

# *“Web of Life”* **CONNECTIONS**



**My name is Haylee Williams. I am a proud first nations woman and I am a descendent of the Gunggari and Bidjara tribes from central west Queensland. My identity and my connection to culture are extremely important to me and my family, and I love being able to tell a story through my artwork. This painting has been designed and created in consultation with Connecting Families for their Reconciliation Action Plan.**

**Reconciliation is an ongoing journey that reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, future gains are likely to take just as much, if not more, effort. At its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians. Like Child Protection, Reconciliation is everyone's business.**

**The Web of Life concept has been adopted from the Working Together document (Dee, Dudgeon et al 2013). It was designed by and for Indigenous peoples. It offers a comprehensive examination of issues and strategies influencing mental health and social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The web of life model is unique for its notion that mental health and social and emotional wellbeing is dynamic and holistic, and it encompasses all aspects of an individual's life. These include a person's mental, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and cultural wellbeing. These elements are an important part of the web of life as they influence one another by strengthening an individual's holistic health and wellbeing.**

**Connecting Families value the importance of working holistically and collaboratively and strengthening relationships with other services for successful outcomes for children and their families.**