

Early Childhood Australia : Reconciliation Symposium

2023

Grand Chancellor Hobart



Clair Andersen

9 June 2023

**Reconciliation in trouwerner/
Van Diemen's Land/ Tasmania/
lutruwita – sharing the journey**

A satellite map of Australia showing the continent's terrain and surrounding waters. An orange sun icon is positioned in the north-eastern part of the continent, near the Gulf of Carpentaria. In the bottom right corner, a yellow callout box points to the island of Tasmania.

narnu-yuwa

I bring greetings from my
ancestors the yanyuwa and
gunggalida peoples. I bring
their spirits with me

Iutruwita
Tasmania

1967



Life in Tasmania

Common knowledge:

- No Aborigines in Tasmania
- All wiped out
- Truganini (also known as Lallah Rooke 1812 - 1876) 'the last of her people'
- Denial of their existence

My Experience:

- Meeting families with Tasmanian Aboriginal connections
- Smithton High School (1967 & 68)
- Launceston College (1969 & 70)
- Learning her story:
- A thriving resilient people, strong in culture and identity.

1970's – the rise of activism



Tasmania 1970's

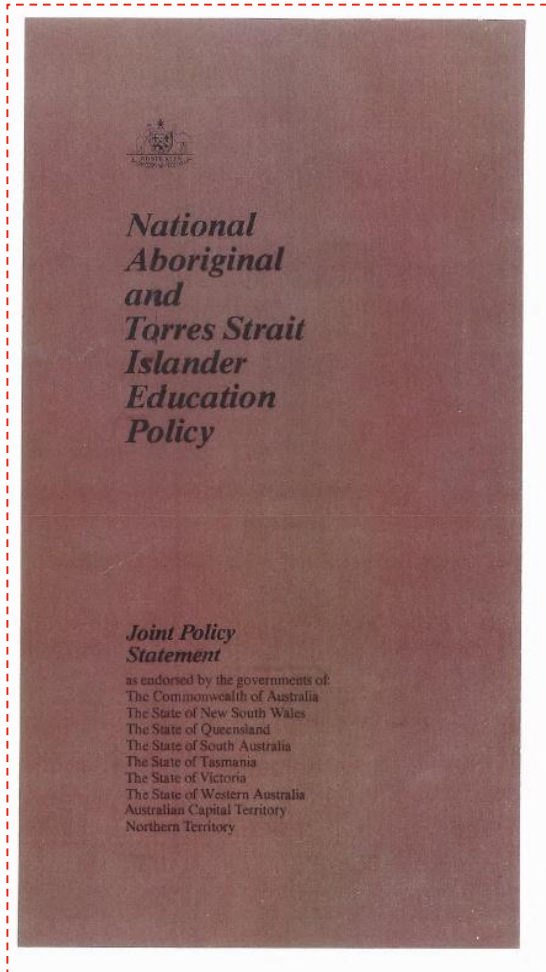
- In the early 1970's the Tasmanian Aboriginal Information Service was established later became the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
- For the first time Aboriginal people could access legal representation and had a voice to lobby the authorities to recognise and address the needs of Aboriginal people in Tasmania.



This was the self –
determination and self-
management policy
period.

This is still the
aspiration today.

1980's



- The 1989 AEP articulates 21 goals addressing: Involvement of Aboriginal people in educational decision making; Equality of access to educational services; Equity of educational participation; and Equitable and appropriate educational outcomes.
- **During the 1980's The Tasmanian Government denied the existence of Tasmanian Aboriginal people.**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy (AEP)

1990's

1991: RCIADIC Report & CAR –

‘A united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander heritage and provides justice and equity for all.’

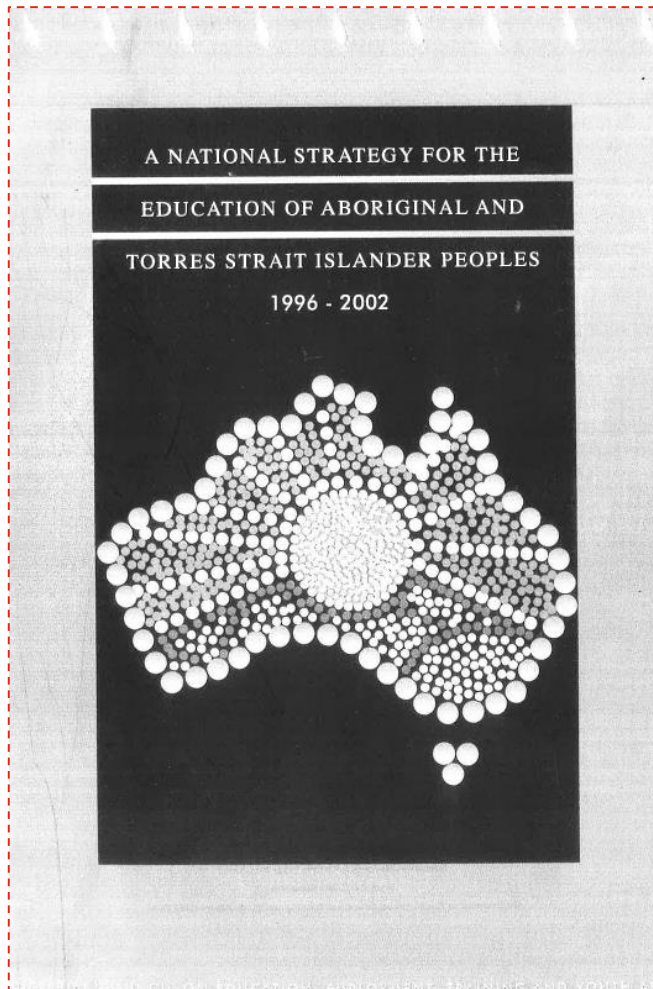
1992 : Mabo - recognition of Native Title & The Redfern Speech

1995 : Return of Land in Tasmania & Australian Parliament recognised the flags.

1996: First National Reconciliation Week

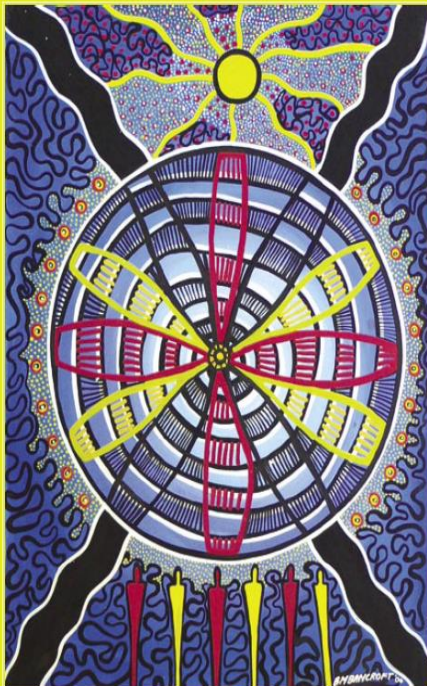
1997: Apology for removal of children

1996-2002 : National Strategy for Education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



2000's

AUSTRALIAN DIRECTIONS IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION 2005–2008



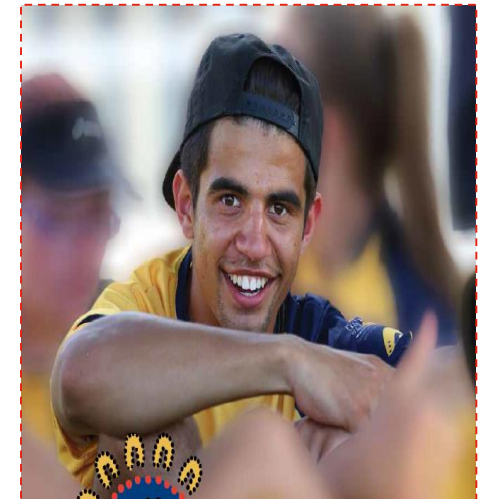
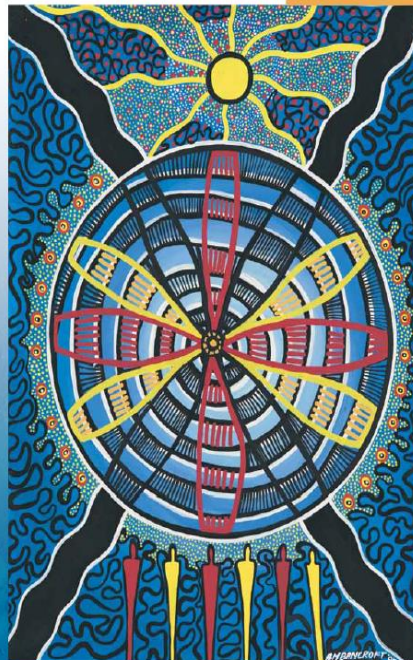
AESOC SENIOR OFFICIALS WORKING PARTY ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

MCEECDYA
Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood
Development and Youth Affairs



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander *Education Action Plan*

2010–2014



National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Education Strategy 2015

Education
Council

2008

Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

- Agreed to six ambitious targets to address the disadvantage faced by Indigenous Australians in life expectancy, child mortality, education and employment.

1. Close the gap in life expectancy within a generation (by 2031);
2. Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018;

3. **Ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013;**

4. Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children by 2018;

5. Halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020; and

6. Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and other Australians by 2018

2000's



- Sydney Olympics protest
- Redfern Tent Embassy protest against development of The Block
- Recognition for Indigenous Australians



Revival of language - **palawa kani**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palawa_kani

Aboriginal place names: lutruwita =
 Tasmania

Mt Wellington – kunanyi (ku nah nyee)

Oyster Cove – putalina (pu tah lee nah)

Great Lake – yingina (yeeng ee nah)

Tamar River – kanamaluka (kah nah mah lu kah)

The Tarkine – takayna (tah kie nah)

Risdon Cove – piyura kitina (pi ura ki tina)



<https://www.aitsl.edu.au/>

AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRADUATE TEACHERS



1.4 Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the impact of culture, cultural identity and linguistic background on the education of students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

2.4 Understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to **promote reconciliation** between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

Demonstrate broad knowledge of, understanding of and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages.

Important events on the reconciliation path

2012 : The Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples delivered its findings. *Recognise*, the campaign to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution, began.

2016 : The first *State of Reconciliation in Australia report* published.

2017 : The Uluru Statement From the Heart released.

The Turnbull Government rejected the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The *Recognise* campaign disbanded, Federal Government funding ceased.

2018 : Victoria first state to pass Treaty legislation, the Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 (VIC).

2020 : Thousands of Australians attend Black Lives Matter marches across the country to protest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody and high rates of incarceration of First Nations peoples.

May 2012 : Land Transfer



Signs of recognition & reconciliation

October 2016: ABORIGINAL
Tasmanians officially
recognised as the state's
first people.

Private Land Bequests 2019



Gov. Kate Warner & Elder Aunty Patsy

2019 & 2020

Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration

DECEMBER 2019



Education
Council

CLOSING THE GAP
IN PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CLOSING THE GAP

JULY 2020

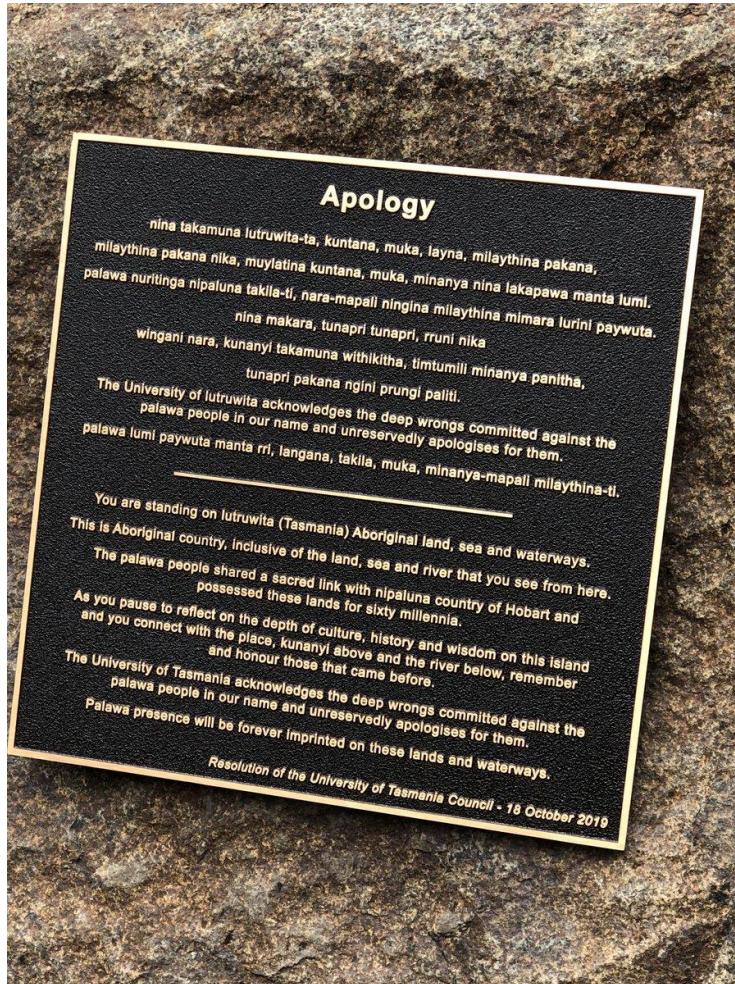
An Agreement between:

- the **Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations**, and
- all **Australian Governments**, being:
 - the Commonwealth of Australia
 - New South Wales
 - Victoria
 - Queensland
 - Western Australia
 - South Australia
 - Tasmania
 - the Australian Capital Territory
 - the Northern Territory
 - the Australian Local Government Association

2020 new Closing the Gap Targets

1. Everyone enjoys long healthy lives
2. Children are born healthy and strong
3. Children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years
4. Children thrive in their early years
5. Students achieve their full potential
6. Students reach their full potential through further education
7. Youth are engaged in employment or education
8. Strong economic participation and development of people and communities
9. People can secure appropriate, affordable housing aligned with their priorities and need.
10. Adults are not overrepresented in the criminal system
11. Young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system
12. Children are not over represented in the child protection system
13. Families and households are safe
14. People enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
15. People maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters
16. Cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing
17. People have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives.

Apologies 2021



Apology by the Royal Society of Tasmania to the Aboriginal People of Tasmania

Today the Royal Society of Tasmania apologises unreservedly to the Aboriginal people of lutruwita (Tasmania).

This apology is long overdue.

The Royal Society of Tasmania recognizes that it has been responsible for negative impacts on Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the past, and that these impacts contribute to the disadvantage, injustice and intergenerational trauma suffered today.

The Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, on behalf of its membership, offers this sincere and formal apology to the Aboriginal people of lutruwita (Tasmania).

We acknowledge that:

The Society acted to exhume and to purchase the ancestral remains of Tasmanian Aboriginal people for scientific study. In some cases these remains were sent to collecting institutions outside of Tasmania.

Exhumation and mistreatment of ancestral remains occurred with a lack of regard for their deep cultural and spiritual significance. In at least one case, exhumation was against the expressed wish of the individual concerned.

These remains were held by the Society in the Royal Society Museum without care or respect, and without discussion or permission from Aboriginal community members.

For this, we are sorry.

Research and interpretation of Tasmanian Aboriginal material culture, language and cultural knowledge were undertaken without consultation or due respect.

For this, we are sorry.

While sometimes advocating for the recognition of the importance of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture, the Society at times failed to challenge prevailing attitudes that denied recognition and respect for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Past practices of collection, description and representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their material culture by the Society contributed to beliefs that continue to be misleading and destructive.

For this, we are sorry.

The Society failed to respond to a past request to support a proposal for a treaty with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Actions of some members of the Society, who were also leaders in the Tasmanian community, legitimised and facilitated the mistreatment of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their material culture.

Some members of the Society actively opposed requests for the return of ancestral remains to Aboriginal people.

For all this, we are sorry. We are unreservedly sorry.

Now we look to the future.

The Royal Society of Tasmania understands that this apology must influence all aspects of its undertakings in seeking the advancement of knowledge.

We intend to work co-operatively and respectfully with Tasmanian Aboriginal people on meaningful and lasting initiatives.

We will work to respect the values and perspectives of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and understand and acknowledge protocols and processes determined by Aboriginal people.

We will seek a truthful and full account of the actions of the Society and its members that fully recognises impacts on Aboriginal people for which we take responsibility.

We will promote ethical research-related scholarly activities in consultation with, and of benefit to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

We will support Tasmanian Aboriginal people in seeking the repatriation of their ancestral remains and material culture.

Finally, we hope that the delivery of this apology today will mark the beginning of a new era, and a relationship that recognises the histories, cultures, knowledge and aspirations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people as fundamental to the future of Tasmanian society.

Resolution of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania
22 September 2020

M. Koolhof
Mary Koolhof, President
15 February 2021

TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

About us What's on Support Us Collections and research Learning and discovery [Research this site](#)

About us

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People
- Annual reports
- Board and Executive
- Contacts and locations
- Our role
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Advisory Council

Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People

Delivered by Brett Torossi
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
18 February 2021

lutruwita



Kaurna country



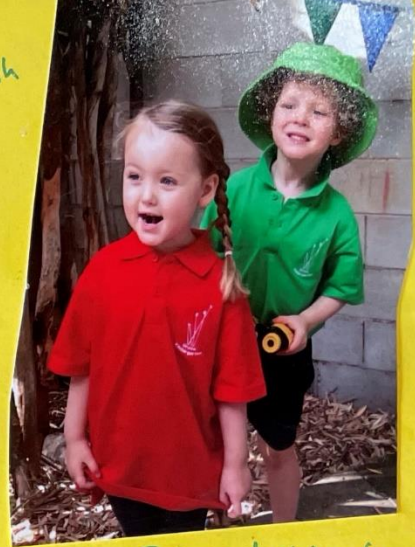


This is my cat
moo-moo. I love
giving him cuddles

ORLA MARA

My first
name is Irish

my middle name is
a Yanyuwa word
meaning 'ocean' and
'spirit'



Teddy - I love looking for
chicken eggs at Grove
Kindy



This is my flag, I am a proud
Yanyuwa - Ganggalidda girl



I love having
my face
painted



- Favourite things
- Food - Broccoli
 - Toy - Pink bunny
 - Book - Lion King



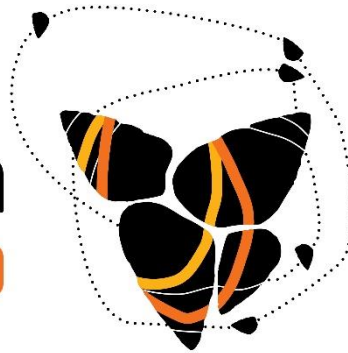
My cousins
from England
and France



Mummy & Daddy



Reconciliation
Tasmania



<https://rectas.com.au>

Our Vision

A Tasmania where we work to close the gap and embrace First Nations history and culture.

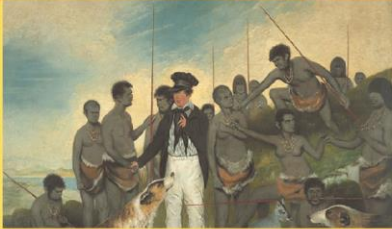
Guided by 5 pillars of Reconciliation:

- Race Relations
- Equality & Equity
- Institutional Integrity
- Unity & Historical Acceptance

VOICE, TRUTH & TREATY

Key Education Activities: Bringing all Tasmanians together towards a more unified future.

COME WALK
WITH US



CULTURAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

This innovative and hands on cultural learning workshop walks participants through the timeline of colonisation and the historical and continuing effects of government policies on Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their communities.

In combination with an experiential exercise 'from the shore' demonstrating the impact of the arrival of settlers, convicts and livestock on the traditional life and home of the First Tasmanians.

Enquiries: info@rectas.com.au
Registrations: www.rectas.com.au



UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA  Reconciliation Tasmania 

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI

<https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/curriculum-resources>

YOUTH SPEAKOUT

RECONCILIATION COLLECTIVE (42)

A network of community & business partners who work together to support each other's **reconciliation journey**.

Some Important dates:

26 January : Survival Day

13 February : National Apology Day

16 March : National Close the Gap Day

21 March : Harmony Day

26 May : National Sorry Day

27 May – 3 June : National Reconciliation Week

4 – 11 July : National NAIDOC Week

4 Aug : National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

9 Aug : World Indigenous Peoples Day

How will your workplace or early learning centre acknowledge these days?

Voice to Truth series



Explore the Voice to Parliament Referendum at these free events online and at the Sir Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, Sandy Bay campus from 6 to 7-30pm.

- 1. Voice to Truth: A voice for Generations : 26 July**
- 2. Voice to Truth: Journey to the Referendum : 31 August**
- 3. Voice to Truth: Hope or hype : 25 September**

Why truth-telling matters

- Courts and policymakers are still making decisions about the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples without full knowledge of Indigenous histories and how they continue to affect people today.
- The Voice to Parliament – and the broader goals sought under the Uluru Statement from the Heart – offers Australia a chance to confront its history and construct a more inclusive future.

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/support-a-voice-to-parliament/>

