

Acknowledgement to Country



YINDYAMARRA (respect)

The Wiradjuri people talk about *yindyamarra* as a way of living with gentleness, kindness, and agency – taking personal responsibility for your own actions in addition to those you inspire from others.

At GPSA, we nurture *yindyamarra* in our advocacy for health equity and engagement in activities that promote reconciliation.

As a demonstration of *yindyamarra* for past, present, and future Traditional Owners, Custodians and Elders, and their connections to land, sea, and community, our Acknowledgement to Country is part of our process to promote gentleness, kindness, and agency – *yindyamarra* - for all Australians.

GPSA Position:

- ❖ An Acknowledgement to Country is an important representation of our values and solidarity with First Nations peoples: as such it should be delivered with sincerity, inspiring greater appreciation of Traditional Owners past and present, their sovereignty, and their spiritual connection to Country as stewards for future generations.
- ❖ Across GPSA, for an Acknowledgement to have meaning, it must be authentic in three important ways:
 1. Demonstrating **recognition and appreciation of the continuing connection** that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to the lands, waters, and communities of their ancestors as custodians or caretakers of Country.
 2. Reflecting an **awareness of and sensitivity to the unique connection** that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to Country as shared heritage, values, traditions, and culture associated with the land, waters, and communities of their ancestors.
 3. Integrating shared experiences by **reflecting on and contextualising the Acknowledgement through a personalised lens**.
- ❖ While it takes courage to be vulnerable in this space and it can be uncomfortable, when approached with a spirit of *yindyamarra*, vulnerability opens the door to new learning, and reconciliation.
- ❖ We must continuously learn from, and explore opportunities to be better allies with, First Nations peoples.