

Reconciliation SA Inc. Annual Review 2019 to 2020



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Reconciliation SA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Country throughout South Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land and waters.

We pay our respects to the diversity of cultures; significance of contributions and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Ngadlu tampinthe Kurna miyurna yaitya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku, ngadluku piipawarpulayi kuu Kurna yartangka tikanthe.

We acknowledge the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our office sits.

Front Cover artwork and elements throughout this Annual Review have been provided by 14 year old Sabina; My painting is about young people helping old people and Elders. Walking together, standing together, with my family.

WORDS from the RECONCILIATION SA LEADERSHIP TEAM

As a leadership team, we are immensely proud of the work undertaken by Reconciliation SA during such a challenging and transformative year.

Over the past 12 months, the Reconciliation Board and staff have been working through many external challenges not just COVID-19 pandemic, but ongoing accommodation instability and uncertain financial security. Together we have worked to finish the year as a strengthened and innovative organisation.

We have bolstered our influence in key areas including the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Reconciliation Action Plans, Truth Telling activities and Anti-Racism advocacy.

In addition South Australians were able to participate in National Reconciliation Week, by utilising and supporting other organisations to hold their own events and by hosting our own virtual activities.

We are especially proud of the work the Board undertook to transform the organisation, including the development of a new Constitution, drafting of our first Reconciliation Action Plan and a Communications and Marketing Strategy. These core documents will play a key role in underpinning the work we do across South Australia in advancing the Reconciliation movement.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who have played a role in another successful year. As a small not-for-profit we rely on the commitment, energy and financial support of many partners and people, we are truly grateful for your active participation.

To Board members, we would like to thank you for your tireless work and commitment to attending meetings, events and 'calls-to-action'. Our thanks to the outgoing Board members who completed their terms at the 2019 AGM, Mr Jim Maher, Ms Astrid Melchers and Ms Toni Arundel your contribution and commitment to Reconciliation SA has been so very important. We also welcomed Ms Racheal Siddall, Ms Samantha Yates and Ms Lauren Jew to the Reconciliation SA Board.

Finally, as we head into ongoing uncertain times, be assured that Reconciliation SA have the vision and capability to be a leader in South Australia for the Reconciliation movement.

We look forward to what the next 12 months will bring.



Professor Peter Buckskin, FACE, Co-Chair
Commissioner Helen Connolly, Co-Chair
Ms Shona Reid, Chief Executive Officer

5 DIMENSIONS OF RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation SA have committed to the five dimensions of Reconciliation, as developed by Reconciliation Australia.

Our work at Reconciliation SA spans these dimensions as evidenced throughout this 2019-2020 Annual Review.



MILESTONES

Reconciliation SA Reach

191 Total Members

including:

- 16 Gold Members
- 23 Silver Members
- 30 Bronze Members
- 12 School Members
- 110 Individual Members

750 Schools & Teachers

for:

- Reconciliation Education Quarterly Newsletter
- Weekly Reconciliation in Education Lesson Plans

5,392 Media Engagement

including:

- 3462 Facebook Page Followers
- 1930 Newsletter Subscribers

84 Volunteers & Students

including:

- 80 Event Based
- 4 Student Placements (Social Work & Law Students)
- 1,000 Student Placement Hours
- 2 Student Research Reports

Engagements

3 Premier Events

including:

- Apology to the Stolen Generations Breakfast, 1870 attendees
- Virtual National Reconciliation Week Breakfast, 760 links with approx 2500 viewers
- Aboriginal Veterans Commemorative Service

26 Workshops

including:

- 2 How to be an Ally: Uluru Statement from the Heart (members & non-members), 90 attendees
- 24 Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education Workshops

98 Reconciliation Action Plan Activities

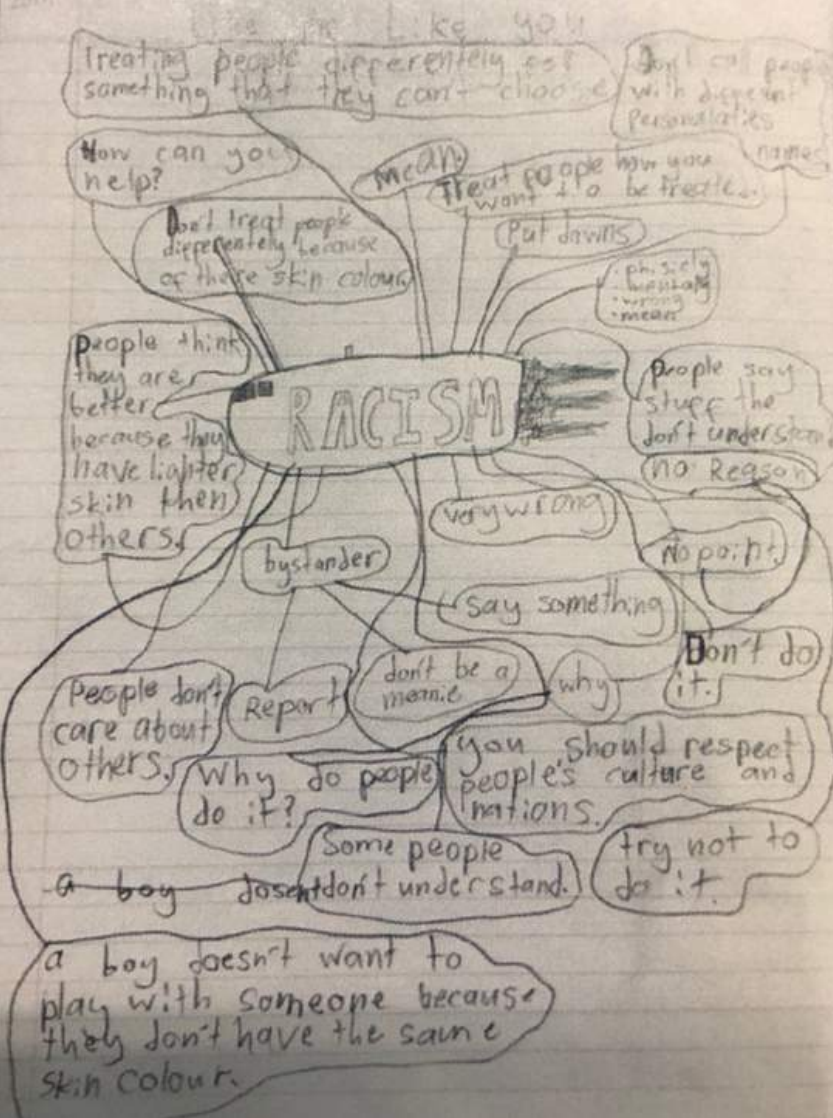
including:

- 87 RAP Development Meetings
- 4 RAP Consultancies
- 7 RAP Information & Development Workshops

10 Engagment Opporuntities

including:

- 6 Webinars, 340 attendees
- 2 Schools NRW Activity Sheets & Cards
- 1 Facebook Live, 1200 views
- 2 Competitions: Stepping It Up for Reconciliation (461 participants) & Schools NRW Multimedia Competition (13 schools)



Race Relations

Race relations tries to explain how different racial groups relate to each other, particularly within a community or country.

Race is a social construct, and historically it was created and manipulated to serve the needs of the dominant culture. First Nation race relations have a long and turbulent history in Australia, it remains one of disparity and one of inequity for First Nation peoples.

Reconciliation SA has committed itself to improving the understanding and acceptance of First Nation peoples histories, cultures and perspectives.

As a leader in the Reconciliation movement in South Australia, we aim to model this through community education, building strong relationships based on trust and respect and building understanding of the discriminatory and racist legacy of the nation's colonial and assimilatory history.



Generation of Change Delivery - 2019



Like Me Like You Delivery - 2019

GENERATION OF CHANGE

This nationally recognised program supported students and teachers, in years 7 to 12, to explore their own ability to respond to racism. Incorporating ActNow's interactive Forum Theatre Performance Responding to Racism participants were supported to conceptualise and identify various forms of racism, encouraging them to develop appropriate response strategies.

Despite COVID-19 we were able to deliver 7 sessions with over 500 students and 60 teachers. A Community Forum was also held in late 2019 for adults and 30 participants were reached during this session.

Whilst staff were unable to attend schools during COVID-19 restrictions, efforts went into the development of Professional Development Sessions and Resources for teachers, which will accompany Generation of Change from July 2020 onwards.

LIKE ME LIKE YOU

Reconciliation SA's new education program, Like me Like you, was delivered in partnership with ActNow Theatre. This race relations program is for students in Years 1 to 4 and their teachers.

Like Generation of Change, it facilitates age appropriate discussion, learning and thinking about racism. An accompanying Resource booklet and pre and post workshops for teachers were included, and feedback sought.

The roll out of this program was supported by the Department for Education for Term IV 2019. Like me Like you was facilitated in seven primary schools across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

LETS TALK RACE RELATIONS

Reconciliation SA in partnership with Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, hosted a Webinar on 23rd June 2020 titled 'Lets Talk Race Relations'. 180 links were registered for this event, from across Australia that aimed to provide an opportunity to hear from a range of experts in their fields about race relations in SA.

The Black Lives Matter campaign provided a unique opportunity to explore SA's own responses to the 1987 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths In Custody (RCADIC) recommendations, system gaps and actions to date and future plans to ensure First Nation people receive fair and just treatment in the criminal justice system.

We are most grateful for Mr David Rathman for moderating for this event, along with an expert panel consisting of:

Ms Cheryl Axleby, CEO ALRM

Mr Grant Stevens, SA Police Commissioner

Ms April Lawrie, SA Commissioner for Aboriginal Children & Young People

Dr Niki Vincent, SA Commissioner for Equal Opportunity

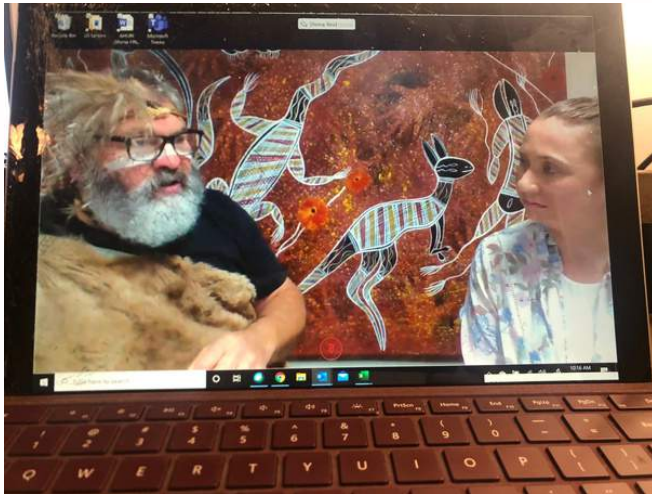
Mr David Brown, CEO Department of Corrections

Reconciliation SA has shown that in 2020, they are responsive and capable in exploring real time, contemporary matters of public interest. This event attracted significant leaders in SA and played a role in being able to explore uncomfortable topics on inequity and systemic racism towards First Nation peoples.



Moderator Mr David Rathman, Lets Talk Race Relations Webinar, 2020

Equality & Equity



Uncle Michael O'Brien, with Reconciliation SA's Natalie Gentle in an Education Webinar

Reconciliation SA has committed to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by working with First Nation people and the wider community to 'Close the Gap' in disparity between life outcomes. We have strengthened these commitments through our Strategic Plan and the re-drafting of the organisation's Constitution.

Reconciliation SA has committed to improving community understanding and acceptance of First Nation peoples histories, cultures and perspectives. As a leader in the Reconciliation movement in South Australia, we aim to model this through community education, building strong relationships based on trust and respect and begin to dismantle the discriminatory legacy of the nation's colonial and assimilatory history.

We will continue to work on moving our endeavours in this area from aspirational to practical and working with our partners to measure outcomes across equality and equity domains.

RECONCILIATION IN EDUCATION



Reconciliation SA facilitating workshop with Lutheran Education Connected Schools

Linking with Schools

It has been a very productive year for the Reconciliation SA team with the Reconciliation in Education portfolio and our promotion and use of Reconciliation Australia's Narragunawali online platform.

We have worked hard to support teachers and educators across SA to learn about how they can embed Reconciliation in their education settings through exploration of resources and the creation of an education based Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Reconciliation SA has been busily facilitating workshops (24 in total) to promote engagement between the education community and Traditional Owners, Elders, artists and performers, to show the strength and value that First Nation peoples can bring to education.

Reconciliation Industry Network Group

Reconciliation SA facilitates an Education Reconciliation Industry Network Group, an expanded version of the previous Education Sub-Committee. This group includes representatives from: Public and Private Schooling Sectors; Higher Education; SACE; Education Unions; Early Childhood Sectors; SA Aboriginal Education Training Consortium; and Reconciliation Australia's Narragunawali Team.

This Group met regularly throughout the year to consolidate localised approaches to reconciliation across South Australia's education sector. Key areas of focus from this reporting period were on: re-defining the function of this group in light of our expanded role in addressing racism in education.

Lesson Plans

In supporting teachers and educators, Reconciliation SA invested in preparing Reconciliation Lesson Plans on:

- ANZAC day and recognition of First Nations diggers
- Learning what Country you are on
- Connection to Country
- Why we do an Acknowledgement of Country
- Writing your own Acknowledgement of Country
- Reconciliation Week.

Feedback from teachers has been positive, and resources have been used extensively.

"teachers have really valued the structure of provocations / inquiry questions and plenty of resources. They are far more well received than worksheets. Teachers and students are able to make more authentic links to the curriculum." Primary School Teacher

GARMA FESTIVAL 2019

Reconciliation SA Executive Director, Shona Reid was invited to attend GARMA as part of Reconciliation Australia's Woman's Group. The 2019 theme was Garma'lili Manapanmirri Dhukarryarrany'dhun Gudarr'wu (Pathways to our Future) and was organised by the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

GARMA is a festival that celebrate the cultural, artistic and ceremonial traditions of the Yolngu people. GARMA also provides a rare opportunity to hear and inquire into the nations progress in bridging the gaps between First Nation life outcomes and the wider community.

In attending such events, we were afforded the opportunity to hear from national experts on First Nation initiatives, national policy direction and milestones in improving life outcomes for First Nation peoples across the Country. This event also provides valuable network and partnerships development with national corporate and government bodies that now have an awareness of the work of Reconciliation SA.



Executive Director, Shona Reid with Reconciliation Australia's Women's Group-Garma Festival 2019



Senator Patrick Dodson, talking at the 2019 Garma Festival.

JUSTICE RE-INVESTMENT

Reconciliation SA continues to be an active member of the Justice Reinvestment South Australia Board (JRSA). JRSA was established to advocate for strategies to prevent incarceration, through a community focus, under the broad 'justice reinvestment' framework. Our membership of this group re-affirms our strong commitment towards ensuring First Nation peoples' are afforded the right to participate on an equitable basis in society and eliminate the ongoing economic and social disparity that we see today.

The current focus of JRSA is to support Tiraapendi Wodli - Protecting Home. Tiraapendi Wodli is situated at a Hub in Port Adelaide and is a community led and governed service. The purpose of the Hub is to provide a practical point of contact for families to access the information, social and cultural support and services they need. Tiraapendi Wodli has four key target populations including: primary school aged children; young people; men and families accessing services.

As JRSA goes forward, it is calling on the South Australian Government to provide a minimum of 5 years support to at least one metropolitan (Tiraapendi Wodli) and one regional community to implement a justice reinvestment initiative. These projects should be established, driven and evaluated in partnership with the local First Nation community and based on priorities and opportunities identified by the community itself.



Photo Courtesy of the Australia Day Council of South Australia: Image of Inspiring SA Aboriginal Women's Event

INSPIRING SA ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Reconciliation SA partnered with the Australia Day Council of South Australia to bring a showcase event to the SA community: 'Inspiring South Australian Aboriginal Women Impacting The World', July 2019. This powerful forum presented Inspiring Aboriginal Women who are committed to making a difference in the world through their service and work.

Attendees were treated to an amazing line up of inspirational women who shared their personal backgrounds and influences in their formation as a leader, the driving forces behind their work and how they believe they are making an impact in the world. Amongst the impressive line up was Reconciliation SA's Board Member, Ms Vicky Welgraven.

Historical Acceptance

Historical acceptance is a key element of the Reconciliation movement and importantly the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Truth-telling has long been recognised as a starting point for coming to terms with a period of conflict, upheaval or injustice.

This process provides opportunities to unlearn and relearn the shared history of this country, how this has impacted the whole of society today and drive opportunities for a fair and equitable society tomorrow.

Reconciliation SA recognises that the process of Historical Acceptance is one that effects people in different ways. However, this is an integral process to ensure First Nation peoples are afforded appropriate rights and recognition as the original custodians of this land and are able to participate fully in how this nation goes into the future.



Stolen Generation Community Event at Veale Gardens 2020



SUPPORTING AVSA

Aboriginal Veterans SA (AVSA) is a group closely aligned to Reconciliation SA. It is again an honor to work closely with and provide secretarial support to Veteran's who give so much of their time, voluntarily, to advocate for the recognition, celebration and commemoration of Aboriginal Veterans and their descendants.

ANZAC Day

Each year AVSA hosts an ANZAC Day Gathering at the Aboriginal War Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground. As like many other events, the COVID-19 social gathering restrictions halted this very important annual event. This year, AVSA had approached Mr Steven Warrior, Narungga, Kokatha and Kaurna man, Flight Lieutenant, and Indigenous Liaison Officer at the Air Force, to be the keynote speaker at the ANZAC Day Gathering. In ensuring the message was not lost, Reconciliation SA caught up with Steven Warrior, in lieu of not being able to hear his keynote and published a short article.

Reconciliation SA also interviewed both Co-Chairs Mr Frank Lampard OAM and Mr Ian Smith about who AVSA was and what the ANZAC Gathering was all about. Both of these article can be found on the Reconciliation SA website.



Stolen Generation Community Event at Veale Gardens 2020

Commemorative Service

The annual Aboriginal Veterans Commemorative Service, usually attended by hundreds from the SA community during Reconciliation Week, was adapted to a smaller service of 10 people including His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, the Hon. Steven Marshall MP, the Hon. Kyam Maher MLC, Professor Peter Buckskin PSM FACE, Frank Lampard OAM and members of AVSA.

Guests in attendance were invited to lay wreaths and tributes at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial, in honour and remembrance of First Nation service men and women.

Reconciliation SA was proud to support the AVSA Committee to organise and deliver the event.



Attendees at the 2020 Annual National Apology to the Stolen Generation Breakfast

APOLOGY BREAKFAST

It was a privilege, once again to host the 2020 Annual Breakfast to commemorate the historical Apology to the Stolen Generation. When the Apology was offered on 13 February 2008, Australian's were provided an opportunity to unlearn and relearn what they know about the history of Australia and the treatment of First Nation peoples with the forced removal of children from families.

Reconciliation SA is playing our part in ensuring that this message and apology is not forgotten and that this commemoration breakfast is a significant and premier event in the calendar of many South Australians.

The 2020 Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generation Breakfast hosted 1870 people. The keynote address was provided by LinkUp Services on their 20th Anniversary.

Attendees were also treated to debut dance performance by Yellaka who based their choreography on a poem by Ali Cobby Eckermann called 'Circle and Squares'. Followed by a moving Candle Ceremony and a minute's silence to honour the Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants.

We would like to thank the Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants, everyone who came and shared this experience, we would like to thank our sponsors, the Department of Child Protection, Centacare, SACOSS, Adelaide Crows, and, who helped make it all possible



Attendees at the 2020 Apology Day Community Event at Veale Gardens

APOLOGY DAY COMMUNITY EVENT

As like previous years, the Apology Day Community Event was held on 13 February 2020. A collective of non-government and not-for-profit organisations worked to pull this event together to support a wider community engagement, shared networking, commemorative opportunities and lunch.

As a member of the organising committee, Reconciliation SA, plays it part in ensuring the all elements of the day are supported, making it a safe and inclusive day for all. This event gathered approximately 300 people at Veale Gardens and provided a Smoking and Healing Ceremony, entertainment, stalls, lunch and good company for all.

SURVIVAL DAY 2020

Australia Day is commemorated on January 26, for some Australians, among many First Nation peoples, January 26 is not a day of celebration, but is seen as a day which commemorates the invasion by British settlers of lands already owned. This date is alternatively known as "Survival Day", and is an important time when the community gathers to celebrate the resilience of First Nation peoples. The day serves to acknowledge and reinforce the present and the future of our cultures.

Reconciliation SA supported Survival Day celebrations and participated in the Survival Day Event hosted by Tandanya, by hosting a stall informing the community:

- on the work we do
- the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and
- offered opportunities for people to talk on our camera about what Survival Day means to them.



Reconciliation SA involvement in the 2020 Survival Day event hosted by Tandanya Cultural Institute - 26th January 2020

TRUTH TELLING



'Truth Tree' at Local Government Workshop 2019

Local Government Workshop

Reconciliation Australia and Reconciliation SA, in association with the Healing Foundation, undertook a workshop in 2019 that explored what is needed to support local governments to play a role in and help drive local level truth-telling projects.

41 participants from the local government sector, met to share and hear about the practical and real examples of truth telling, and explore opportunities that exist for local government and communities to engage in effective truth telling at the local level.

This will be a growth area in the next reporting period, and look forward to sharing more outcomes from this work as we progress local opportunities for truth telling.

Historical Conflict

Reconciliation SA partnered with History Department at the University of Adelaide, History Trust of SA, the SA Museum, the State Library of SA and State Records of SA in an Australian Research Council funded project called, "Reconciling with the Frontier: Accounting for Colonial Conflict".

The project, in the first instance, seeks to map the nature and extent of frontier conflict in colonial SA and will make this information available to the public through an interactive online website. In turn, it is hoped this website encourages First Nation peoples and wider communities to tell their stories which, if appropriate, can be added to the map.

This three year project and has begun engaging with a First Nations Reference Group to assist in the design, development and implementation of this work.



How to be an Ally: Uluru Statement from the Heart Workshop February 2020

Unity

The Reconciliation movement has always aspired to the concept of Unity, within all community at a local, state and national level. This concept is about the coming together and recognition of First Nation rights, histories and cultures; that these are valued, shared and accepted as part of our community and national identity.

First Nation cultures is the oldest living cultures in the world, this rich and diverse culture has existed since time immemorial and continues to this day. Reconciliation SA is committed to promoting, advocating and advancing towards a unified South Australia.

ADVOCATING FOR A VOICE

Connecting with Community

On the 9th October 2019, the Blackwood Reconciliation Group (BRG) held a Uluru Statement from the Heart Community Forum. This small group took the opportunity to continue to share and provide a platform for people to learn about the Statement and to put their ideas forward about what the local community can do to support and progress this important work. The event was enormously successful with over 350 people in attendance, the room was overflowing and the support for the Statement was strong.



Blackwood Reconciliation Group: Uluru Statement from the Heart



How to be an Ally: Uluru Statement from the Heart Workshop, February 2020

Uluru Statement From the Heart

Reconciliation SA had the privilege of hosting two workshops in February 2020 for members and general public. These workshops were aimed at supporting individuals, groups and organisations to gain a better understanding of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and explore what role they had in advocating for the three key elements that exist within it: Voice. Treaty. Truth.

Thomas Mayor, Uluru delegate and author of Finding the Heart of the Nation, was the guest speaker for these workshops. With 80 participants being treated to the personal insights and first hand experiences of being at Uluru in May 2017 and witnessing a 'constitutional moment'.

As part of this workshop, Reconciliation SA provided a tool kit, to support the greater understanding of the Uluru Statement and opportunities for people to engage in sharing its message and growing further support across SA.



National Reconciliation Week

VIRTUAL NRW BREAKFAST

2020 NRW Breakfast was a little different in 2020, Reconciliation SA had to rapidly adapt to virtual events amongst nationwide COVID-19 restrictions.

The event featured a topical keynote from Aunty Patricia Turner, the CEO of NACCHO about "In This Together" in the context of Reconciliation and the health crisis. Mirning music legend Uncle Bunna Lawrie from Coloured Stone shared his musical talents and Premier, Steven Marshall provided his reflections on the reconciliation movement.

760 links were provided for this event, however, it is estimated that approximately 2500 people viewed the event with multiple people viewing singular links. The success of this event was a reassurance of everyone's strong commitment to reconciliation in South Australia.

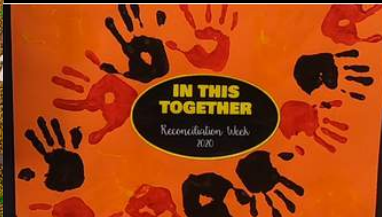
STEPPING IT UP FOR RECONCILIATION

As a virtual activity for NRW 2020, Reconciliation SA engaged with the South Australian Community via a NRW week-long Activity Based Competition. This activity called for participants (461 across SA) to: Reflect on the 20 years since the Corroboree 2000 Bridge Walk; participate in a challenge to walk the length of the Sydney Harbor Bridge (1.14km or 1,600 steps) for 8 days (27th May to 3rd June); and refer friends, family or colleagues to the challenge.

Reconciliation SA developed an online platform to enable engagement with participants in this activity.

Winners from this event were provided with prizes such as South Australian First Nations Artist prints and patterned designed furniture. Thanks to Reconciliation Australia who provided funding that contributed to this event.





Schools' Multimedia Competition

Thirteen Schools entered the competition and explored the NRW 2020 theme "In This Together". Congratulations to West Port Primary School for being the winning entrant. They received a voucher to have a First Nations Artist to design and paint a mural at their school. Special mention to Prospect North Primary, Salisbury North Primary School, Ingle Farm Primary School, for their outstanding submissions.

Night at the Museum Tour

Reconciliation SA presented a free virtual tour of the Aboriginal Cultures Gallery at the SA Museum, with Dr Jared Thomas, Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art and Cultural Material. This was held in the evening to provide a private and unique experience for viewers. Being streamed live on Facebook this event reached 1200 views.

The Final Quarter plus Q&A

Thanks to Shark Island, the production company behind the award-winning documentary The Final Quarter, Reconciliation SA was able to offer a free screening for The Final Quarter. After the screening, a special Q & A with Shark Island's Educational Director Alex Shain was held.

Game Day!

Reconciliation SA presented a free special book reading with Dr. Jared Thomas, a Nukunu man. Jared read from and discussed the writing of his book series 'Game Day,' co-authored with Patrick (Patty) Mills, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professional basketball player and Olympian. Classrooms of students tuned into this event as part of NRW celebrations.

Education Webinar

Reconciliation SA presented a free webinar with Uncle Michael O'Brien, a Kaurna elder, on working with First Nations peoples in a way that is respectful and from the heart. Information about Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education Program was also provided, with a focus on community engagement by educators.

Reconciliation in Higher Education

Presented by Reconciliation SA & Don Dunstan Foundation, with the Hon. Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold AO as MC, and the Aboriginal Pro Vice-Chancellors from Adelaide's major universities. The expert online panel answered why reconciliation in higher education is so important and how it then influences research, government, policy makers and community. This event drew 60 online users reaching people across both the education sector and broader community.





2019 NAIDOC Family Fun Day, Uluru Delegate, Ms Sally Scales and Executive Director, Shona Reid with her family in front of the Uluru Statement from the Heart

NAIDOC 2019

National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) is always an exciting time of the year for Reconciliation SA. These celebrations provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate First Nations history, culture and achievements. The 2019 theme was "Voice, Treaty, Truth" which is something that Reconciliation SA has dedicated our organisation to promoting and advancing.

Our involvement in 2019 NAIDOC week ranged from

- attending many events and award ceremonies to congratulate and acknowledge work of First Nation peoples across SA
- participating in the Adelaide NAIDOC March from Tarntanyangga to Parliament House, where thousands of families and friends gathered to acknowledge and celebrate First Nation cultures and community
- having a stall handing out copies of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and planting Native seeds, sparking conversations around seeds of truth/change, at the NAIDOC Family Fun Day at Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square).

COMMITMENT TO THE STATEMENT

The Reconciliation SA Board moved a motion in 2019 for the development of a public statement outlining the organisations commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This commitment had already been made via the 2019-2022 Strategy Plan, however, the Board felt that a dedicated commitment was warranted and would send a clear message that the work of Reconciliation SA would honour the Uluru Statement from the Heart and inspire other South Australians.

This Commitment is available via Reconciliation SA's website.



Institutional Integrity

Institutional integrity refers to the extent to which our political and business institutions, community and social sectors actively support Reconciliation.

Many reviews have suggested that unsatisfactory progress on Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage is not due to the quantum of expenditure, but rather the way it has been allocated and delivered. In looking at this deeper, when organisations and providers with direct influence on First Nation affairs focus on enabling First Nation voice and decision making, the outcomes and impacts are more positive for First Nation peoples.

Reconciliation SA believes that Reconciliation Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) framework provides a valuable tool to enable such activities and focus to occur.

We are committed to First Nation peoples voice, design and decision making through effective and purposeful frameworks.

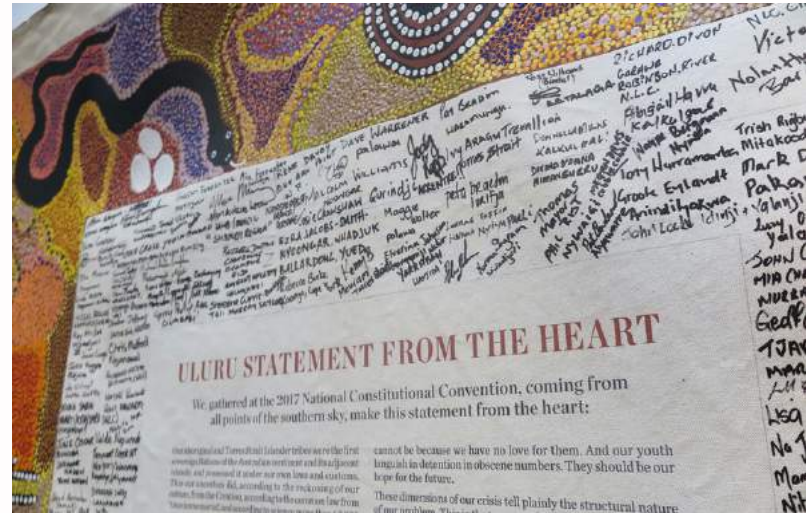


Photo Courtesy of Melbourne Law School: Uluru Statement from the Heart

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS

RAP Conference

In October 2019, Reconciliation SA was invited to attend and present at the Reconciliation Australia's 2019 RAP Conference, held in Perth. The conference provided a valuable opportunity for like minded organisations to come together and share their RAP experiences and stories.

There were many interesting keynote speakers, it was great to hear about individual organisations/companies and their journeys, providing insight to the achievements and hurdles they have overcome. Reconciliation SA was invited to speak on a panel, focusing on Reconciliation in education – and thinking of education at both the schooling level and as adults, learning and unlearning of First Nations histories and the shared history of this country.



Reconciliation SA Executive Director Shona Reid, participating on a RAP Conference

RAP Consultancies

In efforts to increase the reach of RAPs and to provide additional income to support the promotion and engagement in the Reconciliation movement, Reconciliation SA has developed a robust and successful RAP Consultancy Framework to support organisations on their Reconciliation journey.

Activities include:

- co-designing the consultancy methodology with organisations
- engagement through workshops, surveys and interviews
- connecting with First Nation communities
- presentations to decision makers on RAP deliverables
- reconciliation partnership exploration and brokerage, and
- production of a completed RAP (non-graphics)

"Reconciliation SA have made this journey [sic RAP development] exciting and enjoyable, there is such great opportunities for Departments work alongside Aboriginal communities... feel really connected to this RAP and look forward to making it happen" - RAP participant 2020

RAP Workshop

Reconciliation SA facilitated seven Reconciliation Action Plan workshops for member and non-member organisations. These workshops provided participants with an opportunity to learn about the Reconciliation movement, the role that RAPs play, and how they can be active and meaningful contributors through the use of RAPs.

Many of these workshops were with Peak Organisations, enabling opportunities for shared support and collective movement across various sectors. Workshops such as these, provide a valuable opportunity for greater uptake in RAPs across SA, greater engagement, increasing employment opportunities and improving procurement opportunities for First Nation businesses.

As we head into the next year we hope to expand our influence in this area and provide more workshop opportunities and increase RAP uptake.

IMPROVING THE ORGANISATION

Over the past few years, the Reconciliation SA Board has embarked on a journey of modernising and professionalising the organisation. This has included creating a new strategic directions plan, developing new sustainable sources of income, revamping operational practices, becoming more 'tech-savvy' and doing all we can to contribute to the Reconciliation movement in SA.

Relocation & Modernisation

After many years of support from the Department for Innovation and Skills and the growing staffing, volunteer and students working with the organisation, Reconciliation SA has established a new office at Level 1, 24 Pitt Street, Adelaide.

This new location has provided a unique and valuable opportunity to expand our capability to engage more broadly with the SA community. This new location has provided opportunities to reach out to First Nation communities and committees to utilise our space for their activities, and provide in-kind support to community groups.

With the new move, Reconciliation SA also updated our computer, information technology, communication, records management and storage systems to better meet the modern world of web-based services. Providing staff, students and volunteers with a flexible and COVID-19 safe workplace that can cater to any social restriction or health emergencies into the future.

This technological readiness was tested when work from home restrictions were in place in May and June 2020.

Constitution

In achieving a modern and professional organisation, the Board has looked closely at the way it does its work and identified barriers to achieving the organisation's vision. The Board identified that the Reconciliation SA Constitution was no longer facilitating or supporting the organisation's capacity to achieve its ambitious goals. This led to embarking on a lengthy process of rethinking and rewriting the new Constitution supported by Greg Franks from the Board and Kim Cheater from PWC in a pro bono capacity.

The re-imagining of the Constitution also provides a unique opportunity to commit to key principles like the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

A Special General Meeting is planned for September, where a motion will be put for the 2011 Constitution to be rescinded and the new 2020 Constitution to be adopted. If this is voted through, the 2020 AGM will be undertaken under the new 'set of rules'.

Reconciliation SA RAP

As a longstanding supporter, advocate and promoter of Reconciliation Australia's RAP program, Reconciliation SA understands the positive impact that RAPs have in advancing Reconciliation in the SA community.

Established in December 2019, Reconciliation SA's RAP Working Group has been involved at every stage of planning and development, meeting regularly and bringing together diverse views, experiences and backgrounds to refine each draft. The RAP Working Group is comprised of 13 members, with 6 First Nations' members and three external partners.

We are most grateful and appreciative of the commitment and wisdom of our current members:

- Greg Franks, Reconciliation SA Board member
- Helen Connolly, Reconciliation SA Board Co-chair
- Uncle Garth Agius, Kurna Elder
- Bill Denny, Ambassador
- Shouwn Oosting, Reconciliation SA Board member
- Amy Cleland, First Nations Lecturer, School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy, Uni SA
- Shona Reid, Executive Director, Reconciliation SA
- Stephen Holt, staff member (since left)
- Margaret Lovell, staff member
- Natalie Gentle, staff member
- Travis Akbar, staff member
- Vanessa Musolino, staff member (since joined)
- Jess Davies-Huynh, staff member (since left)



Reconciliation SA RAP Working Group, RAP development phase

It is anticipated that the Reconciliation SA INNOVATE RAP will be launched in early 2021.

Program Funders

Department of the Premier & Cabinet: Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
Department of Education
Reconciliation Australia

Major Supporters & Partners

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Aboriginal Veterans South Australia
ActNow Theatre
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University of Adelaide
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Gladys Elphick Awards Committee
Glenunga International School
Gowrie SA
Healing Foundation
History Trust of SA
Housing Choices SA
Hutt Street Centre
Immanuel College
Immanuel Primary School
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KPMG
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Statewide Super
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