

ACT Reconciliation Council



Strong Community, Local Listening – What Next?

Introduction

The ACT Reconciliation Council, established seven years ago, is chaired by Ngunawal woman Selina Walker (ACT Local Hero 2023) and Emeritus Professor Richard Baker. A diverse mix of people sit on the council, including non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Council members support the ACT Government in developing a program of activities taking place in the lead-up to and on Reconciliation Day and act as community ambassadors for Reconciliation Day. The Council is actively working to broaden this initial scope to include providing commentary and advice about reconciliation across the Territory and surrounds.

Therefore, Council members are currently talking with the community about reconciliation activity occurring locally. We are encouraging people to celebrate and showcase their work in order that the broader community can learn more about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ACT Reconciliation Council Charter

Reconciliation is a continual process of renewal and re engagement with the community to build a shared understanding of our past and future. It is about building relationships, respect and trust between the wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The ACT Reconciliation Council charter emphasises the role of the Council as:

- > Building understanding and respect
- > Fostering trust
- > Educating, and
- > Advocating for self-determination.

The Council has a key role in engaging with the residents of the ACT and its region and supporting their reconciliation commitment. The Council acts purposefully to build a collective community to advance reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The target audience for the work of the council are individuals and industry sectors, community-based organisations, and the education sector. The communities of Australia's First Peoples are our primary partners in this endeavour.

Strategic intent

The Council is striving to increase the participation of indigenous and non-indigenous citizens in the events and actions driven by the Council. It is developing its strategic plan and seeking insights from all sectors of the Canberra community.

The Council's focus is to enquire of and support reconciliation activity that is occurring locally, strengthen connections across the community, and to help individuals and organisations broaden their impact and showcase their work to the community.

Some indicators of success might be the number and success of applications for grant funding; the number of people who attend the Reconciliation Day events; the diversity of sectors taking an active role in Reconciliation Day events (sports, education, business, community service sectors).

Reconciliation Day Grants Program

Reconciliation Day is a significant date on the ACT calendar. The Reconciliation Day Grants program provides funding for individuals and organisations to hold meaningful events and activities in the lead-up to, during or in support of the Reconciliation Day Public Holiday. Individuals or organisations can apply for a Reconciliation Day Grant up to \$5,000.