



CULTURAL COUNCIL OF FIRST PEOPLES

Expression of Interest - Information for Applicants

Applications close: Sunday 19 May 2019, 11.59pm

Expressions of interest are sought from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in Victoria to join the newly established Cultural Council of First Peoples for Reconciliation Victoria. This document contains information about the purpose, role and commitment required from members of the Cultural Council, as well as how to express your interest in joining.

1. About Reconciliation Victoria

Reconciliation Victoria is the statewide body promoting reconciliation across Victoria. This means that we promote deeper understanding, respect and justice for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our work focuses primarily on the 97% of Victorians who are not Aboriginal, as it is non-Aboriginal people who need to take responsibility for driving reconciliation. This work is guided by local Aboriginal voices.

We work closely with - and facilitate connections between - local reconciliation groups and other community groups, the education sector, and state and local government partners. We organise the annual HART Awards and statewide reconciliation forums, and continue to support local and statewide conversations with non-Aboriginal communities as momentum builds for Treaty/ies (Treaty Engagement Project). We also promote National Reconciliation Week activities across Victoria.

Please read about Reconciliation Victoria's work on our website and check out our Facebook and Twitter page (if you're into that).

2. Purpose of the Council

Reconciliation Victoria has commenced a 'new era' of engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Victoria and is making some significant changes to the way we work. A key change is the creation of a formal structure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to guide our work, better reflecting the diversity of views and our commitment to self-determination under our guiding principles.

The 'Cultural Council of First Peoples' will provide cultural knowledge, advice and guidance to Reconciliation Victoria Board and CEO.

The Cultural Council of First Peoples will be made up of a small group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who reflect the diversity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria. We are looking for people with a demonstrated commitment to supporting the rights and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and an understanding of issues impacting the Victorian Community.



3. Role of the Council

The Cultural Council of First Peoples will provide cultural knowledge, advice and guidance to Reconciliation Victoria Board and CEO. The purpose of the Council is to:

- Guide Reconciliation Victoria's engagement with the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community
- Enhance the scope of cultural knowledge of Reconciliation Victoria
- Guide Reconciliation Victoria to think deeply and differently to process options
- Provide advice and guidance to Reconciliation Victoria in strategic work areas including, Education (schools and early learning), Local Government, Treaty Advancement (Treaty Engagement Project)

4. Meetings and Timeline

The Council will meet twice a year, with the possibility of organising additional meetings as required. Meetings will be held in Melbourne or in Regional Victoria. Should a change in meeting location or time be required, reasonable notice will be given by Reconciliation Victoria.

Given there are only two meetings a year, it is important for members to attend all meetings. Reconciliation Victoria understands there will be exceptional circumstances. If this is the case, Council members unable to attend a scheduled meeting are required to notify Reconciliation Victoria prior to the meeting taking place (48hrs in advance).

Scheduled 2019 Meeting Dates (based in metro Melbourne):

- Thursday, 20th June 2019 from 10:30am – 3:30pm
- Saturday, 26th October 2019 from 9:45am – 12:30pm

This Group will remain in place until 30 June 2020 (unless otherwise notified)

5. Protocols

General meeting protocols for the operation of the Council are as follows:

- Every member has the right to be heard
- Members will accept that fellow members may hold different views and they may need to agree to disagree on some matters
- Each member agrees to show respect for every other member in the forum
- Council members should seek to attend for the full meeting (where possible), and participate constructively in discussions
- Council members will not make public statements about the Council or Reconciliation Victoria without seeking prior endorsement from Reconciliation Victoria
- Council discussions are confidential unless specific authorisation is given by Reconciliation Victoria to communicate discussions to others/publicly

6. Sitting Fees - Payment to Council Members



- Reconciliation Victoria takes into account the multiple responsibilities Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to their cultural obligations, both in their work roles and wider community responsibilities,
- Council members will be entitled to receive a sitting fee and reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred when attending meetings. Detailed information and procedures will be provided to successful applicants.

7. Expression of interest to join the Cultural Council

We are seeking nominations to the Council. You can nominate yourself by completing the online form (link below and on our website). * We will select a group of 9 – 11 people to sit on the Council.

You don't have to have any particular qualifications to nominate for Council. We are looking for a group of people that represent the diversity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria.

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person living in Victoria, you are welcome to express interest. We encourage EOIs from young people, people from the LGBTIQ+ community and people with disabilities.

**If you prefer to complete a paper form, please contact info@reconciliationvic.org.au*

Selection Criteria

Reconciliation Victoria are seeking expressions of interest from community members who meet the following criteria:

- Strong connections to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria
- Demonstrated commitment to supporting the rights and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and an understanding of issues impacting upon the Victorian community
- Involvement in Victorian, and/or national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, advocacy and/or network groups

To apply, please complete [this online form](#).

What Happens Next?

Reconciliation Victoria may contact you with questions about your expression of interest. All applicants will be notified of outcomes by Friday 31 May 2019.

If you have any questions, please email info@reconciliationvic.org.au or call the office at 03 9016 0657.