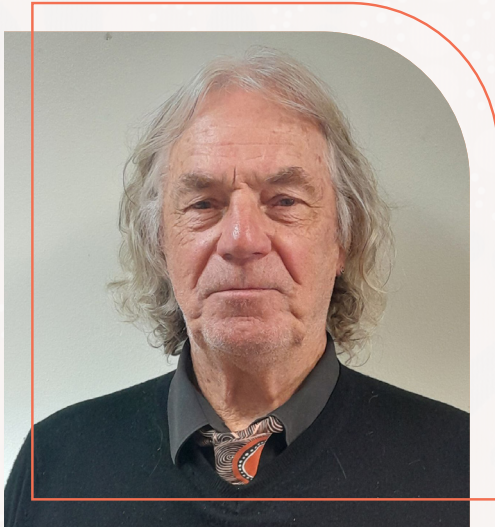
Sportsperson of the Year



Kahlia Miller-Koncz

Kahlia is the Aboriginal Secondary Education Training Officer (ASETO) at Lefevre Peninsula Primary School who has grown up on the Peninsula and a proud Narungga. Kaurana Woman, born and raised in Local PAE. Sports has often been the glue that holds the Aboriginal community together. Kahlia has played a huge role in her advocacy for the inclusion of Aboriginal children and ensuring Cultural Safety for youth in Sport. Kahlia has been Team Manager for several local teams in PAE such as Black Panthers, the Kalateeya Netball Club in the Aboriginal Sports Carnival, and Team Manager for the South Australian 2022 State Team Tournament held on the Gold Coast. She has also been the Team Coach for local South Australian Public Schools Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA) team and represented on several sporting committees. Kahlia has dedicated her time and her own money to ensure participation of her students, nieces, nephews in extra curriculum activities in particular Sports and she is known to donated sporting shoes, boots and uniforms to children in the City of PAE community.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Mike Norman

Mike Norman is a Criminal Defence Lawyer representing Aboriginal men and women since the 1980's . Mike has been one of the first layers in the Port Adelaide Nunga Court since 1999 through to today. Aboriginal people seek him out, as his selflessness to support Aboriginal clients and process matters as soon as possible is well known to those involved in the Criminal Justice System. He often provides pro-bono work for those that are going through financial hardship. He is often referred to as the Mike Norman -"freedom Fighter to the Stars". Those who know him, he is a dedicated Port Power fan.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Junction Community Centre

The Junction Community Centre (JCC) truly reflect the local community. This includes having Aboriginal representation in their clientele base, volunteer and staff pool and have Aboriginal members on their Management Board. JCC have highlighted Aboriginal history, culture and practices - to better educate the wider community (including New Arrivals, refugees and migrants) to understanding, appreciation and respect of the First Nations People and their land. JCC have a Reconciliation Action Plan and Statement, proudly fly the Aboriginal flag, provide educational bus trips to regional areas to meet with rural Aboriginal Elders. Work closely with the Grannies Group and other Elders, provide exclusive Aboriginal programs as requested including a Women's Healing Circle and Exercise Classes.

JCC continue to participate in Nunga Week and have created several programs in partnership with the City of PAE like the photographic exhibition, the anti-racism campaign called "Racism: It's Not Just Black and White" and the Cross Culture program.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community tional Achievement



Simon Talansakas

Simon has been working alongside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community for the past five years at Tiraapendi Wodli. In his role as Red Cross Justice Reinvestment Program Coordinator, Simon genuinely supports Aboriginal people as he 'walks alongside' them to navigate their goals and priorities. It is a testament to the trust and respect he has gained from the community. Simon takes a strong mentoring role to ensure meaningful opportunities to develop community leadership skills and experience. Simon models how this can be achieved when community are well supported to take a lead in the development and design of their own programs based on the needs and interests defined by the community themselves. Simon advocates for a high standard in cultural practice and cultural safety, whilst developing his own cultural competency.

Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Iwiri Aboriginal Corporation

Since 2021, Iwiri Arts has established itself as a vital support network for Aboriginal people in the PAE Council region, instrumental in providing valuable support and resources for First Nations artists and their families. As a not-for-profit social enterprise organisation, Iwiri Arts functions altruistically, promoting greater social and cultural wellbeing and empowerment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Iwiri Arts studio is a dynamic community hub for Aboriginal artists, providing a safe and supportive space where artists can share their creativity and culture. Iwiri Arts is more than just an art studio, Iwiri also provides a kitchen and meals service, transport service, wellbeing space, cultural program, and a range of social welfare supports. These resources are centralised at the Iwiri Arts studio, a community space supporting multi-disciplinary creative activities for Anangu people in Port Adelaide. Through this diverse program, Iwiri Arts has demonstrated a sustained and long-term commitment to the holistic wellbeing of Aboriginal communities, supporting their nomination in this category. Iwiri Arts is governed by Anangu community members. Iwiri Arts demonstrates the value of Aboriginal leadership and the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations in the PAE Council region.

Contribution to the Arts Award



Leticia Rickett

Leticia works full time, though in her spare time, Leticia enjoys painting and drawing using her own Aboriginal style in her artwork, where her personality shines through in her artwork and is self-inspired to be an artist in her own right. Leticia has been an artist from an early age and has maintained and grown as an artist. Leticia has been aspirational in completed several art / images for the Port Adelaide Waterfront Public Realm precinct, the Yitpi Yartapuultiku-Aboriginal Cultural Centre, the PAE Little Library's Program and facilitated several art programs during PAE Nunga Week. Leticia's artwork is prominent and showcases to other upcoming artist that the opportunity to enjoy and share art within the community can be achieved.

Contribution to the Arts Award



Shakira Sharpe

Shakira is a proud Narungga, Ngadjuri woman who has always been passionate with drawing and painting and uses art as a form of healing and growth. Shakira completed a course in Business and now has a business called Ssharparts, which has been successful in commissioned pieces and art exhibitions and is now employed with Adelaide Art Gallery where she is inspired daily. Shakira likes to encourage others in art developing their own art expression.

Person of the Year



Hayley Boughton

Hayley is employed with BAE Systems Australia (BAESA) who has worked tirelessly for the last four years with local national and global Leaders to transform BAESA Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) increasing the focus on the Osborn site. With a community focus, Haley has worked in partnership with local Kurna Elders and Aboriginal Leaders to identify local needs, amplify their voices, and drive meaningful Reconciliation outcome. Hayley brings everyone on the RAP journey, no matter their cultural background, ensuring personal and organisational responsibilities are upheld. Her collaborative approach and truth telling lead the way and brings confidence to non-Aboriginal colleagues to ask hard questions, listen intently and work on their own learnings to build understanding. Hayley advocates to contribute to support programs at Yitpi Yartapuultiku, she has embedded Kurna language within BAE's walking trails, and supporting employment programs and cultural training. Her work is being admired by other Defence companies, instilling confidence in non-Aboriginal people to engage in Reconciliation.

Person of the Year



Selina Maibunka

Selina is a Walpiri, Western Aranda woman (skin name Napaljarri) who provides accurate and culturally sensitive interpretation for Indigenous people in courts who don't speak English. Her expertise ensures clear communication, fair representation, and access to justice, consistently demonstrating professionalism and dedication in complex legal situations. Selina inspires by empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through ensuring fair access to justice. Her work highlights the importance of cultural preservation and representation, motivating both the Indigenous community creating a vital bridge between Indigenous communities and the legal system. Her work promotes inclusion and has a lasting, positive impact on Aboriginal people and community.

Person of the Year

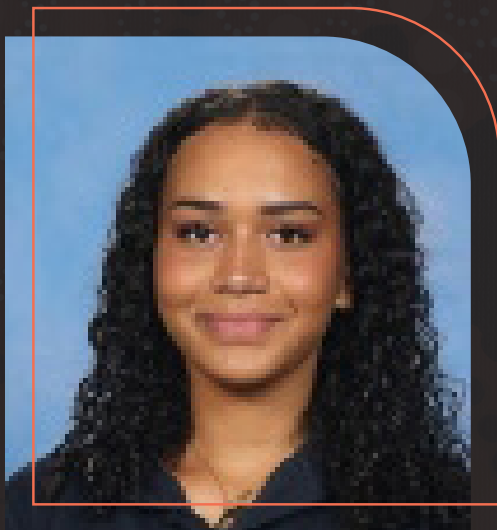


Mary-Anne Lovegrove

Mary-Anne is the Chief Executive Officer of Kura Yerlo Inc and Kurruru who exemplifies excellence in cultural community service and leadership through her profound dedication, empathy, and unwavering commitment to First Nations community health, wellbeing and cultural preservation. Mary-Anne embodies integrity, respect, and loyalty with the ability to lead with compassion, motivate others, and achieve set goals makes her a positive and inspiring role model for those around her.

Mary-Anne consistently goes above and beyond, always remaining approachable and accessible to staff and community members in shared voices and consultation, embracing a culturally appropriate, inclusive and respectful approach to leadership. Despite the pressures of her role and the personal and professional challenges, Mary-Anne serves as an example of resilience and strength to Kura Yerlo Inc. for the broader community. She has navigated her position, with grace and determination. What sets Mary-Anne apart as a leader is her holistic approach to supporting both the people and the infrastructure of her organisation. Her attention to staff development and wellbeing, combined with strategic direction, demonstrates a commitment to long-term sustainability.

Aunty Josie Agius Youth Achievement Award



Ella Forrester

Ella is a year 10 student at Ocean View Collage (OVC) who consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and a high level of resilience in both her schoolwork and extracurricular activities. She actively participates in school netball, South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy , and is a proud member of OVC Stars. Ella was nominated to be part of Young Aboriginal STEM Thinkers of Adelaide (YASTA) and has attended CSIRO Young Indigenous STEM academy camps. As a Cultural Captain at OVC, Ella showcases her leadership skills by supporting our school community, welcoming new students, and sharing a strong cultural representation throughout our school. As a role model, she regularly steps outside her comfort zone, showcasing her strong connection to her culture and sharing this with both her peers and staff. Ella is committed to her goal of graduating from school and pursuing further education at university. Ella's leadership articulates honesty, passion and confidence.

Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Tiraapendi Wodli Men's Group

The Tiraapendi Wodli Men's Gathering is a shining example of excellence in cultural service delivery, offering a welcoming and culturally safe space for Aboriginal men to connect, share their experiences, and access critical services. The gathering has played a pivotal role in advocacy and connecting, whilst bringing attention to the specific challenges faced by Aboriginal men. The Gathering is as inspirational role model because it empowers Aboriginal men by creating a sense of belonging, cultural pride, self-confidence and strong cultural identity. The Gathering has helped to inform policy and service delivery, ensuring that the voices of Aboriginal men are heard and considered in decision-making processes. The Gathering collaborate with key organisations and its contributions to important discussions, highlight their role and leadership in cultural service delivery and community advocacy. Recognising the Tiraapendi Wodli Men's Gathering engages the community knowledge in serving the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Chris Thyer

Chris is an inspirational role model and Chief Executive of the South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council (SAAETCC). Chris leads the work in advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children, as well as striving for equality and better educational outcomes, and ensure that the voices of the community are heard. Chris's efforts have led to higher levels of year 12 completion, improved early childhood education, and increased access to higher education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Chris serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, showing others the importance of standing up for what is right and working towards a more inclusive and equitable society. Her work not only benefits the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community but also has a positive impact on the broader population of Port Adelaide Enfield. Her dedication and passion for creating positive change makes her truly deserving of recognition for their contributions to the community. Chris's tireless efforts in advocating for those who are often marginalised and overlooked demonstrate a deep commitment to social justice and equality. Her work is not just about making a difference in the lives of individuals but about creating systemic change that benefits the entire community.

Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Tauondi Deadly Pathways Program Team

The Tauondi Deadly Pathways Team, consisting of Kamellia Forbes and Beau Girdham; Youth Services Officers, who provide crucial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths aged 12-24 attending or at risk of leaving school, or who have already left. The team have extended their service capacity to empower Aboriginal youth engagement, education, and employment pathways, achieving short-term and long-term goals, whether those goals are improving school attendance or completing accredited courses, or employment-focused, or securing provisional driver's licenses and obtaining stable employment. Their cultural mentoring and activities work to strengthen the social well-being, self-esteem and identity of young people. They have demonstrated resilience, leadership, and community spirit, inspiring others to believe in the potential of young people to overcome challenges and succeed. This has a broader impact on the youths families, schools, and the broader community in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community



Tjindu Foundation

The Tjindu Foundation is a local level not-for-profit Aboriginal community-controlled organisation located in Port Adelaide, who empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through the Tjindu AFL Academy and Tjindu STRONG. These programs connect sport, education, and culture, fostering healthy lifestyles, leadership, and personal development. The AFL Academy provides elite football training, academic support, and cultural experiences, promoting unity and cultural identity. Tjindu STRONG, endorsed by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council, operates in 11 remote communities, focusing on resilience, school attendance, and cultural pride through mentoring with 16 educational modules. Both programs equip young people with the skills to make positive life choices and become future leaders in their communities. Tjindu provides a culturally safe and supportive environment, fostering positive connections between students, mentors, and the wider community. The Tjindu Foundation positively impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and the wider community through strong partnerships with organisations like BHP, RAA, and the Department for Education. Our mission is to cultivate cultural and community wellbeing through delivering community based cultural education activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across South Australia. Tjindu provide a combination of innovative, sporting, leadership, resilience, health and wellbeing initiatives to ensure greater opportunities and improved employment and economic prospects.

Reconciliation Statement

**Niina Marni, Puki Puki
tampidlu nartangka
wapidlu marnintyaria
tarrkarri taidlu.**

**Welcome. Let us recognise the
past, act in the present and build
a better future. The City of Port
Adelaide Enfield is located on the
lands of the Kaurna People.**

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield recognises Aboriginal people as the first Australians, with a unique culture and spiritual relationship to the land and sea that they have strived to retain through the period of non-indigenous settlement. Council is strongly committed to work with and support the cultural, spiritual, health, emotional and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in this region.

**In consultation and collaboration with the
local Aboriginal community Council will:**

- Be a region which exemplifies pride in and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including language, arts, story telling, song and dance;
- Build on a partnership between the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community which is respectful and collaborative;
- Advocate for the allocation of resources and services based on a sound understanding of the demographic profile, the strengths and needs of the Port Adelaide Enfield Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
- Facilitate opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to benefit from economic growth within the region by supporting employment, education and training initiatives;
- Promote a community that is racism free, safe, welcoming and inclusive for all;
- Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and agencies, and the wider community to implement measures to "Close the Gap" in relation to disadvantage within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.