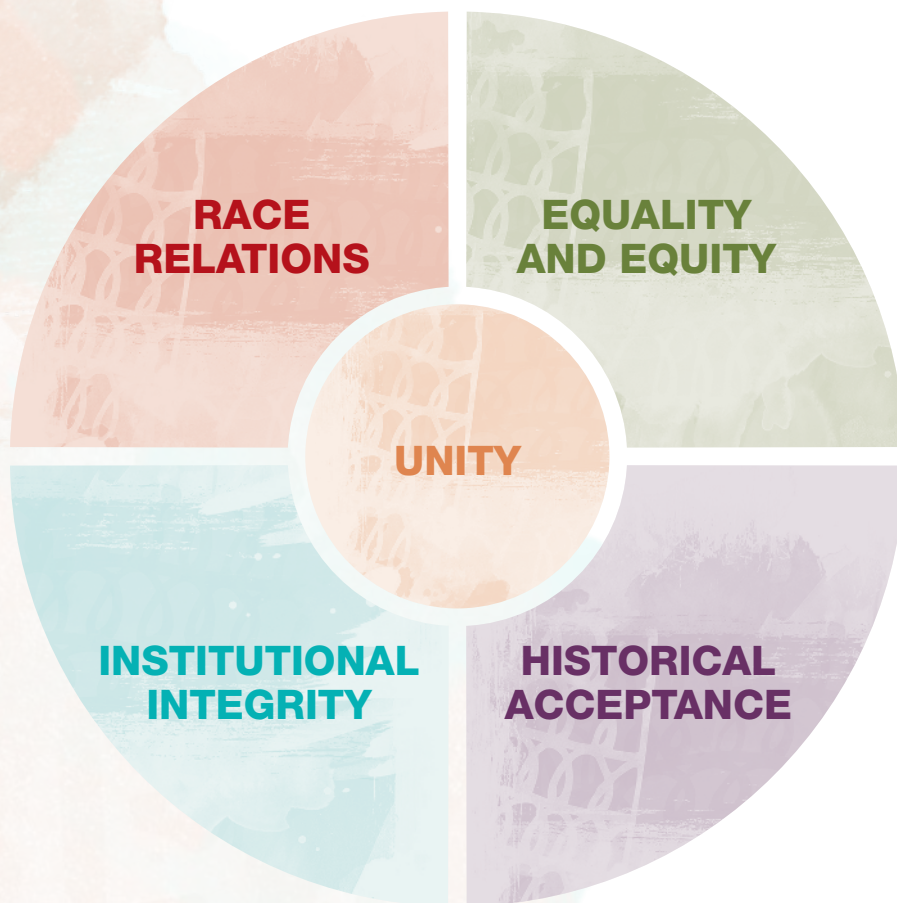


2018 AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER



RECONCILIATION
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 and 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 the impact of these wrongs. Australia makes amends for the wrongs of the past and ensures these wrongs are never repeated.

2018 AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER – SUMMARY REPORT

In February 2016, Reconciliation Australia released its landmark report: The State of Reconciliation in Australia. The report offers Australia a strong vision and shared language from which to imagine a reconciled nation in the future, across five interrelated dimensions of reconciliation: Race Relations, Equality and Equity, Unity, Institutional Integrity and Historical Acceptance.

Reconciliation Australia

Reconciliation Australia is the national lead organisation for reconciliation in Australia. We partner with the business, government, education and community sectors to achieve our vision for a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer (the Barometer) is one of the tools to assist us to understand how the nation is performing on its journey towards reconciliation.

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer

The Barometer is a biennial, national research study which has been undertaken by Reconciliation Australia since 2008.

With a decade of data behind us capturing trends, the research delves into the heart of our nation to identify the attitudes and perceptions Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians hold about each other and about reconciliation, while mapping the nation's progress towards the five dimensions of reconciliation.

2018 Australian Reconciliation Barometer

The 2018 Barometer has surveyed a national sample of 497 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and 1995 Australians in the general community across all states and territories. Both the general community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander samples are weighted to be representative in terms of age, gender and location (state and territory populations), as per Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census data.

The Barometer shows us that, since 2016, more Australians, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians, believe it is possible for us to become united.

It also shows that most Australians, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians, accept key facts about historical realities and Australia's past institutional prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Barometer has found that knowledge of Indigenous histories and cultures in the general community correlates with a stronger agreement that past race-based policies and Australia's colonial legacy are causes of Indigenous disadvantage.

Most people surveyed also agree that past government policies are responsible for many forms of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

An overwhelming majority of respondents believe it is important to undertake formal truth telling processes in Australia.

While it is generally believed that racial and cultural differences are the biggest causes of social divisions in Australia, it is encouraging to note that most of us believe that Australia is better off having many cultural groups.

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.



Key findings

Almost all Australians – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Australians in the general community – believe the relationship between each other is important. Yet too often this goodwill is not reflected in behaviours.

Almost all Australians, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, think the relationship is important.



94%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and **90% of Australians in the general community feel our relationship is important.**

70%

Australians in the general community believe that Australia is better off with many cultural groups (66% in 2016).

There are gaps in the trust that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people have for each other.



46% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe they have high trust towards Australians in the general community (also 46% in 2016), compared with **40% who think Australians in the general community have high trust for them.**

27% Australians in the general community believe they have high trust towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared with **21% who think Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have high trust for them** (19% in 2016).

Racism, both perceived and experienced, has decreased slightly.



33% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **have experienced** at least one form of **verbal racial abuse** in the last 6 months (37% in 2016).



51%



38%

51% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe that **Australia is a racist country** (57% in 2016), compared with **38% of the general community** (39% in 2016).

38% Australians in the general community consider **racial and cultural differences as the biggest cause of social divisions in Australia** (37% in 2016), compared with **49% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** (39% in 2016).

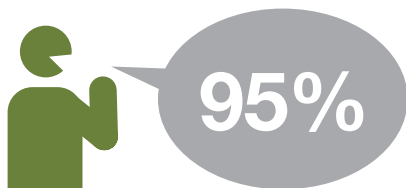
EQUALITY AND EQUITY

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.



Key findings

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to feel barriers to accessing cultural and material rights. A majority of Australians in the general community, and a majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, believe governments must do more to address disadvantage.



Australians in the general community agree **it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in matters that affect them**, compared with **94%** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Living Conditions

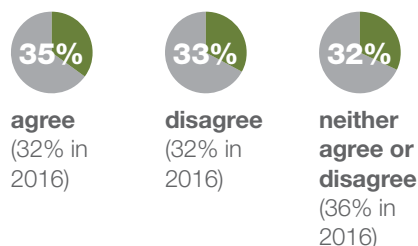


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consider their living conditions to be worse compared with the majority of people in Australia.

17% Australians in the general community feel their own living conditions are worse compared with the majority of people in Australia.

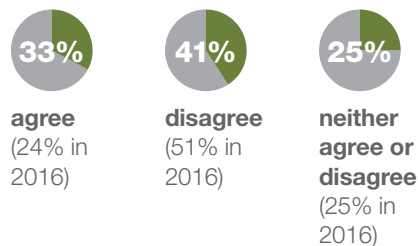
In Australia there are varying perceptions and attitudes towards **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being responsible for their own disadvantage**.

In the general Australian community



that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **are responsible for their own disadvantage**.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people



that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **are responsible for their own disadvantage**.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and Australians in the general community, believe **more must be done by government departments to close the gap in areas of disadvantage**.

Health



Justice



Education



Employment



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.



Key findings

There continues to be pride for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia. The belief by Australians in the general community that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are important to Australia's national identity has remained steady. This belief has slightly decreased among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The desire to help Australia become a more reconciled nation has remained steady.

Pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures is increasing amongst Australians.



86%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in **2018** (90% in 2016).

agree they are proud of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



62%

Australians in the general community in **2018** (60% in 2016).



87%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in **2018** (93% in 2016).

agree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are important to Australia's national identity.



79%

Australians in the general community in **2018** (77% in 2016).

More Australians would like to do something to help improve reconciliation.



73%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (70% in 2016), but only **44% know what they can do to help.**

54%

Australians in the general community (53% in 2016), but only **29% know what they can do to help.**

More Australians believe that it is possible to become united.



74%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **agree** (66% in 2016).

72%

Australians in the general community **agree** (68% in 2016).

INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

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



Key findings

Experiences of racial prejudice in workplaces and other settings have remained steady. However, there has been an increase in experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feeling they cannot be true to their cultures or personal beliefs in certain settings.

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel they **cannot be true to their cultures or personal beliefs** in a number of different settings.

19% 

in interactions with **government departments** (13% in 2016).



25%

in interactions with **Police and Courts** (16% in 2016).



19%

at **work** (10% in 2016).

The percentage of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** who have **experienced racial prejudice in the past 12 months** has slightly reduced across many different settings. A notable improvement has occurred in interactions with police.



18%

in interactions with **local shop owners/staff** (20% in 2016).



16%

in interactions with **police** (29% in 2016).



14%

in interactions with **doctors, nurses, and/or medical staff** (15% in 2016).



40%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe **media portrayal** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is **balanced** vs **47%** *Australians in the general community.*

50%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe **media portrayal** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is **usually negative** vs **42%** *Australians in the general community.*

HISTORICAL ACCEPTANCE

All Australians understand and accept the wrongs of the past and the impact of these wrongs. Australia makes amends for the wrongs of the past and ensures these wrongs are never repeated.



Key findings

More Australians accept key facts about Australia's past prejudices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Most people think it is important to learn about the past and believe formal truth telling processes should be undertaken in Australia.

More Australians in the general community now accept key facts about Australia's past.



70% accept that government policy enabled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be **removed from their families without permissions until the 1970s** (68% in 2016).

71% accept Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **did not have full voting rights through Australia until the 1960s** (67% in 2016).

69% accept Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **were subject to mass killings, incarceration, forced removal from land and restricted movement** throughout the 1800s (64% in 2016).

86% Australians in the general community (87% in 2016) believe it is **important to learn about past issues**, compared with **91%** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (96% in 2016).

Recognition of the need to rectify past wrongs before all Australians can move forward has remained the same in the general Australian community, but has decreased among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



40%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (44% in 2016) feel that **the wrongs of the past must be rectified** before all Australians can move on, compared with **28%** of Australians in the general community (28% in 2016).

91%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and **80%** of Australians in the general community believe it is **important to undertake formal truth telling processes** in relation to Australia's shared history.

What must we do as a nation?

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer provides some evidence that we are making progress towards achieving a just, equitable and reconciled Australia. However, we still have much to do as a nation, across all sectors of society and as individuals, if reconciliation is to be realised. It is imperative that we:

Develop a deeper reconciliation process for Australia through truth, justice and healing

Truth, justice and healing requires a deeper understanding of the complexity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture pre-colonisation in order to appreciate what was disrupted or lost. All Australians need to understand a fuller account of our shared history and its impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society post-colonisation, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's contribution to the nation.

To do this, truth telling about this history should be supported, including consideration of a national healing centre, formal hearings to capture stories and bear witness, reform to the school curriculum, and exploration of archives and other records to map massacre sites and understand the magnitude of the many past wrongs. This should be underpinned by initiatives to build greater public recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture such as memorialisation, plaques, renaming places, and sharing and re-storying, including through the arts, establishment of museums, local community memorials and monuments. A national effort across these areas should involve collaborating to re-story, reconcile and heal, including through local reconciliation committees, advocacy, and partnerships across the Australian community.

To learn more about truth telling read the joint Reconciliation Australia and The Healing Foundation truth telling symposium report:

> reconciliation.org.au/truthtellingreport

Support addressing unresolved issues of national reconciliation

We must address the calls made in the Uluru Statement from the Heart in relation to progressing Agreement Making/Treaties, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative Voice to Parliament, and truth telling.

Reconciliation Australia knows that stronger relationships built on trust, shared knowledge and respect are essential to creating a more prosperous and reconciled nation for all Australians. A restatement of the commitment of Federal Parliament to constitutional recognition should be supported, as well as legislation setting out the timeframe and process for advancing the issues proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We must provide support for the national representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples – and these efforts must be underpinned by the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly the right to self-determination.

Find out more about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

> reconciliation.org.au/statementfromtheheart

> reconciliation.org.au/UNDRIP

Support closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage

A recommitment to the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Closing the Gap framework is required that involves renewing and increasing investments and national, state/territory and regional agreements to meet expanded Closing the Gap targets that are co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Formal structures for engagement, partnership and co-design of Closing the Gap policy and programs must be developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To find out more about the Close the Gap Campaign for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality and to take action, visit:

> antar.org.au/closethegap

Invest in and support anti-racism campaigns and resources

Greater community education and awareness raising on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history is required and initiatives pursued to eliminate racism from our health and education systems, and ensure that experiences of individual and systemic racism faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recognised, measured and addressed within COAG's Closing the Gap Strategy. We must maintain strong legislative protections against racial discrimination and take leadership to promote a zero tolerance approach to racism and discrimination.

Many people want to stand against racism but aren't sure how. To find out what you can do, visit:

> itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/respond-racism

Support work across the breadth of reconciliation issues

This should include supporting progress on the five dimensions of reconciliation articulated by Reconciliation Australia in the 2016 State of Reconciliation Report. The ongoing role of Reconciliation Australia in leading the national reconciliation process should be supported. Recognition and support for the role of corporate, community and government organisations in the nation's formal reconciliation process, including through Reconciliation Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan, Narragunnawali, and Indigenous Governance programs, should be articulated.

To read the full report and find out more about Reconciliation Australia:

> reconciliation.org.au/what-is-reconciliation



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.