



Moreland Steering Committee on Reconciliation

Terms of Reference (March 2005)

Commitment to Indigenous Australians by Moreland City Council (Adopted May 1998)

Council recognises:

- *That indigenous Australians were the first people of this land;*
- *The ingenuity, spirit and contribution of indigenous people;*
- *That social and cultural dispossession has caused the current disadvantages experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.*
- *The centrality of indigenous issues to Australian identity;*
- *That indigenous people have lost their land, their children, their health and their lives and regrets these losses.*

Council supports:

- *The right of indigenous people to live according to their own values and customs, subject to law;*
- *The vision as expressed by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation of a united Australia which respects the land, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island heritage and provides justice and equality for all;*
- *Campaigns for indigenous people's rights, including land and native title to land.*

Council commits itself to:

- *Building a trusting, collaborative and supportive relationship with indigenous groups;*
- *Respecting identified Aboriginal sacred sites and special places;*
- *Educating itself and others on the strength and unique contribution of contemporary Aboriginal cultures, and of the facts of colonisation;*
- *Contributing to the promotion of accurate information on current issues;*
- *Equity and access for all members of indigenous communities to culturally sensitive services.*

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1. Introduction

Moreland City Council has a strong commitment to reconciliation and to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people that is clearly defined in the Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan.

The Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan provides the Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians by Moreland City Council, the policy base and the actions plan commitments related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Moreland and beyond.

This paper operates as the Terms of Reference for the Moreland Steering Committee on Reconciliation, which was established in 1996 and has the responsibility for development and implementation of the Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan. A copy of the plan is available at www.moreland.vic.gov.au or by contacting the Social Policy Unit on 9240 2372.

2. Aim of the Moreland Steering Committee on Reconciliation

To develop and implement priorities for Council relating to reconciliation which are consistent with the Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan.

To ensure that Reconciliation is strengthened through whole-of-Council and whole-of-community involvement in the implementation of the Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan.

3. Objectives

- i) To provide advice to Council on access, equity and justice for Indigenous people.
- ii) To identify advocate and promote understanding on issues affecting Indigenous Australians.
- iii) To promote understanding of Indigenous culture through collaborative effort.
- iv) To oversee and assist with the implementation of Council's strategies for reconciliation.
- v) To make the most of all opportunities to further Reconciliation within Council, the community, business and with other spheres of Government.

4. Status of the Steering Committee

The status of the Steering Committee will be that of a Committee of Council.

5. Meetings

The Steering Committee will meet on a monthly basis with a review taking place annually

The Director of Social Development will chair the meetings of the Steering Committee.

6. Membership

The membership of the Steering Committee will be diverse in its representation. It is important that a range of skills, experiences and knowledge be reflected in its composition, as this will enrich the workings of the Committee and add value to Council's commitment to reconciliation.

The membership of the committee will be the Director Social Development, Responsible Councillors for Reconciliation, and Council officers from relevant branches across Council.

7. Operation of the Steering Committee

The diversity of the membership of the Steering Committee will allow members to play an important complimentary role in relation to the workings of the Committee. This is an important element that will contribute to the successful implementation of tasks, activities and events.

Members will be actively engaged in activities such as liaison and communication across the various departments within Council and with a wide range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous community organisations, agencies, key individuals and government authorities to advance the aims and objectives of the Committee.

The Steering Committee will also have the capacity to set up working parties, invite/ receive guest speakers and presenters and co-opt other members on working parties as the need arises.

Members will share responsibilities and where appropriate engage in partnership projects.

8. Principles for Engaging and Working in Partnership with the Indigenous Community and Others

During 2003–2004 Council investigated its engagement and relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community within Moreland and beyond.

The ATSI community in Moreland includes the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri, and members of the broad range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities living, working and visiting Moreland. The program also engages ATSI and non-indigenous organizations within Moreland and beyond that have responsibility for policy and delivery of ATSI programs and services and it engages support organisations such as Reconciliation Australia, Reconciliation Victoria and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR).

The investigation highlighted the need to document the ways that Council engages the ATSI community and others in progressing Council policy, annual action commitments, priority setting, protocols and other activities.

Seven principles have been developed to clarify this relationship that are:

- i.) Inclusiveness
- ii.) Strengthening all Aboriginal and Torres Strait cultures
- iii.) Acknowledging and strengthening Wurundjeri culture
- iv.) Acknowledging Elders and supporting ATSI persons with responsibilities for ATSI programs.
- v.) Supporting access to both generalist or mainstream services and also to specialized services
- vi.) Connecting with all community members and with all ages
- vii.) Working from the existing policy base on Reconciliation and health and well-being

i) Inclusiveness

Moreland City Council encourages and seeks to engage all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, non-aboriginal people and agencies with a genuine interest in improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and progressing the Reconciliation agenda in Moreland Council and beyond.

There are inherent tensions between, and within, indigenous and non-indigenous communities due to many factors including history, organisational practices and resources, cultures, experiences, perceptions, socio-economic inequity, priorities and community resources.

In this context where individuals and groups have marked differences, Council adopts the view that achieving good outcomes through making timely decisions, can only be achieved through inclusive processes that allow each and everyone to have their say, and through processes that respectfully allow others the time, encouragement and opportunity to do so too.

Where appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding could be developed by Council, or between any groups, to share information and clarify or affirm appropriate roles, responsibilities, operating procedures, points of difference and any other relevant matters.

ii) Strengthening All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Cultures

Approximately 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people reside in the Moreland area. The community may be Wurundjeri or may have cultural origins of other Indigenous nations from many parts of Victoria and Australia. Others may be unable to trace or connect to their original nationhood as many nations have been permanently lost.

In addition, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people work, visit and access organisations and groups and activities in the Moreland area.

Moreland City Council Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan, and the Moreland City Council Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians apply to all people with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural background.

Council encourages and seeks to engage all interested parties in related policy development, programs and activities.

Council recognizes that there are many terms used to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Specific clan and tribe and language group names are preferred where appropriate, while other group terms in common use including First Australians, Aboriginal, Koorie, Koori, indigenous, first peoples, blackfellas, first nations and Indigenous Australians cannot be avoided.

iii) Acknowledging and Strengthening Wurundjeri Culture

The first people that occupied the Melbourne area prior to European colonisation were the Woiwurrung language group, specifically the Wurundjeri people. The territory of the Wurundjeri lies within the inner city of Melbourne and extends north of the Great Dividing Ranges, east to Mt Baw Baw, south to Mordialloc Creek and west to Werribee River. Moreland is located on Wurundjeri land.

Moreland City Council recognizes its unique relationship with the Wurundjeri.

Moreland City Council takes all opportunities to promote the Wurundjeri as prior owners and cultural stewards of the Moreland area, and in the historical and contemporary context of the Wurundjeri as one of the living cultures of Indigenous peoples of southeast Australia. Council encourages other organizations and groups to adopt similar protocols.

Moreland City Council and other agencies must comply with the federal and state Native Title and Cultural Heritage Acts through formal recognition and consultation arrangements on heritage, cultural and land management issues with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc (PO Box 1676 Healesville 3777) that is established under Federal legislation for this purpose.

The established protocol is to first contact Mr Ian Hunter to undertake any Welcome to Country events, or comment on Wurundjeri cultural and heritage issues. (0415 928 673)
Mr Ian Hunter, son of Wurundjeri Elder Jessie Hunter who passed away in early 2004, is currently the key contact delegated by the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc for the Moreland area.

Moreland City Council acknowledges Mr Ian Hunter's right and duty to speak as an Elder of the Wurundjeri, on Wurundjeri related matters.

On broader issues related to Moreland City Council or general Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in Moreland, contact Moreland City Council Social Policy Unit on 9240 2372 in the first instance.

iv) Acknowledging Elders and Supporting ATSI persons with responsibilities for ATSI programs.

Council wants to acknowledge and support the contribution and status of ATSI elders, and ATSI women and men with responsibilities for ATSI programs.

Council encourages community members and agencies to advise Council and other agencies on the names of Wurundjeri Elders attending meetings and events, or of visiting elders etc from other nations, and any relevant protocols, to ensure that this occurs appropriately. Contact Moreland City Council, on 9240 1111, or, in the case of an event, the event organizer.

Council recognizes that many ATSI issues are complex; that the ATSI community is relatively small, and that there are ATSI women and men who hold responsibilities within their communities and organizations to initiate, project manage and speak on ATSI matters. Council would like to assist these people with their responsibilities and professional development in ways they would benefit their programs and communities.

Council may be able to assist ATSI individuals or groups with media and officer support, advice or training in areas such as community organizations, venues for meetings and events, media management, negotiation skill development, conflict resolution, relationship management, accessing funding, mediation training, political and government processes and programs, project management, policy and strategy development, community development or any other areas that are core to their responsibilities and the success of their ATSI programs. The support will be provided through Council grants and other methods depending on resource availability and requirements. Contact Moreland City Council, Social Policy Unit 9240 1250 to discuss.

v) Supporting Access to Both Generalist or Mainstream Services and also to Specialized Services

There is ongoing debate within and without the Aboriginal community on the comparative benefits and shortcomings of mainstreaming or specialization of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services. The strong feeling associated with this debate is due to perceptions about complex factors such as resource availability, quality of service, the importance of holistic service delivery, overt and covert barriers to access in mainstream services, cultural appropriateness of services, Aboriginal employment and other factors.

Moreland City Council encourages access to all Council and community services and facilities by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, individuals, families and groups.

Moreland City Council and other mainstream community agencies and groups in Moreland encourage access by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and will work to strengthen access where barriers exist or are perceived to exist.

At the same time, there are a number of services and programs that are provided by specialized Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organizations that Council supports and will continue to support.

vi) Connecting with all community members and with all ages

Moreland City Council encourages contact, opinion and feedback from all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, individuals, families and groups, including children.

As the size of the ATSI community in Moreland is relatively small, Council would be happy to consider any innovative way of keeping in contact such as an email group or direct mail.

vii) Working from the existing Moreland policy base on Reconciliation and health and well-being

Moreland City Council has documented its overarching policy and relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2001-2004 and earlier in the Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 1998-2001.

The centerpiece of its policy is Moreland City Council's Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians. The three core policy elements are Recognition, Access to Council and Community Services, and Governance.

Council's approach built on relationships and programs that developed with the local aboriginal community members over many years and with the former Brunswick and Coburg City Councils.

The Moreland Municipal Public Health Plan and the Moreland City Council Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan provide the policy basis for improvement in health, safety and wellbeing and improving socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These policies have been developed with input from the Aboriginal community and consistent with good practice on health and well-being improvement. Copies are available at www.moreland.vic.gov.au or by contacting the Social Policy Unit on 9240 2372.

Moreland City Council periodically refines policies through developing Council Reports, submissions or position papers on relevant matters.

9. Contact, New Ideas and Feedback

Council welcomes ideas, feedback and contact by all who are interested in ATSI matters. Contact Moreland City Council on 9240 1111 and ask for Frances Grindlay, Social Policy Unit

Council, through the Social Policy Unit, schedules regular meetings with the Wurundjeri on the progress of the overall Reconciliation portfolio.

Council also engages representatives of other organisations to discuss matters of interest and welcomes presentations.

Key organizations are listed in the Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan, in the Moreland Community Directory and the online Moreland Community Directory at www.moreland.vic.gov.au

www.moreland.vic.gov.au/publications/reconciliation-fr.htm

for the Moreland Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan

www.moreland.vic.gov.au

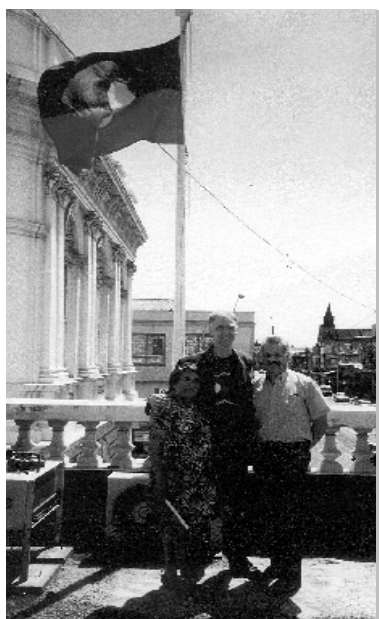
Click on the online Moreland Community Directory and search under 'Indigenous Services'

or request your hard copy of the Moreland Community Directory

Significant Dates in the Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Year

1st International Year of the World's Indigenous people	Proclaimed in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly.	1993
1st International Decade of the World's Indigenous people	Proclaimed in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly.	1994-2004
2nd International Decade of the World's Indigenous people	Proclaimed in 2003 by the United Nations General Assembly.	2005-2016
National Harmony Day	Coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Australian Federal Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs instigated national promotion in 1999.	21 March annually
National Day of Healing (formerly Sorry Day)	In 2005 the day has a healing focus in recognition that the stolen generations cannot heal in isolation. Their healing depends on, and contributes to, healing among the wider Indigenous community. And healing among Indigenous Australians depends on, and contributes to, healing in the non-Indigenous community. The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998 - one year after the tabling of the report ' <i>Bringing them Home</i> ' which was the result of an inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.	26 May annually
Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum	Marks Aboriginal Citizenship and the Referendum of 1967.	27 May annually
National Reconciliation Week	May 27 marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution, which discriminated against Indigenous Australians. June 3 marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgment in 1992 in the Mabo case. The decision recognised the Native Title rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the original inhabitants of the continent, and overturned the myth of terra nullius.	27 May - 3 June 2005
NAIDOC	To promote understanding and celebration of first Australians. Initiated in the 1920s and subsequently supported through the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC).	1st week of July annually 3- 10 July 2005
National Aborigine's Day	"	2nd Sunday in July annually.
Torres Strait Islander Day	Many Torres Strait Islanders commemorate the Coming of the Light Festival the week before NAIDOC on July 1. This day marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871. Religious and cultural ceremonies in the Torres Strait and on mainland Australia are held on this day.	1st Sunday in July annually
International Day of the World's Indigenous people	Marks the first meeting in 1992 of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. First celebrated in 1993.	9 August annually
International Human Rights Day	Proclaimed in 1950. Anniversary of the United Nations Assembly adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In December 2003, the Assembly urged all governments to promote the development of national strategies for human rights education and to establish and strengthen knowledge of human rights in their education policies	10 December annually

The Aboriginal Flag - Brunswick to Coburg to Moreland



Aunty Iris Lovett Gardiner, Alf Bamblett and former Brunswick Mayor, Andy Ingham raising the Aboriginal flag for the first time for any local government at Brunswick Town Hall.

Many local governments and other government and community agencies now follow the lead.

The Aboriginal Flag flies every day beside the Australian Flag at both Brunswick and Coburg Town Halls and is an important and valued sign of support, recognition, respect and security for the Aboriginal community, Moreland citizens and visitors.

The Aboriginal flag was flown from the Brunswick Town Hall from 2-8 September 1991 in support of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week.

The Aboriginal flag was flown from Brunswick Town Hall on Wed 27 May 1992 to mark 25 years of Aboriginal Citizenship since the Referendum of 1967.

On 2 Feb 1993 Brunswick Council unanimously resolved to fly the Aboriginal flag in municipal buildings for the duration of International Year of the World's Indigenous People in 1993 as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. The Assembly proclaimed 1994-2004 as the 1st International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

In 1997, following the amalgamation of Brunswick and Coburg City Councils to form Moreland City Council, a second flagpole was installed at Coburg Town Hall to fly the Aboriginal Flag there every day alongside the Australian Flag.

2005-2016 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the 2nd International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.