



## Joining the NSW Reconciliation Council

Reconciliation is a people's movement. It represents the hopes and aspirations of many Australians who desire justice and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this country.

The NSW Reconciliation Council is the representative body for reconciliation in NSW. The NSW Reconciliation Council (the Council) is made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians working through a range of groups and organisations to promote strong and harmonious communities and to address the "unfinished business" of reconciliation - recognition of rights, promotion of economic independence and social justice for Indigenous people.

The NSW Reconciliation Council's vision is "*a reconciled Australia*". The Council carries on the work of the former Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, whose vision was: "*A united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.*"

The NSW Reconciliation Council is an independent, not for profit and non-partisan organisation. The Council is funded through the NSW Government and a range of other grants and fundraising activities. For more information about the Council and its activities visit [www.nswreconciliation.org.au](http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au).

**Register your Group:** One of the key roles of the Council is to provide support to those working at the local or regional level to advance reconciliation. Volunteer community groups whose primary aim is reconciliation can register to become a Reconciliation Group which is part of the Council's network.

There are currently over 60 registered Reconciliation Groups in NSW, the majority of which are based in regional and remote NSW. Examples of Reconciliation Groups include community groups, committees attached to local councils, incorporated not-for-profit organisations, church groups and elders groups. Some Reconciliation Groups in the NSW network have only a few members and some have several hundred.

### Local Reconciliation Groups:

- Provide a model of reconciliation in action by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and other Australians working together.
- Appreciate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians;
- Undertake reconciliation action within local communities and continue to lead the community by, for example:
  - encouraging the sharing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on Australian history for example, through Reconciliation Learning Circles
  - holding reconciliation events particularly during Reconciliation Week 27 May - 3 June; Australia Day (Survival Day), and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week;
  - acknowledge the traditional owners of the region at events (e.g. 'acknowledgement of country');
  - promote and develop local symbols of reconciliation;
  - develop local agreements between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the wider community; and
  - address racism, injustice and inequality in our communities.

- Affirm support for the Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation;
- Make commitments to the Roadmap for Reconciliation; and
- Donate to the NSW Reconciliation Council;
- Lead upwards:
  - support and inform your NSW Reconciliation Council;
  - support and inform Reconciliation Australia; and
  - directly influence the manner in which governments, and private and community sector organisations advance reconciliation in Australia.

It does not cost anything to register. By registering, groups gain access to a range of benefits including the Council's Small Grants program, public liability insurance for events, free subscription to the Council's newsletter, and sponsorship for one member to attend the NSW Reconciliation Council's AGM and Annual Conference. Reconciliation Groups make up the voting membership of the Council, and each year delegates from the groups elect Councillors at the AGM.

To register your group as part of the NSW Reconciliation Council's member network you can fill out the *Reconciliation Group Registration Form*. Groups who register with the Council commit to act consistently with the Council's aims, but otherwise remain independent and responsible for managing their own affairs.

**Become an Affiliate:** Another way that organisations can show their support for reconciliation and the Council is by becoming Affiliates. Affiliation allows organisations to become part of the NSW reconciliation network and receive regular information updates. Affiliates are not members so do not exercise voting rights, but are welcome to participate in Council activities. Organisations such as libraries, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, trade unions and political organisations are welcome to apply for affiliate membership, as are government departments and community services. Affiliates can also be community groups whose work includes reconciliation, but where reconciliation it is not one of their primary purposes.

**Become an Individual Member:** The NSW Reconciliation Council also has recently introduced Individual Membership. Individuals register through our new website and receive a range of benefits including opportunities to enter competitions, participate in forums and receive e-newsletters and updates. For more information on individual membership visit our website and click on 'Join the Movement'.

For more information about registering your Reconciliation Group, becoming an Affiliate or Individual Member please visit our website at [www.nswreconciliation.org.au](http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au).