"Banksia Cottage acknowledges the traditional custodians of Macquarie University Land, the Wattamattagal clan of the Darug nation, whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land, since the Dreamtime. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future".

**Philosophy**

**COMMUNITY OF LIFELONG LEARNERS**
We recognise that each child and each member of our community is a life-long learner who has the right to actively contribute to our program and practice, resulting in impactful, respectful and trusting relationships between us all and in everyone feeling accountable for their thoughts and actions.

**CRITICAL REFLECTIVE PRACTICE**
As advocates for early childhood, we engage in reflective practices. We thrive by asking questions that lead to innovation. We challenge our view of education to inspire the best in ourselves and others. We maintain our professionalism by keeping up to date with current research and continuous improvements.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
We recognise relationships, partnerships and collaboration as central components to high quality education and care. We value opportunities for co-creation with families, children and local community where divergent thinking is visible throughout our everyday practices.

**OUR COMMUNITY AS RESEARCHERS**
We are committed to supporting the development of learning dispositions as we are aware of their importance in the education of young children. We encourage our community to view Banksia as a safe space where they can be curious, wonder, observe, reflect, and make richness visible in our everyday experiences.

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE GENERATIONS**
We view sustainable practice as imperative to our ways of being. We believe that treating people, plants, animals, and resources with respect is essential to building a relationship that is based on mutual understanding and it is beneficial for both the present and the future.