

August 2019

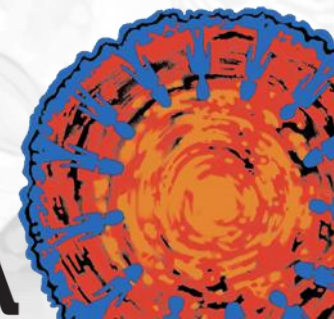
Role of Local Government in reconciliation across the State

Carol Innes & Gary Smith
Co-Chairs - Reconciliation WA

2019 WALGA Forum

Building Positive Partnerships with Aboriginal Communities

ReconciliationWA



Reconciliation WA: *“Reconciliation is everyone’s business.”*

Who we are:

Reconciliation WA (RWA) is a not for profit organisation providing leadership, advocacy and support to people and organisations driving the movement for Reconciliation in Western Australia (WA).

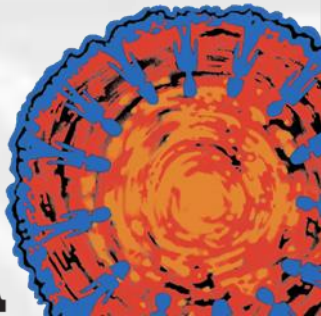
What we do:

We seek to engage with you on Western Australia’s Reconciliation Journey. Reconciliation WA is the Secretariat for Reconciliation in our State; forming a vital and tangible link to the Australian Reconciliation Network and Reconciliation Australia and, our nation’s best practice efforts.



Reconciliation WA Co-Chairs; Gary Smith & Carol Innes

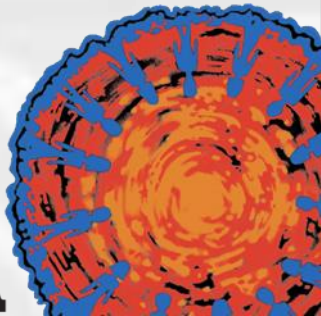
ReconciliationWA



Why is Reconciliation important?

The social context and environment for change and progress is **not positive**

- Trust extremely low
- Perceived prejudice is unacceptably high
- Poor knowledge and understanding with deficit-based views
- Fundamental barriers to participating.
- Efforts to 'close the gap' will not succeed in this environment



The Uluru Statement from the Heart

Voice. Treaty. Truth.

What does this mean to you?
What does this mean for your
Community?



Examples of Truth Telling

Shire of Carnarvon:

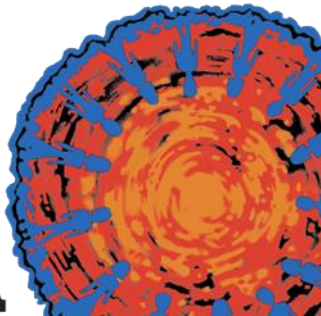
1. Truth Telling - Lock Hospital History: Bernier and Dorre Islands acknowledged in ceremony as “horrific piece of WA history”

City of Busselton:

1. A Vision Statement for the Reconciliation Action Plan created
2. Gaywal acknowledged



ReconciliationWA



Examples of Truth Telling

Shire of Ravensthorpe:

1. Kukenarup massacre site memorial



City of Perth: (Innovate) RAP

1. Treaty conversations
2. Immersive International Cultural Exchange Program set to begin soon

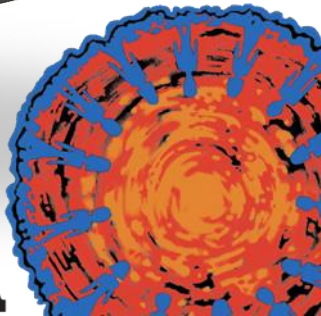


City of Fremantle: (Stretch) RAP

1. One Day – Change the Date
2. Widespread community consultation with a place based foci



ReconciliationWA



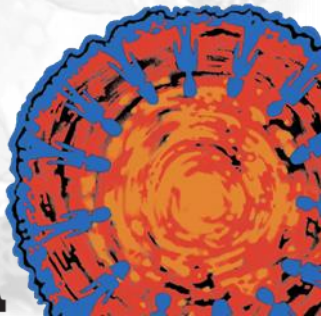
Key Drivers

Milestones of success – Relationships, Respect and Opportunities

The previous examples have come from Empowered self determined communities who share:

- i. Understanding of the local community
- ii. Understanding of the place based needs and aspirations
- iii. Commitment to Shared values
- iv. Commitment to Shared outcomes – social, cultural and economic
- v. Tenure and resource
- vi. Trust and respect

The Shire of Halls Creek will share insight into the **Olabud Doogethu** Project shortly which implicitly enables this, providing due governance supports for success.

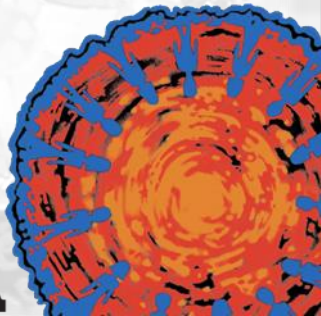


Local Government Agencies: *What is our role in Reconciliation?*

Engagement Opportunities include:

- Attracting and retaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **employees**
- Fostering **strong relationships** and partnerships between the council, First People organisations and the broader community
- Driving **symbolic and respectful** reconciliation initiatives
- **Promoting** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **cultures** through events, place names, public artworks and the preservation of heritage sites
- **Leading celebrations** of National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC

ReconciliationWA



Our Approach:

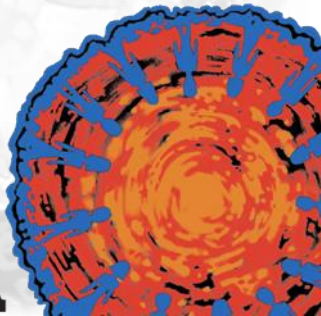
Relationships + Respect = Opportunity

Relationships
High trust
Low prejudice
Strong partnerships

Respect
Understanding
Pride
Recognition

Opportunity
Social
Cultural
Economic

ReconciliationWA

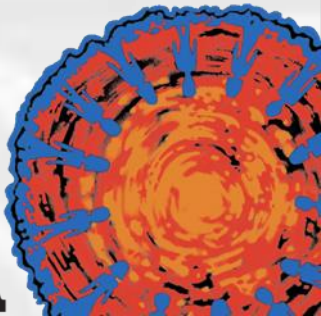


Local Government Agencies: *How can we reconcile?*

The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program provides a strategic framework for organisations to support the national reconciliation movement.

RAPs in a Workplace

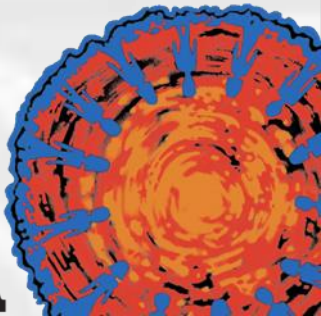
- A RAP is a strategic document will drive an organisation's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates.
- The RAP Program advances the five dimensions of reconciliation by supporting organisations to develop respectful relationships and create meaningful opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Each of the four RAP types (Reflect, Innovate, Stretch, Elevate) set out the minimum elements required from your organisation to build strong relationships, respect and opportunities within your organisation and community



What is a Reconciliation Action Plan?

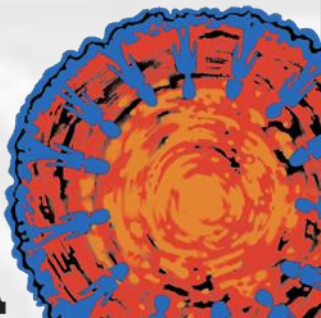
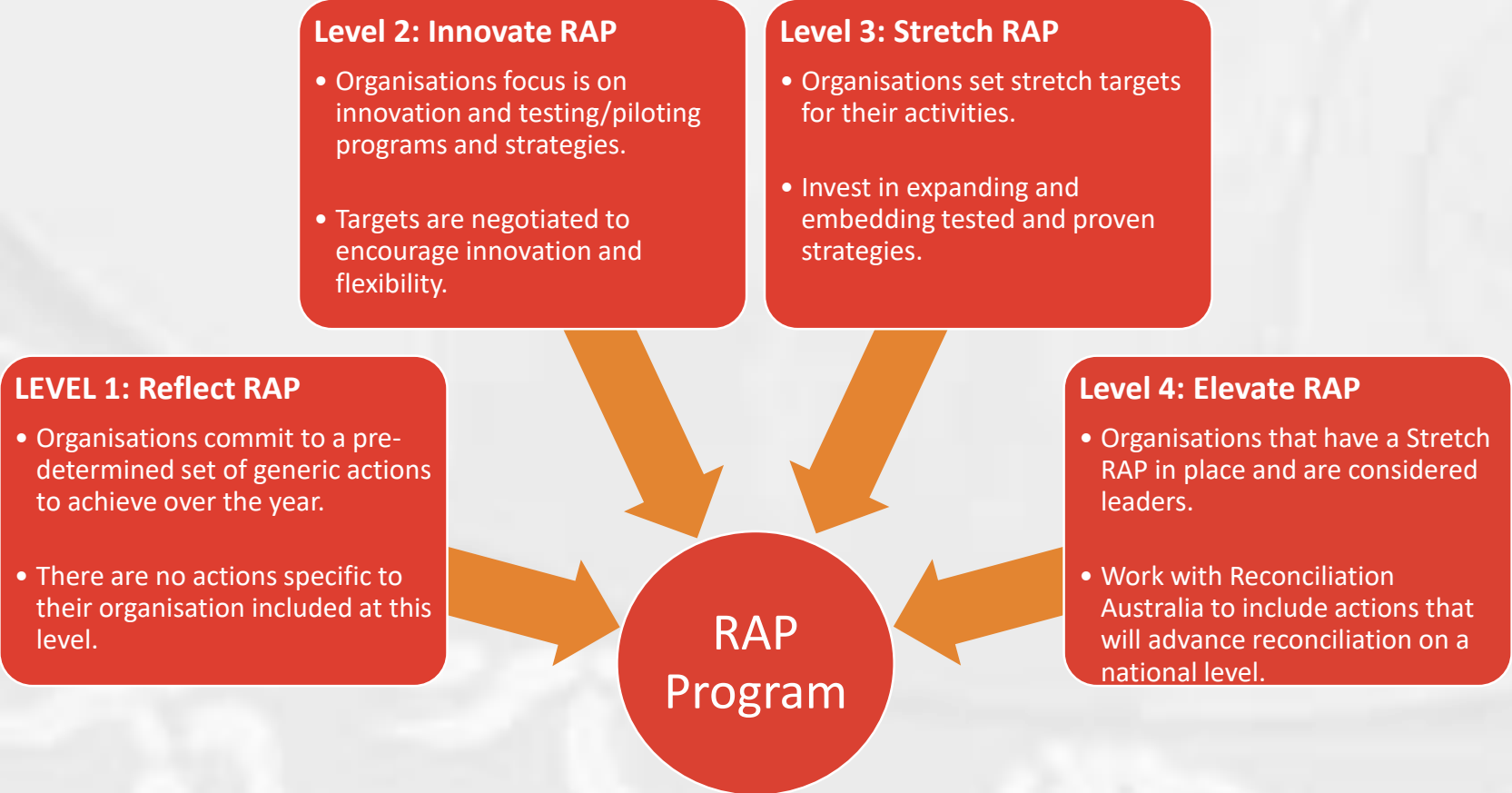


ReconciliationWA



The RISE RAP model: 4 LEVELS of RAPS

RISE RAP model



RAP's: *Where to next?*

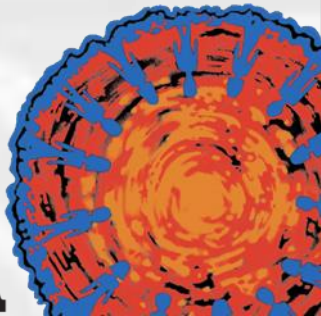
Getting started

- Explore Work culture and appetite for RAP
- Learning, sharing, understanding
- Contact RWA to see how we can help: Are you *RAP Ready*?

Building your RAP

- Consultation with your organisation, colleagues, First Peoples, Custodians and Traditional Owners, your draft RAP should reflect your locality and its community, dialogue is crucial and relationships take time to form.
- Learn from other councils
- Revising and endorsing your RAP (3-6 months)
- Endorsement by Reconciliation Australia

ReconciliationWA



Thankyou. Questions and Discussion....

“Reconciliation is ‘ours’. This reality is waiting for us.

***Reconciliation is our empowerment,
to work together to shape tomorrow”***

- June Oscar AO

