

Narragunnawali  
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA  
GUNNA  
WALI**



**NARRAGUNNAWALI  
AWARDS  
2021**

**INFORMATION PACK**



**RECONCILIATION  
AUSTRALIA**

**BHP** | **Foundation**

# ABOUT NARRAGUNNAWALI: RECONCILIATION IN EDUCATION

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education is a program of Reconciliation Australia, dedicated to supporting all Australian schools and early learning services to develop environments that foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

*Narragunnawali* (pronounced narra-gunna-wally) is a word from the language of the Ngunnawal people, Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waterways of the area on which Reconciliation Australia's Canberra office is located. It means alive, wellbeing, coming together and peace.

Reconciliation Australia is an independent, national, not-for-profit organisation promoting reconciliation by building stronger relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# ABOUT THE NARRAGUNNAWALI AWARDS

The Narragunnawali Awards is the first national awards program in Australia that recognises and celebrates educational environments implementing outstanding reconciliation initiatives – across the Government, Catholic and Independent sectors.

Finalist schools and early learning services are acknowledged for the ways in which they strengthen relationships, build respect, and provide meaningful opportunities in the classroom, around the school or early learning service, and with the community.

Held every two years since 2017, the Narragunnawali Awards 2021 are the third awards to celebrate exceptional commitments to reconciliation within the education sector.

2020 has been a very challenging year for everybody, with schools and early learning services being no exception.

All have had to adapt quickly to new methods of providing safe, secure learning environments during COVID-19 combined with some still recovering from community losses due to bushfires and floods. In the face of all of this, schools and early learning services have remained committed to their critical role in shaping Australia's reconciliation journey.

The Narragunnawali Awards 2021 offer us all the chance to share and listen to these stories.

## AWARD CATEGORIES

The two categories for the Narragunnawali Awards are:

### **Schools:**

Including primary, secondary, senior secondary and combined schools within the Government, Independent or Catholic sectors.

### **Early Learning Services:**

Including early childhood education and care, preschool, family day care and out of school hours care services.

# NOMINATING A SCHOOL OR EARLY LEARNING SERVICE

In 2021 we are asking individuals — parents, carers, staff, students, community members — to [nominate a school or early learning service](#) that they believe is demonstrating exceptional commitment to reconciliation in education.

Nominators will be asked why they want to [nominate the school or service](#), demonstrate their relationship with the school or service and can nominate more than one school or service. All nominators must live in Australia.

Once a school or early learning service is nominated, the Principal/ Director is notified and they are encouraged to formally apply for a 2021 Narragunnawali Award.

**Nominations can be submitted online via the [Narragunnawali Awards page](#) from Tuesday 1 December 2020 until Friday 30 April.**

If your school or early learning service receives one or more nominations, the school or early learning service will need to complete and submit ONE online application to be eligible for the Narragunnawali Awards (*please see the 'Application Process' and 'Eligibility Criteria' sections below*).

Schools and early learning services may still submit an application for the Awards without having received a nomination.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the Narragunnawali Awards 2021 open on **Monday 1 February** and will close **23:59 AWST on Friday 30 April 2021**.

Nominations and applications can be submitted online any time before Friday 30 April 2021.

Any school or early learning service can apply for a Narragunnawali Award even if they have not received a nomination.

To start an application, members of the school or early learning service's RAP Working Group can follow prompts under the ['Your RAP'](#) tab when logged into the Narragunnawali platform. If the school or early learning service is part of a Cluster RAP, then Working Group members can select which school(s) or early learning service(s) within the Cluster they would like to start an individual application for via the ['Your Cluster'](#) link.

While all RAP Working Group members will have technical capacity to start and save an application, only the Principal/Director will be able to submit it to Reconciliation Australia.

For an in-depth discussion and walk-through of the applications process, you might like to view our [Early Learning](#) or [Schools](#) Narragunnawali Awards 2021 walk-through webinars, freely available to register for on-demand via [narragunnawali.org.au/about/webinars](http://narragunnawali.org.au/about/webinars).

Please note:

*For the purpose of the Narragunnawali Awards 2021, the Principal/Director who is able to submit the application form is defined by the individual listed in the position of 'Principal/Director' on the school or early learning service's RAP Working Group within the Narragunnawali platform.*

Applicants must meet all of the eligibility criteria below.



# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible to apply for the Narragunnawali Awards 2021, a school or early learning service must meet each of the following criteria:

**1.** Schools and early learning services must have a published Narragunnawali [Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) at the point in time that the application is submitted to Reconciliation Australia by the Principal/Director.

- Published RAPs have been approved by the Principal/Director and, following review and publication by Reconciliation Australia, are visible on the [Who has a RAP?](#) page on the Narragunnawali platform.

- Schools and early learning services that would like to apply for the Awards, but haven't yet created a RAP, can do so [via the Narragunnawali platform](#) prior to starting their application.

- The application can be started while the RAP is still in draft form, but will only be able to be submitted to Reconciliation Australia by the Principal/Director once the RAP has been published.

**2.** Schools or early learning services must be able to demonstrate that they have been actively carrying out reconciliation initiatives that meet the Selection Criteria during the years 2020 and 2021. The Selection Criteria are summarised in the next section.

**3.** Only one application can be submitted per individual school or early learning service. For schools or early learning services that are part of a shared Cluster RAP, note that a separate application must be submitted for any given school or service within the Cluster.

**4.** Schools or early learning services that were represented as Finalists in the Narragunnawali Awards 2019 are ineligible to re-apply for the Narragunnawali Awards until 2023. This does not preclude schools or early learning services that were represented as Finalists in the Narragunnawali Awards 2017 for re-applying for an Award in 2021.

**5.** All submitted applications must attach evidence (in PDF or video URL link format only) that the application has been endorsed by the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Instructions on how to provide this evidence are included within the Narragunnawali Awards online application form.

**6.** The Principal/Director of the school or early learning service's RAP Working Group must submit the application to Reconciliation Australia. This is to ensure that the submitted application has undergone executive-level review and approval prior to submission to Reconciliation Australia.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

All schools and early learning services submitting an award application must respond to the following Selection Criteria. There is a 3000 character limit on answers for each criteria.

## Criterion 1 - Relationships:

the school or early learning service has strengthened relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples in the classroom, around the school or early learning service and with the community, to achieve exceptional outcomes towards advancing reconciliation.

## Criterion 2 - Respect:

the school or early learning service has fostered a high level of respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in the classroom, around the school or early learning service and with the community, to achieve exceptional outcomes towards advancing reconciliation.

## Criterion 3 - Opportunities:

the school or early learning service has established or extended opportunities for staff, students, children, families and community members to achieve exceptional outcomes towards advancing reconciliation in the classroom, around the school or early learning service, and with the community.

Responses to these Criteria will need to be submitted within the Narragunnawali Awards online application form under the [‘Your RAP’](#) tab when logged into the Narragunnawali platform (see the ‘Application Process’ section on page 4)

# JUDGING PANEL

Reconciliation Australia is proud to welcome the return of Geraldine Atkinson, Sharon Davis and Professor Peter Buckskin to the Narragunnawali Awards Judging Panel in 2021.

These highly esteemed educators bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the judging process.

## Geraldine Atkinson

Geraldine Atkinson is a Bangerang/Wiradjuri woman who has devoted her career to expanding the possibilities available to Koorie people through education. Geraldine has made a significant impact in the area of early childhood, and has always regarded education as being the best instrument of progress.

Geraldine is President of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) and an elected Member and Co-Chair of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria representing the North East Region.

Geraldine combines her direct experience of what works in community with her extensive policy knowledge, and regards this ability to act as a link between policy and community as her principal function. Geraldine holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, Master of Education and Honorary Doctorate in Education. Geraldine received the Lyn Kosky Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in education at the 2020 Victorian Training Awards, and was inducted into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2018.



## Sharon Davis MSc (Oxon.)



Sharon Davis is a proud Aboriginal woman, from both the Bardi and Kija peoples of the Kimberley, Western Australia. Sharon is Director of Education at Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra and is committed to enhancing the education experience for Aboriginal students, families and communities and strengthening Aboriginal education for the benefit of all.

Sharon Davis is a trained primary school teacher through the University of Notre Dame's Campus of Reconciliation in Broome and has a Master of Science in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition from the University of Oxford in the UK.

Prior to working at AIATSIS Sharon was the Team Leader of the Aboriginal education team at Catholic Education WA. Sharon is currently a Board member for Reconciliation Australia and Reconciliation Western Australia. She is a member of the AITSL Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education.

## Professor Peter Buckskin PSM FACE

Professor Peter Buckskin is a Narungga man from the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. For over 40 years Professor Buckskin's passion has been the pursuit of educational excellence for Aboriginal peoples. Professor Buckskin is Co-Chair of Reconciliation South Australia and former Dean of Aboriginal Engagement and Strategic Projects at the University of South Australia.

Professor Buckskin has worked as a school teacher, a Ministerial Adviser, Superintendent of Schools and as a senior executive at both State and Federal levels. He was appointed a member of the Voice Co-Design Senior Advisory Group in 2019 and Co-Chair of the Local & Regional Co-design Group in 2020.

Professor Buckskin is Chair of the SA Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council and a member of the Lowitja Institute Board of Directors. Professor Buckskin is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and was awarded the 2020 NAIDOC South Australia Lifetime Achievement Award.



# JUDGING PROCESS

## Assessment

**Round 1:** Longlist selection - A review committee will assess all submitted and eligible applications to select a longlist of ten applications for each category.

**Round 2:** Shortlist selection - The review committee will interview each of the ten longlisted schools and early learning services respectively, via video conference to select a shortlist of six applications for each category. These interviews will take place from 14 to 18 June 2021; longlisted applicants must be available for interview during these dates.

**Round 3:** Finalist selection - The judging panel will then review each of the shortlisted applications to select the three finalists for each category. The Narragunnawali Awards 2021 finalists will be announced in July 2021.

**Round 4:** Winner selection - The judging panel will then conduct a visit to each of the three finalist schools and three finalist early learning services to determine the winner in each category. The winners of each category will be announced at the Narragunnawali Awards 2021 presentation event in November.

## Judging panel visits

The judging panel will visit each of the six finalists (three schools and three early learning services), accompanied by Reconciliation Australia staff and a small film crew, during August and September 2021.

The judging panel visits will involve interviews (both on film and with the judges) with members of the school or early learning service's executive, RAP Working Group members, and key stakeholders in the community such as members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community involved in the school or early learning service's reconciliation initiatives.



Additionally, interviews with parents and/or students who consent to appear on film may also be conducted by the accompanying film crew as part of telling the finalist story.

Finalist schools and early learning services will need to be available for the judging panel visits over the following periods:

16 August – 20 August 2021  
23 August – 27 August 2021  
30 August – 3 September 2021

Reconciliation Australia will work with the finalists to coordinate the judging panel visits accordingly.

In the event of COVID restrictions preventing physical travel for any of the judging panel visits, an alternative arrangement will be formalised and discussed with the affected finalists and judges prior to the dates above.

## Finalist Workshop and Awards presentation event

TWO representatives from each of the finalist schools and early learning services will need to be available to attend the finalists workshop and awards presentation event in Sydney.

This event will be held between **14 – 16 November 2021** and will be live streamed.

TWO representatives from each of the finalist schools and early learning services will take part in a one-day workshop/forum in Sydney, facilitated by Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali team on **Sunday 14 November 2021**.

Travel and accommodation will be provided for up to TWO people from each of the finalist schools and early learning services. Finalists can request to send more representatives at their own expense.

Reconciliation Australia will follow COVID-safe protocols as required and will advise on the location/forum of the event closer to the awards workshop and ceremony.

# PRIZES

The Narragunnawali Award 2021 winner of each category will receive:

- \$10,000 in prize money to support reconciliation initiatives within the winning school or early learning service community;
- A short film showcasing the reconciliation initiatives in their school or early learning service;
- A featured article in Narragunnawali News;
- A commemorative trophy.

A commemorative trophy will also be awarded to each of the finalists across both categories.



# CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions, or wish to find out further information about the Narragunnawali Awards 2021, please contact us:

[narragunnawali.org.au/contact-us](https://narragunnawali.org.au/contact-us)

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

The following Terms and Conditions apply to the Narragunnawali Awards 2021:

1. By starting or submitting a nomination and/or application for the Narragunnawali Awards 2021, you warrant that you are a representative (e.g. Principal/ Director, staff member) or affiliate (e.g. local community member, parent of an enrolled student) of the school or early learning service in the nomination/application, and that you have read, understood, and agreed to abide by these Terms and Conditions.

Instructions on how to submit an application on behalf of a school or early learning service for the Narragunnawali Awards 2021 are included within the online Narragunnawali Awards application form and form part of these Terms and Conditions. See the 'Application Process' section above for more information.

2. Reconciliation Australia reserves the right to declare any application ineligible or invalid if the person submitting the application on behalf of the school or early learning service:

- submits an application that is incomplete;
- provides information that is false or misleading;
- is considered to be unable to represent or promote the Narragunnawali Awards 2021 in a satisfactory manner;
- is involved in any conduct or activity that is illegal, fraudulent, or may damage the reputation of the Narragunnawali Awards 2021;
- does not comply with or meet these Terms and Conditions or the Eligibility Criteria.

3. The review committee and judging panel's decisions will be made by their own sole and complete discretion. Only one winner will be announced in the Schools Category, and only one winner will be announced in the Early Learning Services Category. While feedback regarding applications can be given upon request, the judging panel will not enter into correspondence regarding the winning entries.

4. Members of the review committee or judging panel are not permitted to submit an application for a school or early learning service for an award during their review/judging year.

5. In the case that they are selected as finalists, representatives from schools and early learning services must be available for the judging panel visits to the school and early learning service over the following periods:

16 – 20 August 2021

23 – 27 August 2021

30 August – 3 September 2021

# TERMS & CONDITIONS (cont.)

- 6.** Two representatives from finalist schools and early learning services must be able to travel to Sydney for the awards ceremony and finalist workshop on 14-16 November 2021. Reconciliation Australia will work with the finalists to coordinate the judging panel visits accordingly. In the case of COVID restrictions being in place, an alternative to judging panel visits, finalist workshop and awards presentation event will be devised by Reconciliation Australia in collaboration with the respective finalists.
- 7.** Finalists must be willing to receive media attention for recognition of their efforts, and for the film and wider media to be shared on public platforms.
- 8.** Prizes are not transferable or exchangeable. The \$10,000 prize money is presented to the winners in good faith, and while the winners are not required to formally report on how the prize money has been spent, it is intended to go towards reconciliation initiatives within their school or early learning service community. Reconciliation Australia may wish to publish follow-up stories on social media and/or in print publications, intending to share the reconciliation initiatives of the winners with the wider Australian community.
- 9.** Reconciliation Australia collects personal information and other information relating to schools or early learning services that have been nominated/applied for a Narragunnawali Award in order to administer the Narragunnawali Awards 2021, judge applications and present prizes. Those submitting an application on behalf of a school or early learning service must ensure that relevant parental/guardian consent has been received for all students that have been filmed, photographed or otherwise represented in an application submission. Written consent must also have been received from any third party filmed, photographed or otherwise represented in an application submission. Application submissions will remain the property of Reconciliation Australia, and may be reproduced in electronic or print forms as per the Reconciliation Australia Privacy Policy and in alignment with the Australian Privacy Principles contained in schedule 1 of the Privacy Act 1988. The films and photographs captured during the judging panel visits will also remain the property of Reconciliation Australia, and may be reproduced in electronic or print forms.