

## **Mission Australia Statement of Principles for working with Indigenous Australians**

### **We recognise and value:**

- The unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of Australia's lands and waters.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality, cultures, languages and heritage.
- The great diversity of cultural values, backgrounds, living situations and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The rights of Indigenous Australians to self determination and equitable participation in the community.

### **We acknowledge:**

- The social and economic disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Addressing this disadvantage will take time and long term commitment by the whole community.
- We have much to learn from listening to and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **We strive to:**

- Act with integrity in all our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Develop an organisational culture/way of working and spirituality that recognises, values and empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Foster respectful partnerships with Indigenous individuals, families, communities and organisations.
- Foster partnerships with Indigenous organisations, mainstream organisations across community, Government and the business sectors whose values are consistent with Mission Australia's.
- Work towards an Australia where all people can enjoy their rights, exercise their responsibilities and have an opportunity to achieve their full potential.