Local Reconciliation Groups

What are Local Reconciliation Groups?

Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) bring First Nations and non-Indigenous people together to advance reconciliation in their communities.

Through community events, cultural learning, and local partnerships, LRGs create opportunities for people to connect, learn about Australia's shared history and cultures, and take meaningful action towards reconciliation.

LRGs operate across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW, with activities shaped by the interests and priorities of their local communities.



What do Local Reconciliation Groups do?

LRGs promote reconciliation through community activities and partnerships, including:

- **Community events**: Workshops, cultural gatherings, exhibitions and celebrations.
- **Cultural learning**: Cultural walks, talks and activities exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.
- **Community partnerships**: Working with local councils, schools, Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and other community groups.
- **Truth-telling**: Raising awareness of Australia's shared history and the impacts of colonisation.
- **Advocacy and action**: Encouraging individuals and organisations to take practical steps towards reconciliation.

The History of Reconciliation in NSW

The formal reconciliation movement began in 1991 with the establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. The Council aimed to strengthen relationships, promote understanding of Australia's shared history, and address longstanding inequalities. In 1997, the NSW State Reconciliation Committee was established, becoming the NSW Council for Reconciliation in 2001.

During the 1990s, more than 55 LRGs formed across NSW, reflecting growing community support. Today, Reconciliation NSW continues this work by connecting local groups, sharing resources, and supporting community-led action.



Reconciliation NSW
LRGS

Why Local Reconcilation Groups Matter

Why are Local Reconciliation Groups important?

Reconciliation is an ongoing process built on meaningful relationships, mutual respect, and collective action.

LRGs play an important role in advancing reconciliation at a grassroots level by bringing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians together. They create opportunities for communities to build relationships, share knowledge, engage in respectful conversations, and develop a greater understanding of First Nations histories, cultures and perspectives.

Through community events, cultural learning, and truth-telling, LRGs help raise awareness and encourage meaningful action towards reconciliation.



What does the Australian Reconciliation Barometer tell us?

The **2024 Australian Reconciliation Barometer** highlights strong support for reconciliation, but also the need for greater community participation and action.

Key findings include:

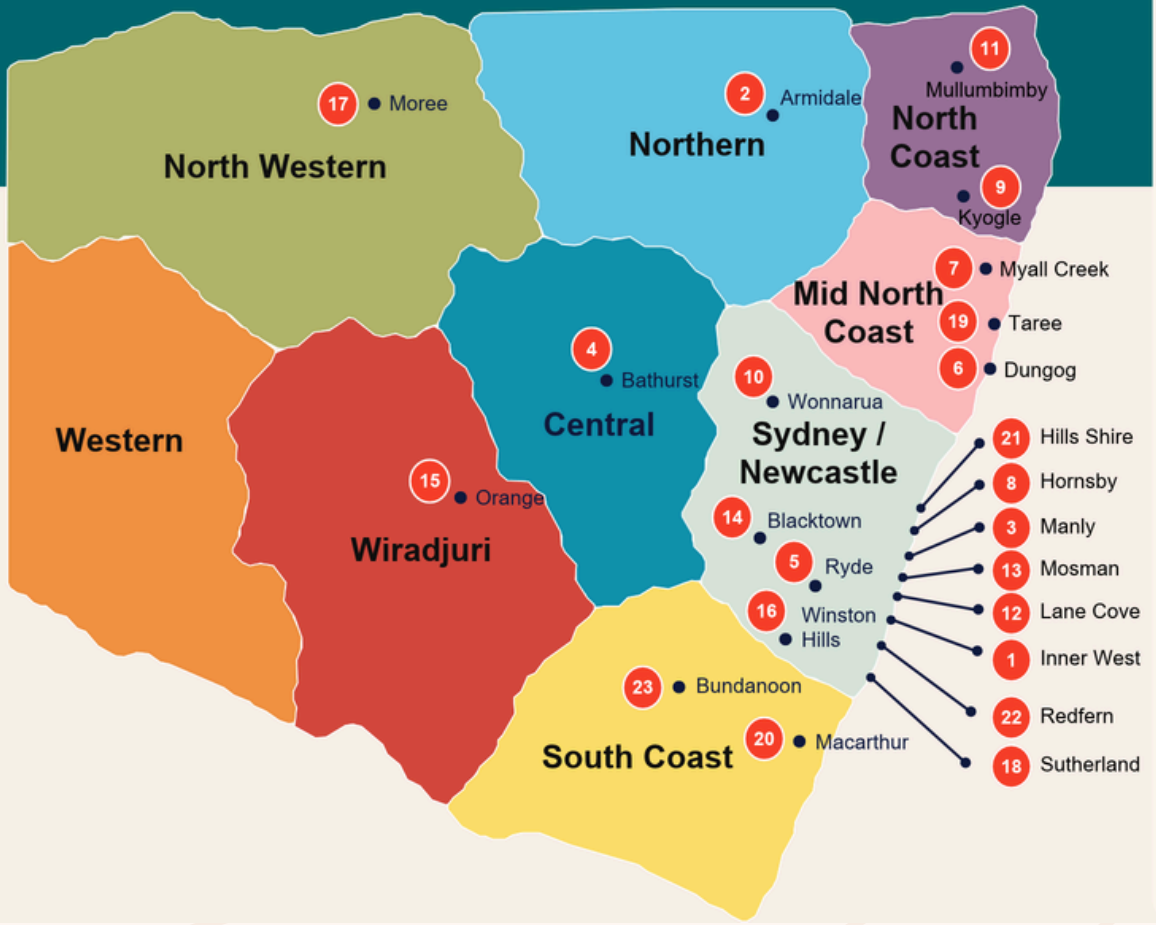
- **85%** of Australians believe the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians is important.
- **71%** of non-Indigenous Australians and **81%** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples believe truth-telling is important for reconcilation.
- Only **9%** of non-Indigenous Australians participated in a local truth-telling activity in the previous year.

These findings highlight the importance of turning support for reconciliation into meaningful action. LRGs help bridge this gap by creating opportunities for communities to connect, learn about local histories, and actively contribute to reconciliation.



Source: 2024 Australian Reconciliation Barometer (ARB)

NSW Local Reconciliation Groups



1. ANTaR Inner West
   Wangal Country
2. ANTaR Armidale
   Anaiwan, Dhunghuti and Gumbayggir Country
3. ASG- Manly Warringah Pittwater
   Guringai Country
4. Blue Mountains People for Reconciliation
   Dharug and Gundungurra Country
5. Bennelong Reconciliation Group
   Wallumedegal Country
6. Dungog Reconciliation Group
   Gringai, Worimi,Wonnarua and Geawegal Country
7. Friends of Myall Creek Memorial
   Wirrayaraay (Gamilaraay) Country
8. Hornsby Reconciliation Group
   Darug Country
9. Kyogle Together
   Bundjalung and Githabul Country
10. Maitland Reconciliation Group
    Wonnarua Country
11. Sisters for Reconciliation
    Bundjalung Country
12. Lane Cove Residents for Reconciliation
    Cammeraygal Country
13. Mosman Reconciliation Group
    Cammeraygal and Borogegal Country
14. Mt Druitt Reconciliation Group
    Dharug Country
15. Orange Together
    Wiradjuri Country
16. Reconciliation for Western Sydney
    Dharug Country
17. Moree Reconciliation Group
    Gamilaraay Country
18. Sutherland Shire Reconciliation
    Dharawal Country
19. Taree Reconciliation Group
    Biripi Country
20. Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group
    Dharawal and Gundungurra Country
21. Hills Yarning
    Dharug Country
22. Women's Reconciliation Network
    Gadigal Country
23. Woonjeegaribay Conciliation Group
    Gundungurra Country

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LRGS

How to Start a Local Reconciliation Group

Interested in advancing reconciliation in your community?
Here are six steps to get started.

Step 1: Connect with your community

Start by speaking with local Aboriginal Elders, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, community members, councils and existing reconciliation groups. Listen to community priorities and identify where your group could make a positive contribution.

Step 2: Bring interested people together

Organise an informal meeting with people who share an interest in reconciliation. Discuss your goals, community priorities and potential activities. Consider whether joining or supporting an existing group might be more appropriate.

Step 3: Establish your group's purpose

Develop a clear vision and shared goals. Agree on roles, responsibilities and decision-making processes. Consider establishing a Terms of Reference or constitution to guide your group's activities.

Step 4: Build relationships and partnerships

Connect with established LRGs, Aboriginal organisations, local councils, schools and community groups. Learn from their experiences and explore opportunities to collaborate.

Step 5: Plan your first activity

Start with an achievable event or initiative that reflects local interests and priorities. This could include a community discussion, cultural learning activity, film screening or National Reconciliation Week event.

Step 6: Contact Reconciliation NSW

Let Reconciliation NSW know about your interest in establishing a group. The team can discuss the next steps, connect you with the broader LRG network, and provide information about available support.

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Support and Responsibilities

Keeping Your Group Active

Strong LRGs are built on shared responsibility, meaningful relationships, and ongoing community involvement. To keep members engaged:

- Set clear goals and plan activities for the year.
- Encourgae different perspectives, cultural learning, and respectful engagement.
- Share roles and responsibilities among members.
- Build and maintain ongoing relationships with First Nations commmunity members and organisations.
- Celebrate achievements and reflect on opportunities for improvement.

Benefits of Joining the Reconciliation NSW Network



Reconciliation NSW supports LRGs through:

- Public liability insurance for eligible group activities.
- Opportunities to apply for event funding.
- Regular network meetings and information updates.
- Invitations to Reconciliation NSW events and the Annual General Meeting.
- Promotional materials and resources.
- Opportunities to connect and collaborate with other LRGs.

Benefits and eligibility are subject to current Reconciliation NSW arrangements.

Responsibilities of Local Reconciliation Groups

As part of the Reconciliation NSW network, LRGs are expected to:

- Organise at least one reconciliation-focused activity each year.
- Encourage cultural capability training and ongoing learning among members.
- Work towards inclusive and representative leadership.
- Maintain organisational membership with Reconciliation NSW and encourage individual membership.
- Complete required reporting and funding acquittals for funded activities.
- Maintain a nominated contact for organisational enquiries and communications.

Ready to get Involved?

Whether you want to start a new LRG or join an existing group, Reconciliation NSW can help you get connected.
Find out more: www.reconciliationnsw.org.au