



Our Philosophy Statement

Our place

Children and families are welcomed into a safe, supported environment at Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre and its services. A sense of belonging is created by nurturing respectful collaborative partnerships between children, families, community, staff and educators.

We acknowledge the strong connection that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land and our local community and we strive to reflect and actively support this.

Our totem

The gecko is not only one of the most adaptable lizards; it's also amazingly resilient. Should a gecko lose its tail in a fight or an attack, it can regrow it. Although it is only small, the gecko is a pretty cluey creature, incredibly strong and resourceful. People are drawn to geckoes, because they are, in reptile terms, pretty friendly.

These are among some of the qualities we want our children, families and community to have. We want them to be strong. We want them to be able to bounce back when they have to. We want them to be friendly – happy and well adjusted.

Our beliefs

- Every child is a capable and competent learner from birth and a citizen in possession of rights
- Families are children's first and most influential teachers
- Families, children, community and staff thrive in environments that are welcoming and nurturing and where they are respected and encouraged to collaborate and contribute
- Children's learning is supported by play and engagement in rich everyday experiences in our service and at home
- Respectful and reciprocal relationships support everybody's wellbeing and learning

Our values

- Collaborative
- Understanding
- Brave
- Respectful
- Nurturing



Our commitments

We will

- Support each child to engage in a learning program that helps them develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and creatively through structured experiences and play
- Encourage every family to engage with programs and services that support them in their parenting roles
- Strive to build and sustain strong and positive relationships between children, families and Centre staff
- Listen actively and respectfully and seek to understand and respond to each family's unique perspectives and circumstances
- Enact the commitments of the Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre Reconciliation Action Plan
- Uphold and promote the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Act at all times in ways that are open and transparent
- Take an active role in caring for our environment to respect the land and contribute to a sustainable future

Our goals and aspirations

- We seek to be collaborative, listening, responsive passionate educators. We will work towards this through critical reflection, professional development planning and working as an integrated team.
- We want everyone to feel engaged, confident and to have a sense of belonging in our service. We will work towards this by seeking feedback, planning flexible and responsive provision of services programs and being aware of the individual needs and circumstances of families and children.
- We strive to ensure that Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre is an environment that feels safe and welcoming to everyone who enters. We will do this by reflecting the cultures of the families and community, providing clean and aesthetic environments for families, children and staff to interact in and by celebrating nature in both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- We aspire for staff, educators, families and children to work together as co-constructors of knowledge, collaboratively and respectfully to build joint understandings. We will do this by actively enabling everyone's voice to be heard through a range of processes and methods and through seeking to build competencies and confidence.
- We will support each child to engage in a meaningful learning program that is play based, and encourages children to use their imagination, think about the possibilities and challenge themselves. We will do this through recognising and building on the strengths and knowledge's that children bring and using these as a basic for planning and teaching; by responding to the individual needs of the children; viewing them as capable and competent and encouraging them to be brave and work collaboratively.