



MICAH PROJECTS



Breaking Social Isolation
Building Community

Our commitment to Reconciliation

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of this land, the history and impact of colonisation, and support their right to self-determination and cultural expression.

Our vision for reconciliation is to close the gap in the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are determined in our commitment to work respectfully in partnership so people experience inclusion, wellbeing, justice and connection within their community of choice.

Our first RAP (2013–2015), accepted by Reconciliation Australia, achieved most of its targets, including embedding culturally appropriate practice, strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, and supporting First Nations enterprises. Our 2017–2019 Innovate RAP outlined extensive actions, many of which were completed, though we acknowledge the overall impact was not as strong as intended.

We are developing a new RAP to better align our reconciliation commitments with our daily practice and strategic goals. By doing this, we hope to achieve stronger outcomes and make a bigger difference across our organisation and for the people we work with.

Our journey so far

Micah Projects was founded in response to social injustice experienced by local people, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who were displaced and made homeless by the gentrification of inner-city Brisbane in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The 1988 World Expo brought international recognition to Brisbane, but it came at significant cost to vulnerable communities. Large-scale demolition in South Brisbane displaced many residents, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who had lived in hostels on the site of what is now South Bank. While some were dispersed, others remained, seeking sanctuary at St Mary's Catholic Church in South Brisbane. Within this contested space, founding staff witnessed firsthand the racism, violence and systemic injustice experienced daily by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Micah Projects began in the mid-1990s as a social justice initiative of St Mary's Catholic Community (now St Mary's in Exile). Its early focus was raising public awareness of human rights, poverty, East Timor, Native Title and the legacy of the Stolen Generations.

As homelessness in South Brisbane increased, responding to chronic homelessness and supporting people at risk became our core work. Originally based at St Mary's House, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had long maintained strong cultural connections to place, Micah Projects' commitment to social justice was firmly grounded in these relationships.

Now operating for more than 30 years as an independent, non-profit community organisation, Micah Projects delivers services across Brisbane, Greater Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville. From our inception, our work has been shaped by relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The proximity of our early office to places where people experiencing homelessness gathered ensured that addressing homelessness, and its disproportionate impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, became central to our mission.

Over three decades, we have built strong partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations across our service areas. Today, we collaborate with 16 First Nations led organisations in homelessness, child safety, family support, domestic and family violence, and services for Forgotten Australians.

As a mainstream service, we recognise our responsibility to deliver culturally safe, non-discriminatory services. Addressing homelessness and social exclusion is not solely the responsibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations; meaningful change requires partnership, shared learning and working side-by-side with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and communities.

Micah Projects supports a Path to Treaty, despite the 2024 Queensland Government decision to repeal the Path to Treaty Act 2023 and the associated work, including the First Nations Treaty Institute and the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry.