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Queensland Theatre Company launches Reconciliation Action Plan

Queensland Theatre Company's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched today by Noonuccal/Ngugi Artistic Director Wesley Enoch, with a vision that goes beyond words in the hope of creating lasting change.

The development of the RAP, which began in 2012, included consultations with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including Queensland Theatre Company's (QTC) Indigenous Reference Group, chaired by Nathan Jarro and includes Michael Tuahine, Paula Nazarski and Adam James.

Nathan Jarro, Chair of the Indigenous Reference Group said this was the first of its kind for a state theatre company in Australia. "The Reconciliation Action Plan has unanimous support from the Board, which together with the Company is committed to fostering this very important process."

Artistic Director Wesley Enoch said the RAP was about creating change within the organisation, the community, the sector, and Queensland and Australia more broadly.

"With the key objectives of Relationships, Respect and Opportunities, it sets out a range of strategies around our artistic programs, audience development, employment pathways, partnerships and cultural awareness," he said. "We aim to be a national leader in reconciliation, demonstrating this through the creation and presentation of theatre as well as meaningful action, how true reconciliation can be achieved between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community."

After the appointment of Mr Enoch in 2010, the QTC launched its Indigenous Program with an aim of producing, promoting and building audiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander work. The program includes the commissioning, creative developments, production and presentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander works (*Stradbroke Dreamtime*, *Bloodland*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *Black Diggers*); research into audience development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander work; scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to attend programs such as Theatre Residency Week and Youth Ensemble; and secondments and apprenticeships of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"QTC has already initiated important changes in our programming operations and the way staff and community connect and intersect and for this reason we have undertaken this RAP with specific targets, which will be a living document and a plan for our day-to-day work," Mr Enoch said.

"Building strong networks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts workers is a key focus of our Indigenous Program as is our role of 'stepping stone' for their professional careers. We aim to leave a long lasting cultural legacy for future generations."

In 2013, QTC was awarded the Queensland Premier's Reconciliation Award (Community) in recognition of its Indigenous Program.