



Memorandum of Understanding between The City of Melbourne and Reconciliation Victoria Inc.

Parties

The parties to this memorandum of understanding (“Agreement”) are the City of Melbourne and Reconciliation Victoria Inc.

Objective/ Purpose

The parties recognise the need to work in concert, with mutual respect, to develop better designed, targeted and locally customised solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the City of Melbourne.

This Agreement identifies how the parties will work together, with a focus working towards better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the City of Melbourne.

Duration of Agreement

The duration of this Agreement is 12 months commencing at the date of signing.

Principles

In achieving these objectives the parties are committed to the following principles:

- Recognition of the continuing rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal people as the first peoples of Australia, including traditional ownership and connection to land and waters;
- Local approaches to address issues that impact on Aboriginal communities, families and individuals;
- A commitment to democratic processes and structures;
- Inclusiveness;
- Respect and recognition of shared histories.

Statement of Commitment

The parties are committed to the principles contained within the Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation (attached).

Local Government Statement of Commitment

The City of Melbourne has made statements in line with the National Statement of Commitment, HREOC Social Justice Report 2001, which includes the following:

- Include Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in decision making processes;
- Increase the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in leadership positions; through providing opportunities to develop leadership skills;
- Appreciate the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians;
- Provide cross-cultural awareness courses within the workplace and communities;
- Respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices;
- Affirm support for the reconciliation process;
- Affirm support for the Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation;
- Make commitments to the Roadmap for Reconciliation;
- Commit resources to support Reconciliation Australia, State, Territory and Regional Reconciliation Committees, and Local Reconciliation Groups; and
- Address racism, injustice and inequality in our communities.

Protocols for Working Together

This is a commitment made in good faith based on the commitment of the parties to effective and sustainable cooperation. In order to work in concert and with mutual respect to achieve agreed outcomes, the parties agree to:

- Cooperate through the sharing of information;
- Consult with each other in relation to the planning, delivery and evaluation of policies and initiatives, wherever necessary;
- Recognise and complement each others' planning and negotiation processes and utilise these processes where appropriate;
- Focus their activity on achieving outcomes that are jointly agreed to by the parties in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the City of Melbourne.

Recommendations for Progress

The following activities will form the basis of the relationship in the first year.

Calendar of Events

Key Dates	Actions
March 2003	Development of an Agreement with Reconciliation Victoria Inc.
July 2003	City of Melbourne to appoint a Reconciliation Officer (Band 5) to implement the following activities aimed at reconciliation.
March 2003 onwards	Reconvene the quarterly Aboriginal Consultative Group (ACG) and institute sitting fees for members
March 2003	Implement the Indigenous Mentorship program
Commencing March 2003	Develop 3 forums in conjunction with Reconciliation Victoria on reconciliation, to be hosted at the Melbourne Town Hall
October 2003	Engage with the Aboriginal Consultative Group and Reconciliation Victoria Inc. to review and update the Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians, and promote Council's renewed Statement across Local Government in conjunction with Reconciliation Victoria.

28 May 2003	The City of Melbourne will host a cultural gathering at the Melbourne Town Hall for the five Chairs of the Cultural Heritage Boards, who represent the traditional owners of Victoria. The 5 Chairs will consider land use agreements and protocols in their usual quarterly meeting that will follow the Cultural Gathering. The City of Melbourne does not attend the Cultural Heritage Board meetings.
June to September 2003	Investigate developing a memorandum of understanding with the Victorian Cultural Heritage Boards following the May 2003 meeting
July 2003	Sponsor Reconciliation Victoria Inc. to develop a Kit for Local Reconciliation Groups
8 December 2003	Host a concert in the Treasury Gardens to acknowledge Human Rights Day in conjunction with Reconciliation Victoria Inc.
August to December 2003	Offer cultural awareness training to Councillors and senior City of Melbourne staff.
7 May 2003 21 May 2003 4 June 2003	Host three Melbourne Conversations arranged in conjunction with Indigenous section of the Melbourne Museum on 19th century Indigenous history
26 January 27 May – 3 June 3 June 26 May 6-13 July 2003	Indigenous flag displayed, as current practice, from the Melbourne Town Hall on the 5 key dates in the Indigenous calendar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival Day; • National Reconciliation Week; • Mabo Day; • Sorry Day; and • NAIDOC Week
August 2003 to July 2004	Assist in the documentation of oral histories and stories of Indigenous communities in the municipality

Implementation

The parties commit to:

- The parties agree to establish a Partnering Team to oversee the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement. This body is to meet quarterly for the duration of the Agreement.
- The Partnering Team will be convened by the City of Melbourne and representatives from Reconciliation Victoria Inc. The membership is yet to be determined.
- The Partnering Team will establish Terms of Reference including measuring progress towards achieving improvements and transparently reporting on the outcomes of activities.
- The parties may agree to jointly establish other working arrangements as required to assist in the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement.
- The Partnering Team will provide an annual report regarding progress towards achieving the Agreement's priorities to the City of Melbourne Council and Reconciliation Victoria Council.

Signed by:

Lord Mayor John So
City of Melbourne

Signed by:

Prof. Eleanor Bourke/ Dr Di Sisely
Reconciliation Victoria

Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation

- We, the peoples of Australia, of many origins as we are, make a commitment to go on together in a spirit of reconciliation.
- We value the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of lands and waters.
- We recognise this land and its waters were settled as colonies without treaty or consent.
- Reaffirming the human rights of all Australians, we respect and recognise continuing customary laws, beliefs and traditions.
- Through understanding the spiritual relationship between the land and its first peoples, we share our future and live in harmony.
- Our nation must have the courage to own the truth, to heal the wounds of its past so that we can move on together at peace with ourselves.
- Reconciliation must live in the hearts and minds of all Australians. Many steps have been taken, many steps remain as we learn our shared histories.
- As we walk the journey of healing, one part of the nation apologises and expresses its sorrow and sincere regret for the injustices of the past, so the other part accepts the apologies and forgives.
- We desire a future where all Australians enjoy their rights, accept their responsibilities, and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.
- And so, we pledge ourselves to stop injustice, overcome disadvantage, and respect that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to self-determination within the life of the nation.
- Our hope is for a united Australia that respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all.