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## **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POLICY**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of *Specialist Behaviour Support Services (SBSS)* is to support society's most vulnerable individuals to live in a way which promotes optimal levels of independence, freedom from unnecessary restrictions and as a meaningful part of their local and wider community.

**Definition:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is the collective term for all people who identify and are recognised as descendants of the original inhabitants of Australia, and acknowledges the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups in Australia.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

SBSS acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land of Melbourne, and pays respects to elders past, present and emerging. SBSS works in collaboration with those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and support networks.

SBSS recognises the trauma, abuse, and systemic neglect that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have endured for many generations; both for the pain it caused then, and the continued impact that remains. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability are particularly vulnerable to being victimised and face greater difficulty in receiving adequate support.

### **Our Commitment**

SBSS is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service users and stakeholders. In all its doings, SBSS respects the cultural identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will seek to partner with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service agency in the provision of supports to those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander whenever possible. SBSS practitioners will work together with all service users who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to develop a cultural identity safety plan.

SBSS is dedicated to ensuring that the rights of every person we have contact with, within the provision of our services, are protected. We take extra care and duty with ensuring the safety

and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We respect, embrace and support the diversity in Aboriginal language, heritage and culture. SBSS has zero tolerance for discrimination or inappropriate behaviour of any SBSS employee towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **Related Documents**

NDIS Code of Conduct

SBSS Code of Conduct