



**Title:** Aboriginal Reconciliation - Statement of Commitment

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**Policy owner:** Director Corporate Services (Community Services)

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**Modification history:**

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**Related legislation:**

**Related policies:**

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## Statement of Commitment

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A CULTURALLY DIVERSE, TOLERANT AND OPEN SOCIETY, UNITED BY AN OVERRIDING COMMITMENT TO OUR NATION, AND ITS DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES.

### Local Government acknowledges and recognises:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia.
- the loss and grief held by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders caused by alienation from traditional lands, loss of lives and freedom, and the forced removal of children.
- the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their spiritual relationship with the land.
- the right of Indigenous Australians to live according to their own beliefs, values and customs, and the vital importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's contribution to strengthening and enriching the heritage of all Australians.
- the need for a partnership approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as part of addressing the needs of whole communities throughout Australia.

### **Local Government supports:**

- the vision as expressed by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation of a "united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provide justice and equity for us all".
- Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians working together for a national agreement or other instrument of reconciliation.
- the need to improve non-Indigenous understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and find new ways to work together in partnership to ensure the principles of equity and access for all members of the Indigenous community to culturally appropriate services and programs.

### **Local Government commits to:**

- developing and promoting, as appropriate, Indigenous involvement in events and celebrations of significance which respect the dignity and protocols of the local indigenous community.
- taking effective action on issues of social and economic concern as identified in the National Commitment to Improved Outcomes in the Delivery of Programs and Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander where they live within the sphere of interest and responsibility of local government.
- participating in education processes which enhance the increased acknowledge, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage and the needs of Indigenous communities.
- developing strategies that improve the level of participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in local government at all levels.

Adopted by the Australian Local Government Association Executive Members on 24 February 2000.