

# OUR COUNTRY, OUR PLACE



My culture is the oldest

continuous culture

on earth.

My ancestors have passed on, over many generations; and we tell their dreamtime stories through dances, languages, songs. The history and knowledge my people carry is vast, it is important to me, we cannot let it pass.

A part of me, I want it to be part of you. It must be shared, through the teaching and learning we do. We must share it, we cannot hide it, and to do this, it starts with you.

Let us educate the children of today, let us understand the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, their beliefs and ways. This is a path where we can come together as one and understand one another better. There has been too much hurt, sadness, sorrow over decades, it is time for change, time for our differences to fade. And this starts with me, you and the children we are teaching today.

It shouldn't matter about the colour of our skin, our hair, eyes or the shape of our body. We are all different. We come from distinct places like the freshwater lakes, saltwater, rainforest, valleys, the outback. With our own values and beliefs, we bring our own virtual backpack.

What matters is what is within our soul, the spirit in our hearts. What matters is that we acknowledge and respect one another, and the knowledge that we impart. When we do this, then we can evolve, and we can become one. Here and now, we can begin a great journey together of love and respect under one sun.

When we open our minds and hearts, in return the universe and the spirits will open to us. With you, with me, there is hope for peace and equality.

Let's respect the first Australian people and the beautiful cultures from around the world who bring richness and diversity to this land and our lives. Let's be better, let's rise, let's rise...