



WHAT DO LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS DO?

Local Reconciliation groups work at the community level. They come together to promote and provide local reconciliation activities which include, creating and hosting a range of events such as workshops, author talks, concerts, cultural walks & tours, and cultural gatherings. Many groups work with local government, schools, and early learning. They have invaluable information about local Indigenous culture and history and are happy to share it. Local Reconciliation Groups build relationships and respect, and create opportunities and networks for learning and action, whether people live in a small rural community, a regional centre, or in metro areas. Reconciliation NSW supports the LRG network with regular network meetings, e-newsletters, special event funding opportunities and public liability insurance.

WHY DO WE NEED LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS?

Local Reconciliation Groups are important. They work to connect local communities and organisations. Often LRG's have great working relationships with their local council and members, some are involved on Council advisory boards, and in sharing their community knowledge of local history. Groups such as the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial and Winga Myamly Group were specifically created to acknowledge and raise public awareness around truth-telling at the Myall Creek Massacre site/memorial and the Appin Massacre site.

WHO ARE THE LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS?

In NSW in the 1990's the call to advance reconciliation was taken up by many groups in regional and suburban NSW, over 55 groups were formed. Currently Reconciliation NSW includes 22 Local Reconciliation Groups as part of the NSW network. Some of these groups were created in 1996 and have been going strong for 25 years. The membership of these groups includes Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. What we need to do now is grow our network and include established community groups who are working in this space and encourage a new generation to get involved and act for reconciliation.



WHERE ARE LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS CURRENTLY LOCATED?



1. [Blue Mountains People for Reconciliation/BM ANTaR](#)
2. [Armidale ANTaR](#)
3. Lane Cove Residents for Reconciliation
4. North Illawarra Reconciliation & Treaty Group
5. [Mt Druitt and District Reconciliation Group](#)
6. Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group
7. [Wingecarribee Decolonisation Group](#)
8. Bennelong Reconciliation Group
9. [Kyogle Together Inc.](#)
10. Reconciliation Dungog
11. Sisters for Reconciliation (Northern Rivers)
12. Mosman Reconciliation
13. [Lachlan "Galari" Reconciliation Group](#)
14. [Women's Reconciliation Network](#)
15. [Reconciliation for Western Sydney](#)
16. ANTaR Inner West
17. Friends of Myall Creek Memorial
18. [Moree reconciliation group](#)
19. [Sutherland Shire Reconciliation](#)
20. [Aboriginal Support Group Manly Warringah Pittwater](#)
21. [Hornsby Area Residents for Reconciliation](#)
22. Reconciliation Network: Northern Sydney Region (RNNSR)

THE PEOPLES MOVEMENT – WHERE WE BEGAN

In 1991 the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation was established in response to the Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

The Council's task was to address Aboriginal disadvantage and aspirations in employment, health infrastructure and economic development, recognising the ongoing failure of government policy to recognise and address these issues. It was also recognised that non-Indigenous Australians needed to acknowledge and learn about Australia's shared history and to get involved in the reconciliation process for systemic change to begin.

In 1997 The NSW State Reconciliation Committee was formally launched as the representative body for reconciliation in NSW and in 2001 the committee incorporated and became The NSW Council for Reconciliation.

30 years after the national response to advance reconciliation, Reconciliation NSW and the Australian Reconciliation Network continue this work. We have achieved many shifts in many areas; we still have a long way to go.

Australians increasingly want to do something to help improve reconciliation: 78% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (73% in 2018) and 61% of the general community (54% in 2018)

More of us know what we can do to help: 56% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (44% in 2018) 32% of the general community (29% in 2018)

2020 Australian Reconciliation Barometer, Reconciliation Australia

START A LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUP

Getting Started

Bringing people together

- Start by talking to stakeholders in your community such as Aboriginal elders, workers at Aboriginal organisations or members of council to establish if there is an area where your group can contribute.
- Before you commit to starting a group meet informally to set a direction. You may decide to work as an informal group assisting established groups when needed.
- If you do decide to form a group, establish ground rules and a strategic direction. What do you want to do and how do you want to go about it?
- Develop a terms of reference that clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of members to avoid confusion. Consider drawing up a constitution.
- Talk to other LRGs about the work they do. What makes an event successful? What lessons have they learnt? How have they maintained involvement?
- Sign up for email updates from relevant government departments, community groups, and non-government organisations.

Keeping People Involved

- Have a clear purpose
- Have a plan for the year ahead
- Allow people to contribute ideas and feel heard
- Celebrate success

The key to holding successful events

- Apply for community grants
- Get a committee together and share the organisational load
- Start engaging with the community early
- Allow plenty of time to prepare.

Benefits of becoming an LRG

1. You are covered by our public liability insurance (PLI) for all events that you hold
2. You can apply for funding from us for events you hold during NAIDOC or Reconciliation week
3. You are invited to our AGM where you can connect with other groups and vote on our board
4. You have access to Reconciliation NSW promotional material and branding
5. Members of your groups will have special access and rates for all Reconciliation NSW events

Responsibilities

1. To hold at least one event every year that promotes reconciliation in your community.
2. We recommend that the Chair of your LRG and one other member undertake cultural competency training at an accredited center such as the Cultural Competency Centre Australia (<https://www.ccca.com.au/>)
3. The Board of your LRG should strive to be representative of the community in which it's located.
4. Join Reconciliation NSW as an organisational member and ask each individual member of your group to sign up as well. This boosts our membership and ensures that members are all on the same page and are receiving information directly.
5. Any funding provided by Reconciliation NSW for an LRG event will require a funding acquittal and short written report to be submitted within 2 months of the project's completion.
6. The Chair of the LRG needs to be contactable and responsive to external enquiries.

Please note that if these responsibilities are not being met Reconciliation NSW may choose not to renew your PLI.

LAUNCH PAD - LET US KNOW WHEN YOU ARE READY TO GO

- Email us of your intention to start an LRG
- Reconciliation NSW will do a state-wide callout on social media to see if anyone wants to join or help you establish your LRG.
- We will send you a letter of support and liaise with your LGA.
- We will add you to our website
- We will work with you to enrol you on our Public Liability Insurance coverage
- We will provide you with an infographic that you can use to invite your local community to get involved - use it in a flyer, or a social media post.