

ARTIST - AKAYSHA HILL

My name is Akaysha Hill, and I am a proud Wilman person. My people come from the South-West of Western Australia. I am grateful for and acknowledge that I live and paint on Kurna land, here in Adelaide. I love to paint as it is a way for me to share and connect with my culture. I am currently studying primary education, and my goal is to educate future generations to close the gap of prejudice between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. My paintings are a great talking point and small call for the recognition my people deserve. It is great to see that there are steps like this being made towards reconciliation, however there is always more that people can do. I hope by looking at this painting it reminds you of this.

This is my first time painting a canvas for a service, and I feel very honoured and appreciative to have been given this opportunity to work with and share my culture and story with the Mawson Lakes School OSHC community. I am very thankful to OSHC for trusting me to paint their story.

PAINTING STORY

The large and small white dots at the top of the canvas (on the orange and blue backgrounds) represent the educators and children growing together at OSHC. The small white dots separated by white lines (on the green and pink backgrounds) represent the different families we welcome into our service. The white circles (on the yellow and purple backgrounds) represent the children, educators, and families at OSHC coming together to create a community. The white lines with brown dots separating each of these sections, demonstrate that we continue to teach, learn, and grow from one another, and this growth is never-ending.

The hand in the middle of the canvas is the Mawson Lakes School OSHC logo and the words 'Growing Together' is an ambition that we strive towards as educators of children and young people. The white half circles around the logo represent people and have been included to acknowledge the many people that contribute to the OSHC community. The bright colours have been used to demonstrate that OSHC is a fun and bright space that is inclusive of all children and adults. It is also the colours we wear on our OSHC uniforms. The blue circles and lines on either side of the logo symbolise water. These have been included to represent that Mawson Lakes School has two sides (upper primary and lower primary), with a bridge connecting them across the lake.

The small brown and white dots radiating from the circle logo symbolise the beautiful land we all walk on together. The five circles at the bottom of the canvas represent the diversity of our families and students at OSHC, the various colours and patterns symbolising that we are all different. The smaller dots radiating from these circles show the constant growth of each of us as individuals, but also the growth as a service to continue our respect and acceptance of all backgrounds. The aim of the painting is to demonstrate, through my Aboriginal culture, that OSHC is a safe space where all individuals can come together to learn, grow and be accepting of all cultures.

