



Wildlife Health Australia recognises the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuing connection to land, sea, wildlife and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their Elders past and present.

NEWS RELEASE

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Wildlife Health Australia Partners with Aboriginal Artist Lani Balzan

Wildlife Health Australia has a strategic goal to build trusted, strong and right-way partnerships with First Nations people.

As such, Wildlife Health Australia is proud to announce the start of the organisation's commitment to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the submission of its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to Reconciliation Australia. If successful, it will join more than 2,200 organisations that have made a formal commitment to reconciliation through the RAP program.

Reconciliation Australia's RAP program creates a framework of relationships, respect, and opportunities, allowing an endorsed organisation to strategically set its reconciliation commitments in line with its own business objectives. These commitments contribute to the five dimensions of reconciliation: race relations; equality and equity; institutional integrity; unity; and historical acceptance.

As part of this work, Wildlife Health Australia is delighted to announce the engagement of Lani Balzan through her company 'Aboriginal Art by Lani' to partner with the organisation to imagine and produce artwork that signifies WHA's relationship with and advocacy for native wildlife.

Lani describes herself as "a proud Aboriginal woman from the Wiradjuri people of the three-river tribe" and she is a nationally recognised Aboriginal Artist. She has impressive experience in working with organisations to design their RAPs.

Describing her approach to creating unique and meaningful artwork supporting Wildlife Health Australia's RAP, Lani said:

"In this Aboriginal Contemporary Artwork, the story of 'One Health: The Circle of Life' unfolds to represent the vital connection between all living beings in Australia's natural environment. The central motif is a mesmerising circle, symbolising the unity and harmony that exists among wildlife, people, and the land. Within this circle, intricate patterns and vibrant colours intertwine, representing Wildlife Health Australia as a whole."

Wildlife Health Australia's Chairman Professor Peter Bridgewater said:

"We are tremendously proud to continue developing and deepening our inclusive reconciliation action and practices across our organisation.



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“We are also honoured to be working with Lani Balzan who has so eloquently shared her insights through unique indigenous artwork for WHA as ‘a powerful reminder of the responsibility we all share to protect and sustain the health and harmony of the land, its wildlife, and its people.’”

Professor Bridgewater said:

“We aim to strengthen our surveillance of wildlife health and enhance our role in being nature positive through collaborative work with First Nations People. A vitally important part of our strategic and future-building is for Wildlife Health Australia to forge trusted, strong and productive right-way partnerships with First Nations people.”