The Australian Psychological Society

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

TO DEVELOP A

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

BY 31/5/2012

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) acknowledges the unique position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first people of this country. The APS aims to engage its membership (20,000 strong) in developing an APS Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This will involve establishing a Working Group in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists to consult with APS members and staff, as well as externally with Indigenous stakeholders. We will identify strategies, timelines and measurable targets for relationships, respect and opportunities to implement the actions articulated in this RAP.

Areas for action will include:

- increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists and facilitating the ongoing training and support of Indigenous people in psychology
- enriching the discipline of psychology by incorporating the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives into the curriculum
- working to ensure that APS members have an understanding of Indigenous Australian culture, history and people, and facilitating the cultural competence of psychologists to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- reviewing APS governance policies and structures and creating a positive strategy to encourage the involvement and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions across the APS
- developing and embedding cultural protocols for APS meetings and events, and assisting Branches to understand, develop and use local cultural protocols
- reviewing and affirming APS ethical guidelines for the provision of psychological services and conduct of research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- facilitating and encouraging research in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Signed

Simon Crowe FAPS
President, Australian Psychological Society

4th October 2011