

## Fact Sheet

# What is reconciliation?

The information in this fact sheet has been adapted from [Reconciliation Australia](#), which is the lead body for reconciliation in Australia.

### What is reconciliation?

At its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal Peoples\* and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

For Aboriginal Peoples, Australia's colonial history is characterised by devastating land dispossession, violence and racism. Over the last half-century, however, many significant steps towards reconciliation have been taken.

Reconciliation is an ongoing journey that reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, future gains are likely to take just as much, if not more, effort.

In a just, equitable and reconciled Australia, Aboriginal children will have the same life chances and choices as non-Indigenous children, and the length and quality of a person's life will not be determined by their racial background.

### Reconciliation: the five dimensions

Reconciliation Australia's vision of reconciliation is based and measured on five dimensions: Race Relations, Equality and Equity, Institutional Integrity, Unity and Historical Acceptance.

The five dimensions of reconciliation do not exist in isolation but are interrelated. Reconciliation cannot be seen as a single issue or agenda; the contemporary definition of reconciliation must weave all these threads together. For example, greater historical acceptance of the wrongs done to Aboriginal Peoples can lead to improved race relations, which in turn leads to greater equality and equity.

#### Race Relations

All Australians understand and value Aboriginal and non-Indigenous cultures, rights and experiences, which results in stronger relationships based on trust and respect and that are free of racism.

**Goal:** Positive two-way relationships built on trust and respect exist between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous Australians throughout society.

#### Equality and Equity

Aboriginal Peoples participate equally in a range of life opportunities and the unique rights of Aboriginal Peoples are recognised and upheld.

**Goal:** Aboriginal Peoples participate equally and equitably in all areas of life – i.e. we have closed the gaps in life outcomes – and the distinctive individual and collective rights and cultures of Aboriginal Peoples are universally recognised and respected. Aboriginal Peoples are self-determining.

\* In alignment with the leadership of the South Australian Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, the term 'Aboriginal Peoples' is used here to be inclusive of people who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both.

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## Institutional Integrity

The active support of reconciliation by the nation's political, business and community structures.

**Goal:** Our political, business and community institutions actively support all dimensions of reconciliation.

## Unity

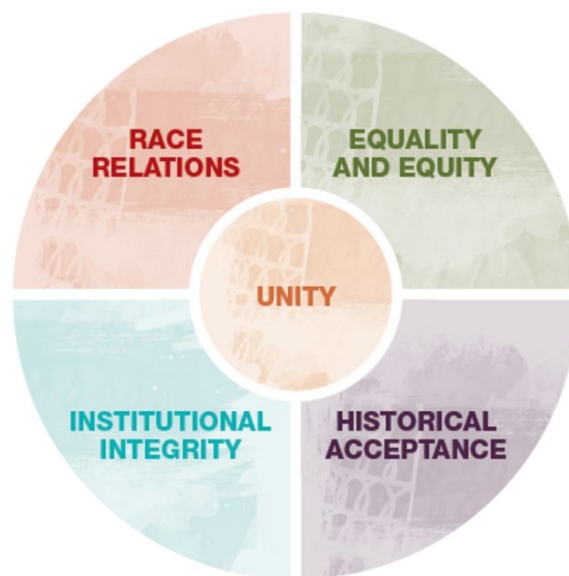
An Australian society that values and recognises Aboriginal Peoples' cultures and heritage as a proud part of a shared national identity.

**Goal:** Aboriginal Peoples' histories, cultures and rights are a valued and recognised part of a shared national identity and, as a result, there is national unity.

## Historical Acceptance

All Australians understand and accept the wrongs of the past and their impact on Aboriginal Peoples. Australia makes amends for past policies and practices ensures these wrongs are never repeated.

**Goal:** There is widespread acceptance of our nation's history and agreement that the wrongs of the past will never be repeated – there is truth, justice, healing, and historical acceptance.



## For more information

**Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group**  
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