

Reconciliation Action Progress Report



Overview

In 2020, the Parliamentary Service strengthened its commitment to reconciliation by implementing an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

The RAP was formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and subsequently launched by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Clerk of the Parliament in September 2020.

The Innovate RAP contains 14 actions and 69 deliverables, grouped within four reconciliation themes of relationships, respect, opportunities, and governance.

A working group was established to oversee the implementation of initiatives and ensure staff members are engaged in the spirit of reconciliation. The working group is co-chaired by the Indigenous Liaison Officer and the Executive Officer in the Office of the Speaker.

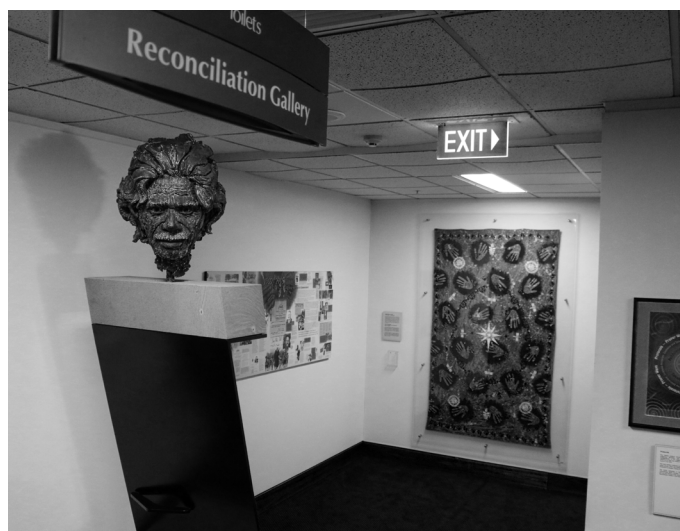


(Above L-R) Hon Leeanne Enoch MP, Cynthia Lui MP, Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Jackie Huggins AM, Professor Kay Saunders AO, and Hon Craig Crawford MP at National Reconciliation Week event, May 2021.

Snapshot of Achievements

Throughout 2020-2021, a number of initiatives were advanced by the working group, including:

- Organising an Acknowledgment of Country on 23 February 2021, to mark the first sitting day of the 57th Parliament, following the October 2020 state election
- Developing and publishing an Acknowledgement of Country statement to provide a consistent protocol for staff to follow at significant occasions and events
- As part of National Reconciliation Week in May 2021, a lunchtime seminar for members and staff explored the legacy of a couple of leading Indigenous women. The seminar was presented by the Co-Chair of Queensland's Path to Treaty, Dr Jackie Huggins AM and historian Professor Kay Saunders AO (see above)
- Reconciliation Week also saw Reconciliation Queensland utilise Parliament House as a venue for its major breakfast event on 27 May 2021
- As part of NAIDOC week in July 2021, a special screening of the Indigenous film titled "Occupation: Native" was made available to staff at the parliamentary precinct
- Throughout the year the PS reviewed its HR policies and recruitment procedures to remove any barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in our workplace
- Current procurement policies and practices were also reviewed to remove any barriers to the procurement of goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, and to increase supplier diversity



Looking ahead

In 2021-2022, the working group will continue to deliver RAP actions including:

- Overseeing the development of a Cultural Learning Strategy and an Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Investigating the provision of information to electorate officers about cultural learning relevant to their electorate and local region, including on-country visits
- The possible progressive refurbishment of the Reconciliation Gallery (opposite) on level 5 of the Parliamentary Annexe to honour First Nations peoples
- Implementing a strategy with a view to increase the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff employed in the Parliamentary precinct