

Statement of Commitment to First Nations Peoples and Reconciliation

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) recognises the deep, enduring connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, and Māori as tangata whenua in Aotearoa New Zealand, have to land, waterways, community, culture and identity. We acknowledge the pivotal role First Nations peoples continue to play in safeguarding knowledge, nurturing Country, caring for natural resources and sustaining cultural traditions across generations.

FSANZ is committed to fostering meaningful relationships, mutual respect and genuine opportunities for First Nations peoples. Our reconciliation journey reflects our aspiration and intention to be an inclusive, culturally responsive organisation that values First Nations knowledge, perspectives and leadership and supports a future where all Australians and New Zealanders are respected, valued, and able to thrive.

Our Commitments

To support internal cultural capability and drive reconciliation across the organisation, a First Nations Champion will be appointed to advocate for reconciliation initiatives, model cultural protocols and champion the creation of safe spaces for staff to participate in and support cultural learning and dialogue. We are committed to fostering an inclusive workplace that is culturally safe, embraces the rich and proud histories of Maori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and empowers our staff to reach their full potential.

Our activities include annual First Nations all staff cultural awareness training supplemented by additional activities delivered by a respected community provider and ongoing support of Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week in Australia and Waitangi Day and Matariki in New Zealand. Acknowledgement of Country and karakia statements have been developed in conjunction with First Nations peoples for staff for use as appropriate at relevant events and forums, building cultural confidence in observing culture protocols in support of acknowledgement and respect.

Our ongoing journey

FSANZ acknowledges reconciliation is an ongoing and evolving journey. We are committed to continuous improvement, transparency and accountability by embedding reconciliation more deeply into our everyday work and organisational culture.

Through respectful relationships, cultural learning and inclusive practices, we aim to contribute positively to reconciliation in Australia and to honour our shared commitments with Māori partners in New Zealand. We commit to walking together with First Nations peoples and creating a more equitable future in the spirit of partnership, respect and shared purpose.

Responsibility

The FSANZ Chief Executive Officer is responsible for championing and providing leadership in respect to this Commitment Statement. The General Manager, Corporate Services is responsible for oversight and implementation of activities aligned to this statement.

Review

This Statement of Commitment is to be reviewed by June 2027.

