



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2020: MAY 27 – JUNE 3

The theme for #NRW2020 – *In this together* – is now resonating in ways that could not have been foreseen when announced last year, but it reminds us whether in a crisis or in reconciliation we are all #InThisTogether.

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/>

Jeanette Morris, Education Officer - Indigenous Education at the Catholic Education Office Ballarat and the Catholic Education Commission Victoria Working Party of which she is a member have collated for schools a range of [online resources](#) for National Reconciliation Week. Whilst working on these documents, the working party ensured that the materials were credible, of high quality and a balanced mix of historical and contemporary events/issues. A teacher resource document has also been created from information provided on the Narragunnawali website for [Primary Schools](#) and [Secondary Colleges](#).

Indigenous Students enrolled in Schools and Colleges in the Ballarat Diocese

With National Reconciliation Week approaching, I wanted to share the good news about the enrolment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across the Diocese. According to the 2020 February census, there are 423 indigenous students enrolled in the 64 Catholic schools and colleges in the Ballarat Diocese. These students comprise 2.3% of the 18,434 pupils. 11 schools have 10 or more indigenous students, 39 schools have between 1 and 9 indigenous pupils, whilst 14 schools don't have any indigenous enrolments at all.

As a community, we educate 182 indigenous students among secondary colleges in the Ballarat Diocese. St Patrick's College, Ballarat has the largest indigenous student cohort with 57 students (4.3% of the school). St Joseph's College, Mildura (29 - 3.5%) and Monivae College, Hamilton (21 - 3.8%) also teach comparatively large indigenous cohorts. There are 241 indigenous students enrolled in primary schools in the Ballarat Diocese. These children comprise 2.4% of the 10,124 students. St Paul's, Mildura has the largest indigenous primary student cohort with 28 students (9.1% of the school). St Alipius, Ballarat East (24 - 9%), St Mary's, Hamilton (14 - 6.7%), St Mary's, Swan Hill (19 - 3.3%) and St Mary's Donald (9 - 25%) also educate comparatively large indigenous cohorts.



2019 Reconciliation Week Assembly – St Patrick's College Ballarat

According to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) the Ballarat Diocese educates 21.8% (423) of the 1,921 indigenous students who choose Catholic education around Victoria. Although we educate only 8.7% of Victoria's total Catholic school population (approximately 18,000 of 210,000 students), we educate a high percentage (22%) of the state's indigenous population.

Let's share, support and celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2020 with optimism knowing that we are "In this together" as a diocesan education community and that our schools continue to be enhanced by the living culture and engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and families.

Audrey Brown, Director – Catholic Education Ballarat