

Resolution of Council

18 May 2026

Item 13.4

Vale Aunty Norma Sides

Moved by Councillor Weldon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the recent passing of Norma Sides, known by many as Aunty Norma:
 - (a) Aunty Norma was a Ngambaa woman, growing up in Western NSW as one of 14 children;
 - (b) a dedicated Aboriginal Education Officer, Aunty Norma served for 35 years at Darlington Public School in Redfern, retiring in 2016;
 - (c) Aunty Norma had a significant impact on the lives of Darlington Public School students, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Her tireless commitment inspired many generations of young people and families across Redfern and the broader community;
 - (d) with Aunty Norma's support, First Nations students were given the space and opportunity to connect with their culture at school. Many of these students had never had a First Nations teacher or support officer. Aunty Norma was someone they could identify with – someone who understood them and advocated strongly on their behalf. Many staff members were also influenced by Aunty Norma's guidance, wisdom and unwavering support;
 - (e) Aunty Norma supported First Nations culture at school through cultural programs and the collection of cultural artefacts to educate students. Her work not only supported First Nations students, but all students to learn about and connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Aunty Norma also established a breakfast program to ensure all students' education was supported through reliable access to food;

- (f) Aunty Norma's extraordinary legacy touched many generations of the Redfern community. She led with strength, honesty and compassion; and
 - (g) a great leader, a caring mentor and a fierce advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, Aunty Norma will be remembered with great respect, appreciation and love;
- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the family of Aunty Norma Sides expressing Council's condolences; and
- (C) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of Aunty Norma Sides and her commitment and contribution to the Redfern community.

Carried unanimously.

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Note – All Councillors, staff and members of the public present stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to Aunty Norma Sides.