



# Reconciliation Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The term 'reconciliation' can mean different things to different people. In Australia, reconciliation refers to a process whereby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, non-Indigenous Australians and Australian governments, forge a new relationship based on mutual understanding, recognition and respect.

Our vision is for an Australia that recognises the special place and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians, values their participation and provides equal life chances for all.

Reconciliation involves justice, recognition and healing. It's about helping all Australians move forward with a better understanding of the past and how the past affects the lives of Indigenous people today.

Reconciliation involves symbolic recognition of the honoured place of the first Australians, as well as practical measures to address the disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people in health, employment, education and general opportunity.

*Reconciliation Australia*

## History

The Reconciliation process began in 1991 with the formation of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, mandated under legislation which set a 10 year timeframe to advance a national process of reconciliation. The Council's formation was an acknowledgment of the past and ongoing failure of government policy to recognise and address the cultural, social and economic needs of Indigenous Australians. It was also recognition that progress also required a sea change in the understanding and involvement of non-Indigenous Australians.

Progress on the reconciliation process has been mixed.

The Council had considerable success in putting the issue of reconciliation on the nation's political and social agenda, and mobilising significant public support for the process. This was demonstrated by the 250,000 people who took part in the Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk for Reconciliation, and the estimated one million involved in similar bridge marches around Australia.

However, judicial, legislative and political developments have impacted negatively on the reconciliation process.

## Action

Reconciliation has both symbolic and practical elements. A spirit of goodwill, mutual respect and recognition of the effects of colonisation on Australia's first people are the symbolic cornerstones of the reconciliation effort.

On the practical side, working towards an improved quality of life for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, particularly in areas such as health, education and employment, is essential for achieving equality for all Australia.

There is so much that you, as an individual, can do to contribute to reconciliation and an Australia that creates life chances for all. Everyone can make a difference and be proud to be Australian.

Effective recognition requires the acknowledgement of the following:

- Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are the traditional owners of Australia
- Indigenous cultures have unique relationships to the land, sea and waterways
- Some past government policies that applied to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders have led to present-day social problems for Indigenous communities
- Recognition of past injustices is essential in building a better future
- There is no place for racism or discrimination in Australia

TR7 Pty Ltd demonstrates their commitment to reconciliation through the work we do within our Indigenous Employment and Training services and through our internal company systems that supports and promotes cultural diversity in the workplace. Our actions are supported by our 'Reconciliation Action Plan' and 'Statement of Commitment' that briefly touches on our feelings towards the subject.

## More Information

If you want to be a part of the reconciliation movement we recommend visiting the following websites to start your learning and understanding of what you can do.

### Reconciliation Australia

Reconciliation Australia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation established in 2000 by the former Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. They are the peak national organisation building and promoting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for the wellbeing of the nation.

[www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au)

### Reconcile.org.au

The Reconcile website was developed pro bono for Reconciliation Australia. Its purpose is to create an online resource for people nationwide to learn and discuss the importance of reconciliation and how we can all go about achieving it.

[www.reconcile.org.au](http://www.reconcile.org.au)

### Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR)

ANTaR is an independent, national network of mainly non-Indigenous organisations and individuals working in support of justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.

[www.antar.org.au](http://www.antar.org.au)



**Reconciliation Flag**