**Commitment Statement to Cultural Safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children**

The Ballarat Football Netball League acknowledges the **Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation** as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, learn, play and gather. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connected to our League.

At BFNL, we are committed to ensuring a **culturally safe, inclusive, and respectful environment** for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

We commit to:

* **Recognising and respecting Aboriginal culture**, history, identity and connection to land, water, and community.
* **Creating spaces where Aboriginal children feel culturally affirmed, empowered, and safe** to express their identity.
* **Actively listening to and including the voices of Aboriginal children**, families, and communities in decision-making, program design, and service delivery.
* **Challenging racism and discrimination** in all forms and promoting reconciliation and truth-telling throughout our football and netball communities.
* **Building meaningful relationships with local Aboriginal communities**, organisations, and cultural leaders to support our efforts and learn from lived experience.
* **Providing cultural safety training** to all League personnel to ensure deepened understanding and culturally responsive practices across all clubs.

*We believe that cultural safety is a vital part of child safety and wellbeing. We acknowledge that supporting Aboriginal children requires* ***ongoing commitment****,* ***education****, and* ***accountability****—and we are dedicated to doing this work with integrity and respect.*