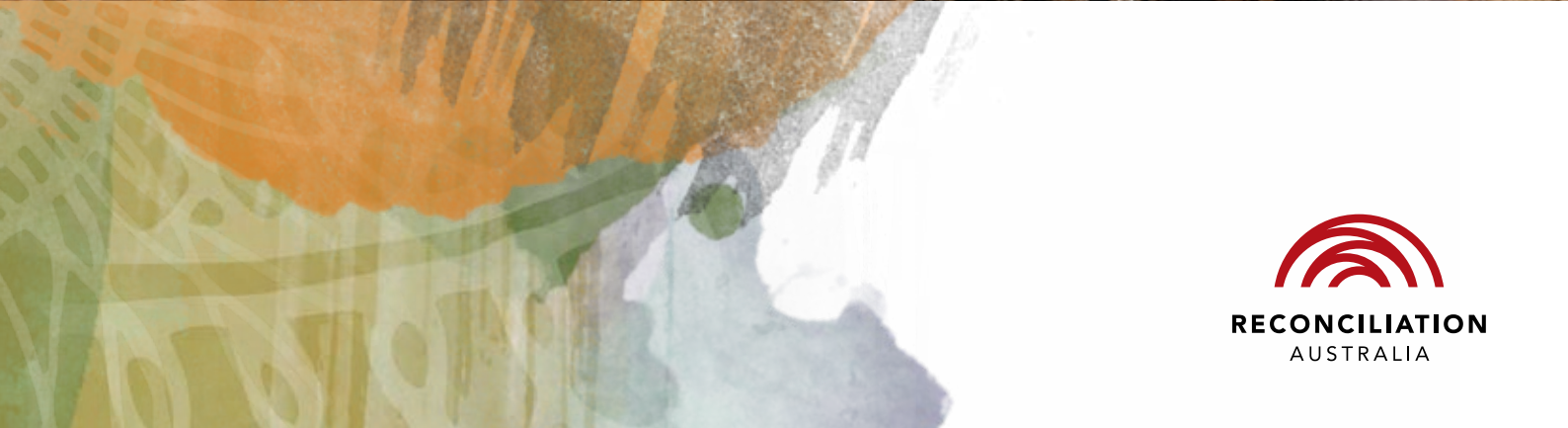


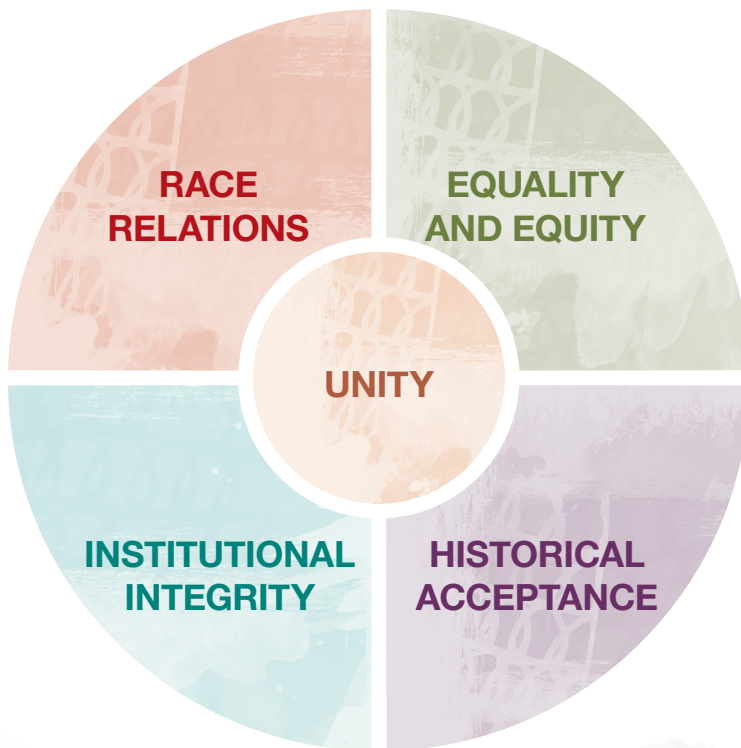
2022 AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER



RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

In 2021 Reconciliation Australia marked 20 years as the national lead body for reconciliation in Australia. Our work promotes and facilitates reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We partner with business, government, education and community sectors to achieve our vision for a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.

FIVE DIMENSIONS OF RECONCILIATION



Race Relations

All Australians understand and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous cultures, rights and experiences, which results in stronger relationships based on trust and respect that are free of racism.

Equality and Equity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate equally in a range of life opportunities and the unique rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised and upheld.

Unity

An Australian society that values and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage as a proud part of a shared identity.

Institutional Integrity

The active support of reconciliation by the nation's political, business and community structures.

Historical Acceptance

All Australians understand and accept the wrongs of the past and their impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Australia makes amends for past policies and practices and ensures these wrongs are never repeated.

2022 AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER – SUMMARY REPORT

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer is a national research study, undertaken every two years by Reconciliation Australia since 2008. The research delves into the heart of our nation to identify the attitudes and perceptions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians hold about each other and about reconciliation, while measuring Australia's progress against the five dimensions of reconciliation.

Aligned with Reconciliation Australia's aspiration of moving the reconciliation movement from 'safe to brave', the 2022 Australian Reconciliation Barometer (ARB) identifies which areas are progressing, and where more effort is required for a more reconciled Australia.

Significant to the social context of Australia during the survey period (July to August 2022) were residual COVID-19 stressors, rising costs of living, as well as decreasing trust in national institutions. High-profile cases of racism and the Albanese Labor Government's commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart were objects of national conversation.

While it is not possible to know if these issues have influenced attitudes regarding reconciliation, the 2022 ARB shows us that Australians would like to see the nation step up on key issues.

As in previous years, almost all Australians are united in believing the relationship between each other is important.

Trust is at the core of relationships and reconciliation. Out of this survey we see that trust between First Nations people and other Australians remains steady, and mutual trust is required for meaningful reconciliation.

Nearly all Australians want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in their own affairs, which may explain the continued strong support for a constitutionally enshrined Voice and considerable growth in support for treaty.

The majority of the general community continues to accept key accounts of Australia's colonial history as factual, and believes it is important for all Australians to learn about past issues. An overwhelming majority of respondents believe it is important to undertake formal truth-telling processes in Australia.

Australians generally believe institutions should help to improve reconciliation, and when it comes to closing the gap in areas of disadvantage, the majority believes governments and the private sector must do more.

Despite these promising results, the 2022 ARB shows an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing racism.

While the 2022 ARB demonstrates sustained progress on reconciliation, it also sheds light and provides guidance on areas requiring greater focus – which all sectors of Australian society have a stake in understanding and acting on.

Survey Notes

The final First Nations base sample of 532 is associated with a margin of error of +/-4.2%. The final non-Indigenous base sample of 1990 was associated with a margin of error of +/-2.2%. Both samples are weighted to be representative of age group, gender and location (State and Territory populations), as per Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data.

A key change in 2022 has been the combination of non-Indigenous and First Nations samples to create the final general community sample. This was necessary to accommodate the new survey questions designed for non-Indigenous or First Nations respondents only.

The combined total base sample of 2522 is associated with a margin of error of +/-1.9%.

RACE RELATIONS

All Australians understand and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous cultures, rights and experiences, which results in stronger relationships that are based on trust and respect and are free from racism.



A family discuss racism in sports at the 2022 Long Walk at Federation Square in Melbourne, before the annual Dreamtime at the 'G Indigenous Round AFL match. Photo: Poppy Paraw, courtesy of Reconciliation Victoria.

Key findings: Relationships | Racism

Almost all Australians – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the general community – believe the relationship between each other is important. Feelings of trust are more likely to be present between different groups if they have previously socialised with each other. Experiences of racial prejudice have increased for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, even though racial discrimination from specific professional groups has declined.

Almost all Australians **think the relationship is important.**



93%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (95% in 2020) and **89%** of the general community (91% in 2020) **feel our relationship is important.**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced less racial discrimination in the last 12 months in interactions with professionals in public settings compared with 2020.

20% in interactions with **police** (30% in 2020)

18% in interactions with **local shop owners/staff** (24% in 2020)

18% in interactions with **real estate agents** (24% in 2020)

20% in interactions with **doctors, nurses and/or medical staff** (22% in 2020)

22% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel **the relationship with police is poor** (16% in 2020), compared **6%** of the general community (unchanged since 2020).



60% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced at least one form of **racial prejudice** in the past 6 months (52% in 2020, 43% in 2018).



57% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents agree that **Australia is a racist country** (60% in 2020), compared with **42%** of the general community (43% in 2020).



57%



42%

In the past year, **most non-Indigenous people have not socialised with First Nations Australians.**

17% of non-Indigenous people have **socialised with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**

57% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **have socialised with non-Indigenous people.**

Yet, it is social contact that helps build trust between non-Indigenous and **First Nations Australians, with people more likely to trust those they have interacted with during a social activity.**

63% of non-Indigenous people **trust Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people they have never interacted with.**

63% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **trust non-Indigenous people they have never interacted with.**

86% of non-Indigenous people **trust Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people they have interacted with.**

79% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **trust non-Indigenous people they have interacted with.**

EQUALITY AND EQUITY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate equally in a range of life opportunities, and the unique rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised and upheld.



First Nations finalists together in excellence at the 2022 Australian of the Year Awards. l-r: Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year Kaytlyn Johnson, Queensland Senior Australian of the Year Dr Colin Dillon AM and Northern Territory Australian of the Year Leanne Liddle.
Photo: Brad Hunter, Salty Dingo

Key findings: Self-determination | Socio-economic Conditions

Nearly all Australians want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in their own affairs. While many Australians believe governments must do more to close the gap in areas of disadvantage, they increasingly believe the private sector must do the same.

93% of all Australians believe **it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them.**

82% of the general community (83% in 2020)

88% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (89% in 2020)

believe it is important to **formally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures in the Constitution.**

80% of the general community (86% in 2020)

86% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (91% in 2020)

believe it is important to **establish a representative Indigenous Body.**

79% of the general community (81% in 2020)

87% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (88% in 2020)

believe it is important to **protect an Indigenous Body within the Constitution, so it can't be removed by any government.**

There has been significant increase in support for a treaty.

72% of the general community support a treaty (53% in 2020, 47% in 2018)

86% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people support a treaty (69% in 2020, 64% in 2018)

Most Australians believe **the private sector should do more to close the gap in areas of disadvantage.**

Health



51% general community (47% in 2020)

66% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (62% in 2020)

Education



53% general community (51% in 2020)

64% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (62% in 2020)

Justice



45% general community (43% in 2020)

67% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (57% in 2020)

Employment



53% general community (unchanged since 2020)

62% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (unchanged since 2020)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the general community continue to believe **government departments should do more to close the gap in areas of disadvantage.**

Health



63% general community (60% in 2020)

77% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (73% in 2020)

Education



61% general community (60% in 2020)

74% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (72% in 2020)

Justice



61% general community (62% in 2020)

74% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (71% in 2020)

Employment

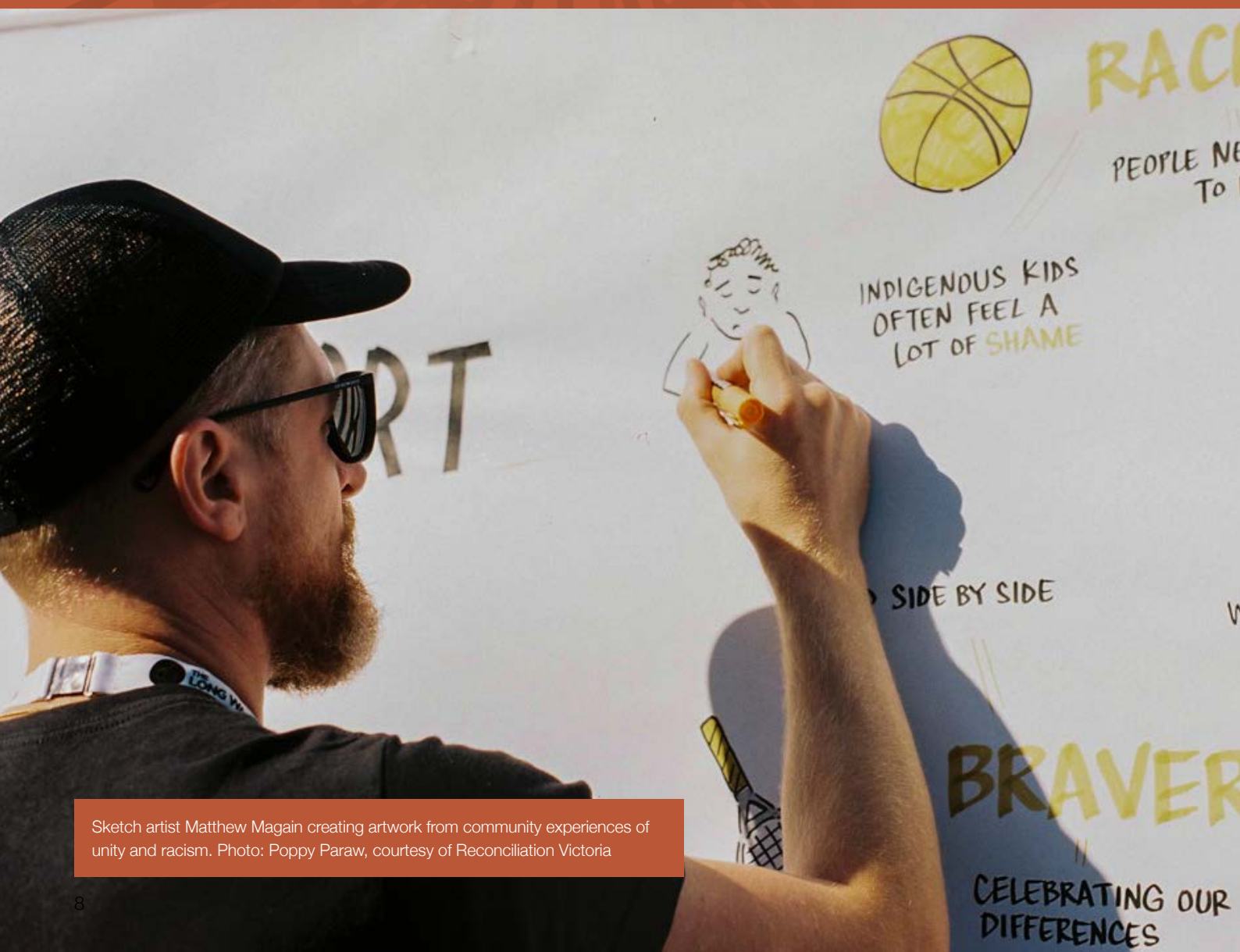


58% general community (57% in 2020)

68% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (64% in 2020)

UNITY

An Australian society that values and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage as a proud part of a shared national identity.



Sketch artist Matthew Magain creating artwork from community experiences of unity and racism. Photo: Poppy Paraw, courtesy of Reconciliation Victoria

Key findings: Culture | Pride | National Identity

A majority of Australians are proud of First Nations cultures and there is certainty that Australia is better when it is multicultural. Australians knowing what they can do to help reconciliation is steady, but the motivation to contribute to reconciliation has dropped.

A majority of Australians believe that **Australia is better off with many cultural groups.**



62%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (68% in 2020)

72%

people in the general community (70% in 2020)

A majority of the general community continues **to feel proud of First Nations cultures** but less so than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves.

83%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (78% in 2020)

58%

people in the general community (64% in 2020)

The majority of Australians believe it is important to **know about the histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.**

84%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (94% in 2020)

84%

people in the general community (87% in 2020)



The majority of Australians believe it is important to **know about First Nations cultures.**

83%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (85% in 2020)

85%

people in the general community (92% in 2020)

Most Australians continue to want to do something to **help improve reconciliation.**

66%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (78% in 2020)

53%

people in the general community (61% in 2020)

And the number of us who **know what we can do** to help remains steady.

54%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (56% in 2020)

30%

people in the general community (32% in 2020)

National unity and identity

Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe a range of things could become **shared icons that celebrate a national unity and identity** in Australia.

Official Anzac Day ceremonies to honour First Nations and non-Indigenous soldiers.

81% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

80% people in the general community

NAIDOC Week

84% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

72% people in the general community

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians of the Lands at Australian Citizenship ceremonies.

83% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

72% people in the general community

Establishing a national day of significance that celebrates First Nations histories and cultures.

82% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

70% people in the general community

INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

The active support of reconciliation by the nation's political, business and community structures.



Strength in governance. The South Australian West Coast Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations Network at work in Port Lincoln, South Australia.
Photo: Robert Lang

Key findings: Institutional Racism | Cultural Safety | Media

There is strong sentiment that institutions should work to improve reconciliation. Scepticism over media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has decreased.

First Nations people and the general community similarly believe **institutions should help to improve reconciliation.**

Federal Government



72%

people in the general community (73% in 2020)

74%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (85% in 2020)

First Nations Organisations



74%

people in the general community (76% in 2020)

73%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (81% in 2020)

Community Sector Organisations



70%

people in the general community (70% in 2020)

75%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (78% in 2020)

Educational Institutions



72%

people in the general community (72% in 2020)

76%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (84% in 2020)

First Nations people continue to feel more strongly than the general community that **businesses should do more.**

Businesses



58%

people in the general community (60% in 2020)

69%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (77% in 2020)

Most Australians believe it is important that **First Nations histories are a compulsory part of the school curriculum.**

81%

people in the general community (83% in 2020)

89%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (91% in 2020)

Attitudes towards media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have changed since 2020.



A third of Australians believe media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is **usually negative.**

33%

people in the general community (44% in 2020)

33%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (46% in 2020)

Less than half of Australians believe media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is **balanced.**

49%

people in the general community (44% in 2020)

48%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (35% in 2020)

HISTORICAL ACCEPTANCE

All Australians understand and accept the wrongs of the past and their impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Australia makes amends for past policies and practices ensures these wrongs are never repeated.



IN MEMORY OF THE WIRRAYARAAY PEOPLE WHO WERE MURDERED ON THE SLOPES OF THIS RIDGE IN AN UNPROVOKED BUT PREMEDITATED ACT IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF 10 JUNE, 1838

ERECTED ON 10 JUNE 2000 BY A GROUP OF ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS IN AN ACT OF RECONCILIATION, AND IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRUTH OF OUR SHARED HISTORY.

WE REMEMBER THEM
NGIYANI WINANGAY GANUNGA.

The Myall Creek memorial site, which opened in June 2000, commemorates the massacre of unarmed Wirrayaraay people by white colonists near Myall Creek Station in 1838. Photo: David Hancock/Alamy

Key findings: Truth-telling | Learning | Understanding History

Most Australians believe it is important for everyone to learn about past issues of European colonisation in Australia. The belief that formal truth-telling processes should be undertaken in Australia has remained steady, while the general community continues to consider key accounts of Australia's colonial past as factual.



Australians in the **general community** continue to believe key accounts of Australia's colonial past and injustices as factual.

63% believe **Frontier Wars occurred across the Australian continent** as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people defended their Traditional Lands from European invasion (64% in 2020).

80% believe it is true that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people did not have full voting rights through Australia until the 1960s (80% in 2020).

79% believe it is true that **government policy enabled First Nations children to be removed from their families** without permissions until the 1970s (81% in 2020).

76% believe it is true that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were **subject to mass killings, incarceration, forced removal from land and restricted movement throughout the 1800s** (unchanged since 2020).



Most Australians want Australia's shared history to be faced through truth-telling.

83% of the general community (89% in 2020) and 87% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (93% in 2020) believe it is **important to undertake formal truth-telling processes** to acknowledge the reality of Australia's shared history.

43% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have participated in a local truth-telling activity, compared with only 6% general community.

38% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (35% in 2020) believe **the wrongs of the past must be rectified** before we can move on with reconciliation, compared with 27% of the general community (29% in 2020).

86% of general community (90% in 2020) feel it is **important for all Australians to learn about past issues of European colonisation and government policies for First Nations Australians**, compared with 89% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (93% in 2020).

What must we do as a nation?

The results of the 2022 Australian Reconciliation Barometer have reaffirmed almost universal support for the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians as being important. Support for Voice, Treaty and Truth remains high.

Australians want government and the private sector to do more to close the gaps in disadvantage, and while there has been an improvement in interactions with various professions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences of racial prejudice have increased in the last two years.

Our 2021 State of Reconciliation in Australia report set out the need to move from 'safe to brave' in how we approach reconciliation, and to take on the substantive change needed to drive reconciliation forward.

There have been some welcome developments during the period since the last ARB. The new Federal Government has committed to the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart including holding a referendum on a Voice to Parliament next year.

However, the Barometer shows that there is much more to do if we are to chart a path towards a reconciled nation. The following proposed actions would propel us towards that goal.

Race Relations

In 2022, almost all Australians – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and general community members – believe the relationship with each other is important.

Yet more effort is needed to curb racism as experiences of racial prejudice have continued to increase for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the past six months, sixty percent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have experienced at least one form of racial prejudice. They are also much more likely to feel the relationship with police is poor (22%), compared with 6% in the general community.

Key actions – addressing racism:

- Governments, NGOs, business sector, educators, health professionals, police, other justice authorities, civil society, and the community, should support and promote the implementation of the National Anti-Racism Framework.

Equality and Equity

Nearly all Australians want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in their own affairs, and support remains high for the implementation of Voice, Treaty and Truth.

This support has continued over consecutive Australian Reconciliation Barometers and provides a strong foundation from which to build momentum towards delivering on these calls, including by a referendum on a Voice to Parliament.

Most Australians also believe governments and the private sector must do more to close the gap in areas of disadvantage including health, justice, employment and education. These findings provide a strong impetus to drive these reforms forward in partnership with First Peoples.

Key actions – social and economic gaps, voice:

- The calls in the Uluru Statement should be progressed in partnership with First Peoples, including by holding a referendum on a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament in this term of parliament.
- Governments should continue to work with First Nations organisations to appropriately fund, implement, and meet the targets and outcomes under the Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- The corporate sector and civil society should support progress on Voice, Treaty, Truth, and educate their workforce as to why they are important, and how they can support them.
- The corporate sector and civil society should consider how they can contribute to closing the disadvantage gaps guided by the Priority Reform Areas for Joint National Action in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Unity

Australians continue to want to do something to help improve reconciliation, and the number of people who know how to help remains steady. Most Australians are keen to embrace meaningful activities and movements that can become shared celebrations of national unity and identity.

Australians agree that we are better off with many cultural groups, and most Australians continue to feel proud of First Nations cultures. Most Australians consider it important for everyone to learn about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Key actions – celebrating and supporting:

- Governments, corporate, education and media institutions should value First Peoples cultures and ways of doing in governing, education curricula, business practices, and media representation.
- Governments, corporate, education and media institutions should support initiatives that celebrate, promote and enhance public education about First Peoples histories, cultures, and achievements.
- Governments should engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader community to identify a national day of significance, other than 26 January, that celebrates First Nations histories and cultures.

Institutional Integrity

Building institutional respect and recognition of First Nations cultures is critical to progressing reconciliation. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right to practice their culture and enjoy a life free from racial discrimination.

Most Australians believe institutions should help to improve reconciliation; and experiences of institutional racial prejudice have reduced across key areas.

There has been improvement in how all Australians feel the media portrays First Nations people, and most Australians believe it is important that First Nations histories and cultures are a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

Key actions – protecting rights:

- Governments and private sector organisations must honour the commitments enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to incorporate its aims into policy and legislation, that impact First Peoples. This should include the right to self-determination, the right to participate in decision making in matters that affect their rights, and free, prior and informed consent.

Historical Acceptance

Most Australians believe truth-telling processes should be undertaken in Australia, and most in the general community continue to believe key accounts of Australia's colonial past and injustices as factual.

Truth-telling processes offer the opportunity to understand and accept the wrongs of the past and the impacts of these wrongs. They are one of several opportunities that provide a means through which Australia can make amends for these wrongs and ensure they are never repeated.

Key actions – supporting truth-telling:

- Governments, educational institutions, corporate and civil society organisations should support truth-telling in their own organisations and in local communities to build national understanding of our shared past, and build a culture and movement of truth-telling
- Governments and private sector organisations should build greater public recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in the public domain including through memorialisation, plaques, renaming places, and sharing and restoring. This includes strengthening the national curriculum to ensure it better encompasses Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.



RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA

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Reconciliation Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of Country and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

