



Reconciliation

How to be an ally

The purpose of reconciliation is achieving a just, equitable and reconciled country.

Australia will only reach its full potential when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the First Peoples of this land, can contribute equally to daily life in the country.

More people need to speak up, ask tough questions, and take action.

This resource outlines several ways we can take action to become better allies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community as we work towards reconciliation.

Council has developed this resource based on information from Reconciliation Australia.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SAFER ALLY.

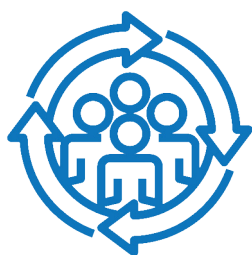
These are simple things we can do on a day-to-day basis to be a better ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BRAVER ALLY.

Disruption of the status quo is often necessary to achieve real change. Here are some ways we can step up, show up and be an accomplice in the reconciliation process.



MOVE FROM ALLY
TO ACCOMPLICE



MAKE RECONCILIATION
EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



KNOW YOUR
LOCAL HISTORY



GET YOUR FACTS
FIRST-HAND

SAFER	BRAVER
Being only 3% of the Australian population and 6.5% of the Shoalhaven Community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can't raise the profile of important issues without allies. But what does a good ally look like?	
Know how to be a better ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Educate yourself .	Step up, show up, be an accomplice . Disruption of the status quo is often necessary to achieve real change. Navigating reconciliation can be complex and sometimes we may get it wrong. It's important to keep trying and stepping up.
Make reconciliation part of the business of your workplace culture and decision-making. Practical, reputable actions will drive an organisation's contribution to reconciliation internally and in the communities in which it operates.	
Learn more about Shoalhaven City Council's RAP Project.	Work with others in your workplace to develop a RAP for your place of work
Australia's history is marred by massacres, forced removals and cultural genocide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Memorialising and commemorating those who committed these acts continues the suffering inflicted by the original crime.	
Investigate your local history and the record of colonial leaders who are memorialised by place names in your local area.	If they are guilty of historical crimes against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, then start a community conversation about renaming these places.
Inaccurate portrayals, negative stereotypes and under-investigation and reporting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples issues means if you want the whole story you should start at the source.	
Inform yourself of content and news created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Check out NITV , Koori Mail , National Indigenous Times , Indigenous X , ABC Indigenous and find your local broadcaster via First Nations Media .	Speak out against and blatant racism and misinformation in mainstream media reporting.



CALL OUT
RACISM



ITS ALL OUR
HISTORY



CARE FOR
COUNTRY



CHALLENGE OUR
LEADERS TO TAKE
ACTION ON JUSTICE

SAFER	BRAVER
Racism damages lives and livelihoods. Whether in the city, regions, online or in public spaces, getting abused, ignored, refused service or getting followed by security, has long-lasting and damaging effects.	
Check you understand how your unconscious bias and attitudes may affect your thinking and actions. Recognise the inherent privilege you experience every day.	Be ready to call out racism when you hear or see it. Have those conversations with family and friends .
A key challenge in the reconciliation movement has been overturning the 'cult of disremembering' and the great Australian silence when it comes to our history.	
When talking about the history or story of Australia, always include the participation and presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.	Find out facts and ways to learn and talk about Australia's history . Learn about the true history of settlement in Australia, the Frontier Wars. Learn about significant dates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have stewarded, nurtured and cared for Australia's diverse environment and waterways for over 80,000 years. Environmental knowledge and activism prioritise the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to manage and self-determine their own Country.	
Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples perspectives and systems of knowledge on our natural environment, including Seed Mob , Firesticks Alliance , Yerrabingin and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation .	Learn how climate change is going to directly affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Stand up in support for those it's already affecting .
Proportionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the most incarcerated people on the planet.	
Learn and understand the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and systemic structures i.e criminal legal system.	Stand with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to lower incarceration rates, rates of family violence and children in out of home care. Support and share the Change the Record and Raise the Age campaigns .



ACKNOWLEDGE
COUNTRY



DRIVE RECONCILIATION
IN EDUCATION



CREATE CULTURALLY
SAFE PLACES

SAFER	BRAVER
<p>Acknowledging Country shows you accept and understand that no matter where you are across Australia, you are on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. It is a cultural practice, and also a political act.</p>	
<p>Know whose Country you're on - resources like these can help you do this AIATIS Map of Indigenous Australia are a useful starting point. You can also go further. Know the difference between an Acknowledgement of Country and a Welcome to Country.</p>	<p>Include the name of Country when posting letters and parcels. Encourage businesses you buy from to add an address section for this on ordering forms.</p>
<p>Welcome to Country - a ceremony performed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Elders and Traditional Owners who have been given permission to welcome visitors onto their traditional lands.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of Country - other people may acknowledge and show respect for the traditional custodians of the land on which the event is taking place.</p>	
<p>We may not have learnt about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures at school, but today's kids can.</p>	
<p>See all the ways you can help your local school or early learning service learn about teaching and learning about reconciliation on the Narragunnawali website and at Learn our Truth. In your university or college, connect and work with First Peoples to improve the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples history, current affairs and cultures.</p>	<p>Challenge colonial perspective on history, support school curriculum changes, commit to a RAP in your school or early learning service.</p> <p>Encourage your educational institutions to fund research into unexplored areas of Australian history. Take the load off Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Academics.</p>
<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples don't always feel safe or welcome in some places and have been historically excluded from many.</p>	
<p>Understand what could make your school or workplace a more welcoming and safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>	<p>Seek cultural awareness training locally or via Supply Nation.</p>



**SPEAK UP FOR
LANGUAGES**

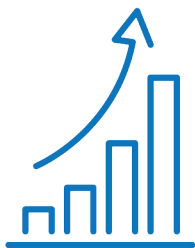


**LAND RIGHTS, NATIVE
TITLE AND COUNTRY**



**BUY FROM FIRST
NATIONS BUSINESSES**

SAFER	BRAVER
Language is interconnected with culture, and culture is empowerment. There are more than 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, including about 800 dialects.	
Know your local area language(s) of the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you live. Look for opportunities in your community and local education centres, where available, to learn more about local area languages near you.	Actively support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples language revival programs. Know and use Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names and petition councils and governments to use place names. Make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language visible in public spaces.
Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have defended their lands and waters, and asserted rights to their homelands since the beginning of colonisation. Land justice is hard fought for and must be vigilantly guarded.	
Educate yourself about the details and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Land Rights and Native Title in Australia.	Find out about Land Justice efforts and advocacy in your local area. Appropriately leverage your skills and sphere of influence in support.
Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council : 02 4423 3163 Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council : 02 4447 5669 Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council : 02 4455 5883	
Purchase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art or products only from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned-businesses.	
Learn about the damage caused by casual or deliberate cultural appropriation . Follow and support businesses like @TradingBlak and @Clothing The Gap . Ensure products are ally friendly.	Call out exploitation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, culture, people and businesses. Every Wednesday #wearitblakwednesday , wearing or sharing something you have purchased from a Blak business.



SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION

SAFER	BRAVER
Discrimination in employment, education and housing contributes to poverty today, but its roots are in the generations of stolen wages dispossession, discrimination and exclusion.	
Understand the historical causes of poverty and economic disempowerment through stolen wages dispossession, discrimination and exclusion.	Find out ways you can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development and businesses via Supply Nation when searching for contractors, suppliers and products.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples need to be in charge of decision-making and leadership for themselves and their communities.	
Understand the strengths in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples community control in governing , health , education curricula and media representation .	Support and promote community-controlled and Indigenous governed organisations .

ACT

Become a member of Reconciliation NSW to receive news and updates. Participate in online events and talks. Visit local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' sites of significance.

LEARN

Recognise, respect and educate yourself on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culture, history and communities by reading something from Reconciliation Australia's book list or our watch list.

SHARE

Amplify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples voices. Share stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture with your children and community