

ALLY

FRIEND OR COMRADE

FRIENDSHIP

Reconciliation  NSW

Printing Note: This report is printed on recycled paper using environmentally friendly dye.

We respect Aboriginal peoples as the first peoples and custodians of NSW.

The information, spelling and boundaries contained in this map may vary according to different Traditional Owners and First Nations Groups, other sources and updates.



RECONCILIATION IN EDUCATION

SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE (SRC)

For 10 years students have been creating art and writing that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples cultures, histories, languages, and the need for all Australians to participate in reconciliation. This year Reconciliation NSW asked schools to create art and writing from the heart.

Utilising reconciliation in education resources, activities and lesson plans provided by the SRC schools engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives which enhance and develop the NSW and Australian curriculum in direct and tangible ways.

This year we received 415 art and writing entries from students across NSW and the ACT, each reflecting the theme and their perspectives on Australia's ongoing reconciliation journey. It is a privilege to see the depth of engagement, insight and commitment to reconciliation in action that students demonstrate through their art and writing entries.

Our Online workshops attracted 37 schools and 1204 students across NSW and the ACT participated in online workshops facilitated by inspiring poet Kirli Saunders, a proud Gunaï woman working with Red Room Poetry and author/ educator Yvette Poshoglian. The workshops inspired and supported students to develop their own skills as poets, writers and artists.

ART FROM THE HEART

Students from Leichhardt Primary School were so inspired by this year's Schools Reconciliation Challenge theme ***Speaking and Listening from the Heart*** that they decided to put their hearts on the fence for NAIDOC week and display their understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, connection to Country and truth telling, in full colour.

As a part of our commitment to reconciliation in education in 2020 we will be working with 40 local Sydney and Inner West schools to provide Aboriginal perspectives in the classroom and support in creating art based on our 2020 theme ***Caring for Country***.

Through free workshops for teachers and students, and an accompanying art and writing based program, we aim to build teacher confidence by connecting schools with local First Nations communities. Schools will also be resourced to transform their school fence into an exhibition for local communities, with students as the celebrated artists!

EXHIBITION LAUNCHES AND REGIONAL TOUR

Every year the SRC exhibition after its premier launch at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, tours NSW and the ACT with the support of our partners. In 2019 many schools and students took part in regional workshops and SRC exhibition launches which incorporated art practice, singing, dancing, smoking ceremonies and Welcome to Country in Languages including Wiradjuri, Ngunnawal and Dharug. In 2020 our art and writing will travel to Barangaroo, Canberra, Central Coast, Dubbo, Maitland, Blue Mountains and Yass.

"The theme of this year's School Reconciliation Challenge, *Speaking and Listening from the Heart* is one that resonated across the school and inspired our students to create absolutely heartfelt artworks that show an appreciation of and connection to Aboriginal culture. The opportunity to be involved in this outstanding project has no doubt increased our student's understanding of the importance of a reconciled Australia."

Principal Chris Buenen from Leichhardt Public School

NARRAGUNNAWALI

**NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI**

We are proud of our partnership with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program to support all schools and early learning services in NSW to foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. Narragunnawali's online platform is free to access and

provides practical ways to introduce meaningful reconciliation initiatives in the classroom, around the school and with the community. Through the Narragunnawali platform, schools and early learning services can develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and teachers and educators can access professional learning and curriculum resources to support the implementation of reconciliation initiatives.





ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY

Reconciliation NSW engages with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW to ensure that reconciliation processes in NSW align with and promote self-determination.

Reconciliation NSW works to inform, support and inspire non-Indigenous Australians living in NSW to participate in reconciliation processes.

LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS

Reconciliation NSW continues to support an independent network of 24 Local Reconciliation Groups (LRG), who promote cultural awareness, understanding and education in their local communities. Most LRGs meet regularly, create and host a range of events such as workshops, concerts, walks, tours and cultural gatherings. They have invaluable information about local Aboriginal histories and cultures and are happy to share it. This year we heard from two new groups looking to establish a new local reconciliation group in NSW. You can join up or find your Local Reconciliation Group on our website.

COMMUNITY AND ORGANISATION MEMBERS

In 2019 we opened our membership to corporate and organisational members on a fee-paying basis. We are proud to support a growing network of member organisations committed to engaging deeply in reconciliation. The collaboration and support we receive from our members and partners is integral to the delivery and success of our strategic projects. In 2018/19 we increased the contribution of non-government funding sources to Reconciliation NSW's overall funding pool from 15% to 24%.

In the past 12 months the number of individual members of Reconciliation NSW increased by 14%.

There is clearly growing interest and drive in the non-Aboriginal community to support and develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions, and how to support reconciliation. We're excited to be part of this growing momentum in progressing real change and meeting this growing need.

ADVOCACY

Guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices we contribute to policy discussions to advance social justice, equity and self-determination, including justice reinvestment, reparations, treaty, truth-telling and constitutional reform. In the past 12 months Reconciliation NSW has made submissions advocating for the Voice, Treaty, Truth aspirations outlined in

the Uluru Statement from the Heart; and for a formal partnership on Closing the Gap between governments and Indigenous Australians.

ABOUT US

Reconciliation NSW is the peak body for advancing reconciliation in NSW. We work to inform, support and inspire the people of NSW to engage in reconciliation; to build a NSW identity that reflects our true history, and promotes and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, justice, equity and self-determination.

We work closely with local reconciliation groups, community groups, the education sector, and state and local government partners to run events, programs and gatherings to engage communities to galvanise progressive efforts to positively transform social, cultural and economic outcomes for NSW First Nations.

We also respond to queries, and connect individuals and organisations already doing work to promote reconciliation in their local area. Our key areas of impact are:



Education

Reframing the way students and teachers engage with Australia's history and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and experiences



Advocacy

Influencing policy discussion to advance social justice, equity and self-determination



Cultural Capability

Working to embed best practice and effective reconciliation actions within the core business of a range of organisations and services through Reconciliation Action Plans
Cultural competency training



Connection & engagement

Within sectors, local Aboriginal communities, & reconciliation groups to promote respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and other Australians



Information & resources

Protocols, policy developments, Indigenous suppliers, procurement processes



CO-CHAIRS REPORT

Welcome to our Reconciliation NSW Annual Report 2019.

Our work is aimed at informing and engaging the people of NSW, to support their collective journey to genuine reconciliation. Reconciliation is hard to measure but we recognise that bringing the whole community along through increased knowledge, education and awareness is a vital component of achieving equality of access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. In the past 12 months we have achieved a 14% increase in the number of individual members of Reconciliation NSW, and an exponential growth in our social media reach and engagement.

Meaningful partnerships are crucial to our increased reach. In 2019 we opened our membership to corporate and organisational members on a fee-paying basis, seeing an increase in the contribution of nongovernment funding sources to Reconciliation NSW's overall funding pool. Our organisation members and partners are steadfast in their commitment to reconciliation, working with us towards a NSW identity that reflects our true history, and promotes and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, equity and self-determination.

We ran a hugely successful 2019 program including another sell-out I'm Not Racist But... comedy night in partnership with Vivid Ideas, a local truth-telling forum for NSW Local Councils, and the development of a resource kit to build grassroots support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We also partnered with law firm Minter Ellison to provide a hugely popular full day training

to volunteers from our Local Reconciliation Groups on the Uluru Statement and resource kit that is available on our website.

Reconciliation through education continues to be a key focus for Reconciliation NSW. Over 10 years we have engaged with thousands of NSW students and teachers through our successful Schools Reconciliation Challenge. This year we are also thrilled to have partnered with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program to support all schools and early learning services in NSW to foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

In 2019 we continued to advocate and influence policy discussions, including Close the Gap, justice reinvestment and Bridge-ing the Gap. We are working to build support for local truth-telling, agreement-making and a First Nations Voice. We continue to support the community to approach 26 January respectfully.

Our focus remains on our sustainability – working to increase and diversify our revenue so we can deliver on our strategy to support and promote genuine reconciliation in NSW.

Please read about our achievements in 2019 and get a snapshot of our current programs.

Lindon Coombes
Co-Chair

Cecilia Anthony
Co-Chair

2018-19 FINANCES

Income received for the 2018-2019 financial year increased across various areas totalling \$413,544 for the year. This income includes the NSW State Government grant of \$245,000 received during the year, which was fully utilised along with \$97,560, being the unspent balance from 30 June 2018. The remaining balance of this Government grant, along with other grants received during the year totalling \$46,758, will be spent in the subsequent year. In the audited accounts this amount is shown in the Balance Sheet as 'Payment received in advance'.

We continued to operate with minimal staff, and our expenditure was focused on improving our core programs and events, particularly reconciliation in education activities through the Schools Reconciliation Challenge, National Reconciliation Week events and I'm Not Racist, But along with exploring further funding opportunities.

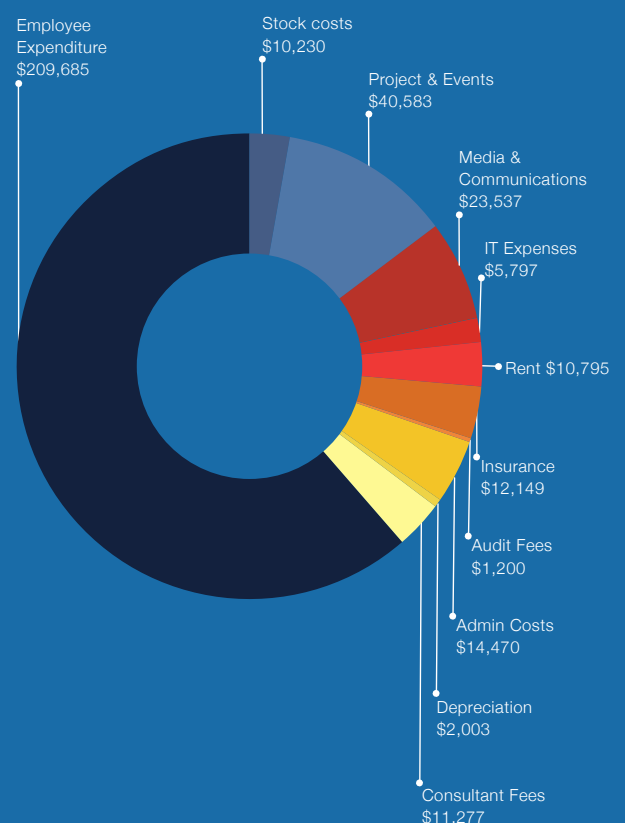
With total operational expenditure of \$341,726 we achieved an annual surplus from our activities of \$71,818. This surplus is a result of ongoing prudent budget planning and management, and additional funding support being secured from non-government sources, donations and event fees. The increase of non-government funding in 2019 from 2018 is 62%.

As at year end our net asset position was \$178,577. This continued surplus has allowed us to expand our planned activities in 2019-2020, in particular our reconciliation in education program.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank our funders: NSW Aboriginal Affairs; Reconciliation Australia; and Lendlease.

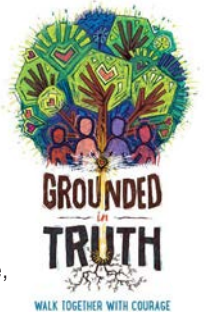
We sincerely thank our members and partners for their continued support.

Our accounts were audited by Horwood Partners and are available to download in full from our website www.reconciliationnsw.org.au.



VOICE TREATY TRUTH

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to the people of Australia to “walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future”. The key reforms it outlines, Voice Treaty Truth, provide an opportunity for Australia to acknowledge our history and move forward together in a genuine process of reconciliation. Achieving these reforms will depend on enough political and community goodwill to reach a position that can be supported by the majority of Australians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.



theme ‘Grounded in Truth, Walk together with Courage’ highlights the importance of truth-telling about our nation’s past if we are to heal historical wounds and move forward as a united community.

Reconciliation NSW distributed 8 small grants to Local Reconciliation Groups to deliver a range of community activities and events that further explored this year’s theme, including gala award evenings, reconciliation walks and festivals, cultural events, film screenings, school-based workshops and memorials for Indigenous veterans.

With Wingaru Education we delivered a simultaneous online classroom experience for teachers and students with easy and accessible cultural content, accessed by 438 schools nationally.

I’M NOT RACIST , BUT...

In 2019 we again delivered *I’m Not Racist, But ...* to a sellout crowd as part of Vivid Ideas. *I’m Not Racist, But ...* uses humour to open a discussion about racism in Australia through the personal reflections of both emerging and established stand-ups, comedy writers and slam poets. Funny, sometimes controversial, and always enlightening, *I’m Not Racist, But ...* entertains and challenges audiences to reflect on their own behaviours and perceptions.

PLANS FOR 2020

2020 will be a key milestone in Australian history. It marks 20 years since Corroboree 2000 and the Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk where 250,000 people crossed the Sydney Harbour Bridge in support of reconciliation. 2020 is an iconic opportunity to bring the community together for reconciliation, and to reset the reconciliation agenda for the next 20 years.

To mark this important anniversary the Australian Reconciliation Network, led by Reconciliation Australia, hopes to hold simultaneous bridge walks in every capital city on 31 May 2020 to engage people throughout Australia in a display of unity and reconciliation. We also hope communities all around the country will join us by holding walks in their towns and cities. Stay tuned for more information.

EVENTS

YABUN 2019

Each year we are honoured to have a presence at Yabun Festival. Held on 26 January each year, Yabun is an important day for healing and acknowledging the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

For more ideas about how to mark 26 January in an inclusive and respectful way visit reconciliationnsw.org.au/26-january-respect/

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) was embraced in NSW with hundreds of events taking place across the state. This year’s

OUR PEOPLE



The extent of our work would not be possible without the ongoing commitment of our voluntary Board Members (Management Committee), our wonderful patron Aunty Joan Tranter, and our small, but dedicated team of volunteers. We are extremely grateful for their invaluable support, enhancing our capacity to engage in the important work of reconciliation in NSW.

Reconciliation NSW’s operations are carried out by a small team of staff, contractors and volunteers at our office in Redfern, Sydney. We currently have a part-time Director and two part-time Project Managers. The team is currently seeking an Aboriginal Community Arts Officer.



OUR PARTNERS

Reconciliation NSW could not operate without our partners and supporters. We believe that all our relationships are important and we listen, collaborate and reciprocate to ensure that everyone benefits. We would like to thank the following organisations for their work and support in furthering reconciliation throughout NSW.

- Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- ACT Education Directorate
- ANTaR
- BlackDog Institute
- Butterfly Foundation
- Centre for Cultural Competence Australia
- Cultural Perspectives Group
- Hume Housing
- International Towers
- Just Reinvest NSW
- Lendlease
- Local Government NSW
- MinterEllison
- Narragunnawali
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Trust
- Powerhouse Museum
- Reconciliation Australia
- Red Room Poetry
- Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- Wingaru Education

We are active participants in the Australian Reconciliation Network and contribute to a national reconciliation agenda, alongside our state and territory partners.



RESOURCES



IN THE CLASSROOM

Curriculum resources, Activities, Lesson plans and Guides



IN THE COMMUNITY

Toolkits and Factsheets, NSW Language & Nations Map, Community connections, Merchandise, Protocols, Policy developments



IN YOUR WORKPLACE

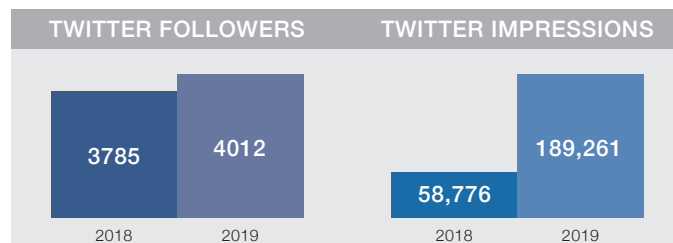
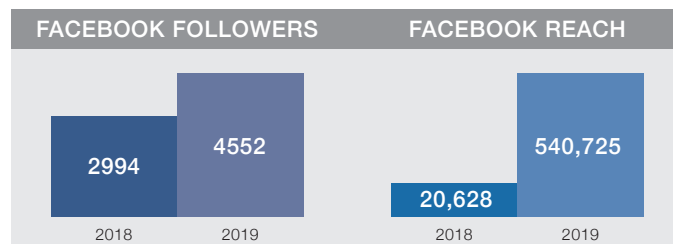
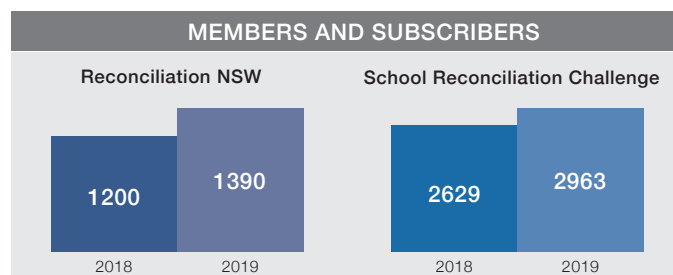
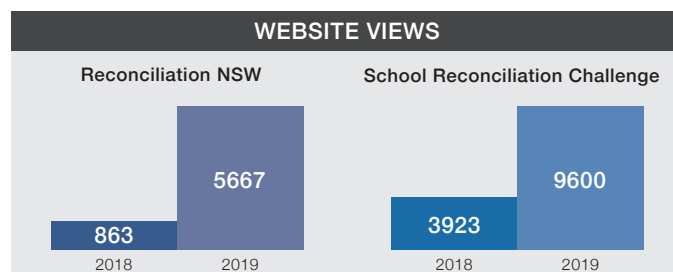
Support for RAPs, Cultural competence training, Indigenous suppliers

Find these resources at www.reconciliationnsw.org.au

DIGITAL AND SOCIALS

In 2019 Reconciliation NSW has continued to focus attention on expanding community outreach.

Our digital and social media platforms are an important part of our strategy to engage our audience in our activities and planned events, current affairs, issues and celebrations that matter to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our social media reach has grown exponentially.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Reconciliation NSW is the product of a people's movement. Join us, keep up to date with events and activities, share our resources, and engage in reconciliation online!

- Become a [member](#) and subscribe to our e-news
- Join a [Local Reconciliation Group](#) (No group in your area? Start a new one!)
- Register to [volunteer](#) with us
- Get Social with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)



Cover: These words from the Sydney language groups, transcribed by williamdawes.org, are how Reconciliation NSW see their role and responsibilities in NSW.

Acknowledgment of Country: The Past Informing the Future, Moruya High School 1. Art on the fence of Leichhardt Public School 2. Final 2019 SRC Theme 3. NAIDOC workshop at Brough House in Maitland 4. 2019 SRC Finalists at the Powerhouse Museum 5. Aunty Di McNaboe displaying her kangaroo skin cloak 6. Aunty Jactinta Tobin welcomed us to Country at Everglades in the Blue Mountains 7. Kirli Saunders and Yvette Poshoglian 8. Art workshop in Dubbo with Wiradjuri artist Aleisha Lonsdale 9. Smoking ceremony at the Myall Creek Memorial 10. One of our volunteers distributing merchandise 11. Reconciliation NSW patron, Aunty Joan Tranter 12. Future Holds Our Nation, Amelie Davidson 13. Summer May Finlay, Thomas Mayor, Alison Faure-Brac and Aunty Donna Ingram 14. Showing support for Voice Treaty Truth in Mount Druitt 15. Yabun 2019 16. Our stellar line-up included Sukhjit Kahls, David Woodhead, Steph Tisdell, Luke Carroll, Dane Simpson & Bankstown Poetry Slam finalists.