

# **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION**



**Community Legal Centres Association  
(WA) INC.**

The Community Legal Centres Association (WA) decided to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation through the development of a formal statement which identifies the key actions under each of the following headings:

- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Respect
- ❖ Opportunities

These actions build on our existing commitments, including acknowledgement of traditional owners, participation in cultural celebrations such as NAIDOC and Sorry Day, membership of Reconciliation WA and support for Recognise WA.

The STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION includes an explanation and identifies the additional actions we intend to implement under the same three headings as was used in our original Reconciliation Action Plan.

## RELATIONSHIPS

CLCA (WA) actively encourages strong relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples/histories/cultures and other Australians so that service delivery decisions are made within an inclusive and informed environment. CLCA (WA) recognises the strength that comes from working collaboratively and in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations as documented in our Strategic Plan.

Additional actions to be implemented:

- Build on existing relationships with Aboriginal legal and community sector organisations to continually improve our work and the work of the sector more broadly;
- Model culturally safe and appropriate work practices, services and workplaces;
- Support the unique role of specialist and community controlled legal service providers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- Be an advocate for reconciliation at the WA Peaks Forum.

## RESPECT

The CLCA (WA) seeks to build respect by open communication and mutual understanding. We respect the culture and knowledge of people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and hope to increase awareness and understanding in alignment with our value of respect as outlined in our Strategic Plan. Appropriate and respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities and people makes our working against disadvantage and for human rights and access to justice among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples more effective and relevant.

Additional actions to be implemented:

- Ensure that the activities of the Association are inclusive and consultative, particularly when addressing issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;

- Promote the implementation of the International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (IDRIP) by government and other agencies;
- Support and promote the Ochre Ribbon Campaign, a national awareness raising campaign to reduce family violence in Aboriginal communities and its devastating impacts on Aboriginal men, women and children;
- Encourage supplier diversity by developing and circulating a list that identifies local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, which CLCA (WA) and CLCs can use to procure goods and services.
- Encourage and support CLCs to improve service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples and communities by providing cultural awareness and engagement training for all staff and member CLCs;
- Facilitate the sharing of Aboriginal specific CLE materials, such as the SuperLaw series developed by AFLS, across the sector.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Capacity building opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, organisations and communities are vital for breaking cycles of disadvantage and reinforce a positive narrative of success. CLCA (WA) believes that the promotion of a sector culture that values skill sharing benefits the entire community and enables CLCs to better support a social justice agenda.

Additional actions to be implemented:

- Promotion of the Aboriginal Jobs Board to member CLCs seeking to recruit staff;
- Identify and promote law graduate and other opportunities within member CLCs in consultation with Aboriginal Legal Service WA and Legal Aid WA where possible;
- Forge relationships with the University Law Schools to encourage any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students to complete practical training within the CLC sector.

## REPORTING AND TIMELINES

The Executive Committee will lead our RAP journey and review this Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation on a regular basis.

Specific actions to be implemented:

- Ensure that Feedback and input is received from members providing Aboriginal specific services (Aboriginal Family Law Services, Albany Family Violence Prevention Legal Service and Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre);
- Explore the possibility of forming an Aboriginal Workers Network, involving Aboriginal staff from CLC members;
- Share progress, achievements and learning in implementing the Statement of Commitment on a regular basis with all member CLCs.

In 2011, the CLCA (WA) adopted a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The 2011-12 RAP is included on the Reconciliation Australia website, under Peak Bodies.

Since that time we have built on our reconciliation journey and we believe that we are an organisation that has developed relationships with Aboriginal stakeholders and were ready to move to the next level – an Innovate RAP. The Association has a small secretariat, all part-time employees, but has a strategic role in supporting reconciliation among our members and stakeholders. Faced with the dilemma of adopting wording which did not have significant meaning in our context to comply with the RAP requirements, the Association's Executive decided to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation through the development of this Statement of Commitment, which we launched at our Annual General Meeting in September, 2017.

The Association commissioned Danika Eades to produce a piece of art to complement the words in the Statement. Danika has titled her work **Moordidjabiny – "Becoming Stronger"**.



*This piece depicts the spirit of strength.*

*Each outer circle represents a story of Respect, Opportunity and Relationships. These attributes work together to strengthen the commitment to reconciliation through understanding and acknowledgement. As an outcome we are "Becoming Stronger".*