



## Guide for Developing a Local Reconciliation Group

---

Reconciliation Victoria is proud to present this guide as a resource for community members wanting to set up a local reconciliation group and to support reconciliation progress in Victoria.

### What is a Local Reconciliation Group?

Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) play an important role in advancing and promoting reconciliation at the community level. LRGs come together to provide opportunities for learning and action, which can involve organising a range of events and activities such as local forums, film nights, concerts, cultural tours, and walks, talks at local schools, art exhibitions and information displays. Many groups also work with local government and schools to promote reconciliation, as well as greater awareness of Aboriginal history and culture.

### Local Reconciliation Groups in Victoria

Reconciliation Victoria works with an independent network of Local Reconciliation Groups, throughout both metropolitan and regional Victoria who promote cultural awareness, understanding and education in their local communities.

LRGs serve an important purpose in the Victorian landscape and are often the local go-to-group in many metro and regional local government areas. The people who participate in LRGs are strongly committed to reconciliation and work hard to build and maintain positive relationships and friendships with First Peoples. LRGs are strong advocates and allies with a high-level of respect and regard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history. This makes LRGs an important stakeholder for organisations developing Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) or strategies. LRGs are great at brokering relationships and collectively work to influence reconciliation progress, and hold RAP organisations accountable for their RAP actions, deliverables, and commitments.

*Reconciliation Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and recognises First Peoples continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.*

## Where are the Local Reconciliation Groups in Victoria

If you are interested in getting involved, there are currently 22 Local Reconciliation Groups located across the state that you can join.

Bass Coast/South Gippsland  
Reconciliation Group

Bendigo Reconciliation Committee

Boroondara Reconciliation Network

Castlemaine ANTaR

Concerned Australians

Gariwerd Wimmera Reconciliation  
Network

Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group

Macedon Ranges

Maroondah Movement for Reconciliation

Monash Reconciliation Group

Moonee Valley Reconciliation Group

Moreland Reconciliation Network

Nillumbik Reconciliation Group

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation

Queenscliff Reconciliation

Reconciliation Banyule

Reconciliation Manningham

Reconciliation Stonnington

Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group

Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation

Whittlesea Reconciliation Group

Yarra Ranges ANTaR



*Reconciliation Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and recognises First Peoples continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.*

## How to start a Local Reconciliation Group

If there isn't an LRG in your local area, you can start a new one and continue the growing network of local groups progressing meaningful reconciliation in their communities.

### Getting Started:

Bringing people together:

- Take a **local place, local people, local purpose** approach. Start by talking with local members, individuals, groups, or organisations, in your community and get an understanding of the areas your group can best contribute to. Reconciliation Victoria can support you to connect with Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community and provide information on how to engage appropriately.
- Meet with your potential group informally at first to discuss your purpose and set your goals. You may decide to remain an informal group and assist established groups as needed.
- If you choose to create an established group, spend some time setting ground rules and a clear direction. You may want to start by asking your members what it is they want to do and how they want to go about achieving it?
- Develop a term of reference and outline the key roles and responsibilities of members to ensure everyone is in agreement.
- Reach out to other LRG's for advice and an understanding of the kind of work they do. You may want to ask if they have learnt any important lessons, what contributes to a successful event and how they keep their members engaged and involved?
- Stay informed by signing up to email updates from Reconciliation Victoria and other non-government organisations, relevant government departments and community groups.

### Create a sustainable and successful group:

- Keep your members engaged by having a clear purpose and direction for the year ahead.
- Encourage and support all members to contribute ideas and feel heard.
- Reach out to local First Peoples to invite them to be part of your group, find ways to elevate First Peoples voices and culture in your activities, and keep Traditional Owners and First Peoples partners informed (i.e. via your minutes) of your group's activities.
- Share the load, particularly when organising events.
- When organising an event or activity, start engaging with community early and give yourself plenty of time to prepare.

*Reconciliation Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and recognises First Peoples continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.*

- Apply for community grants to help you organise and run events or activities.
- Celebrate your achievements!

## **Finalising your LRG**

Connect with Reconciliation Victoria

- Get in contact with Reconciliation Victoria and let us know you are starting an LRG.
- We will add you to our website and do a state-wide call out on our social media platform to see if anyone wants to join or help you establish your LRG.
- We will facilitate a connection with your LRG and let them know you have established a group.

## **Understand Your Responsibilities**

- You should organise at least one event every year that promotes reconciliation and/or a greater awareness of Aboriginal history and culture within your community.
- We recommend that the Chair and one other member of your group undertake cultural competency training with an accredited centre and First Peoples trainers.
- The Board of your LRG should be a representative of the community in which it is located.
- To help ensure that your group stays accessible and connected, the Chair of your LRG should be contactable and responsive to external enquiries.

## **How Reconciliation Victoria will support your Local Reconciliation Group**

- You will be invited to our AGM and our annual forum to provide you with the opportunity to connect with other LRGs and to vote on Reconciliation Victoria's board.
- You can apply for funding from Reconciliation Victoria for your events, such as NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week.
- We will promote the events and work you do on our social media platforms and website.
- We can facilitate connection with other groups, organisations, and local Aboriginal communities across the state to support you with implementing your work and achieving your goals.
- We can provide you with resources and advice to assist you in organising events and activities in your community.

## **SOURCE:**

Reconciliation NSW: [How-to-Start-an-LRG\\_v3.pdf \(reconciliationnsw.org.au\)](https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/how-to-start-an-lrg-v3.pdf)

*Reconciliation Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and recognises First Peoples continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of First Peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders.*