



## Reconciliation at Waverley FDC

Waverley Family Day Care completed their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at the end of 2019. Since then the team have continued to endeavour to embed indigenous perspectives within the service in a meaningful way. As a team they feel that if they want to foster respect and inclusion for Indigenous perspectives within the community, they need to start with the children. Throughout the consultation process within the service, one educator in particular took indigenous reconciliation to the next level.

ing the sky and sea along with the elders past, present and future. Because this song is sung each day, the children are aware of the words, what they mean and know the actions. Anyone observing the children can see that this is a daily occurrence. Meire uses Acknowledgement of Country as intentional teaching moments such as promoting listening skills, encouraging rhythm through music, along with language skills. Meire says "Having observed the children's interest in music, we expanded our daily experiences with



Educator Meire Marchiori, owner of The Yellow Woodpecker Family Day Care in Maroubra, has been a registered educator with Waverley Family Day Care for over six years. Meire, or Tia as she's known to the children and their families, wanted to work towards reconciliation in a way that was authentic and meaningful, moving away from only celebrating Indigenous culture during NAIDOC and Reconciliation week.

Meire says "I found it moving that every time I had a meeting with my colleagues at Waverley Family Day Care, we opened with an Acknowledgement of Country. Coming to Australia from Brazil as a person with Indigenous heritage, I felt the importance of acknowledging and incorporating the culture of the traditional custodians of this land. I started to search for fun and simple ideas for the children to learn about paying respect to the fact that we are on Aboriginal land, so we linked the activities and celebrations we do in relation to Aboriginal and Pacific Island cultures with a daily song. "

Meire starts her program each day with an Acknowledgement of Country song that she created herself with the help of her children, thank-

ing instruments by incorporating an Acknowledgement of Country into a songs' melody and rhythm".

When asked what her families thought of their children learning about Reconciliation and embedding the Acknowledgement of Country at such a young age, Meire said "All the families were very impressed by how quickly the children picked up all the difficult words. I sent a copy of the lyrics with the children so they could sing at home. We're also planning an in-house concert for the end of the year." Meire's children range from 1.5yrs to 3yrs old, which tells us that children are never too young to learn big concepts, such as respect and Reconciliation. Even the youngest children know the movements with hands up to the sky and down to the ground for the land, pointing behind them for elders past, pointing down to the ground for elders present and pointing ahead for emerging elders. Meire demonstrates how incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in a respectful way within a Family Day Care setting, can be simple and meaningful, in a way that stays with her children for years to come.