The Indigenous Reflection Space was created, through the generous support of The Pratt Foundation, to provide a special place for all members of the Brisbane campus (McAuley at Banyo) community – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to reflect, pray and gather for cultural and educational activities.

The Space reaffirms the strong Indigenous spiritual links with Banyo: it overlooks the site of the Bora rings at Nudgee waterholes, a reminder of the strong Indigenous connections with the Banyo site; and it reflects the use of the former Pius XII Provincial Seminary by Indigenous Catholics for spirituality and conferences and meetings of the Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Council (AICC) and Reconciliation workshops.

The Space is situated on top of the hill near the Weemala Indigenous Higher Education Unit, and looks out toward Moreton Bay. Elements of this space reflect earth, fire, and water, to enhance education, spirituality and personal growth.

The mosaic at the beginning of the path represents the diverse cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Australian Catholic University. The mosaic was designed and constructed by Stephen Johns, an Indigenous Education student at ACU. We are extremely grateful to Steven for dedicating his time, expertise and energy to the creation of this mosaic. His passionate spirit encouraged many members of McAuley at Banyo to become involved with this creative artwork.

The reflective pathway and ritual space are further complimented by the fine artwork of Lionel Doyle, local Indigenous artist. Lionel’s artwork adds spiritual dimension to the Reflection Space and the creation of the artwork enhances the stories of the Brisbane area and waterways of Banyo and Moreton Bay.

The Reflection Space has become a significant area for conducting cultural studies, reconciliation learning circles, traditional welcomes to country at University functions, poetry readings and drama activity, as well as liturgies and social events. It can be utilised creatively for teaching and learning whilst retaining respect for the spiritual purpose. As an outdoor teaching area, it provides flexibility and connections for Indigenous students who travel to campus from rural and remote communities for residential programs several times a year. For non-Indigenous students, staff and visitors, it provides a learning space that allows them to understand better the concepts of Indigenous cultures and spirituality.