



Brimbank
City Council

Innovative Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 – Extended to December 2023

Community Report Card – 2 year period

The Innovative Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 (extended to December 2023) is Council's second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). It was developed in consultation with the Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee, Traditional Custodians, local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It builds on the strengths and achievements of our first Reconciliation Action Plan 2013-2017.

The RAP outlines priority actions around key three themes:
Relationships, Respect and Opportunities.

Key Achievements

Relationships

Council builds and maintains strong, meaningful and respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and network groups.

- ✓ Provided a range of “Be a Voice for Generations” themed activities for National Reconciliation Week 2023 that included:

Cary Street Pocket Park tree planting ceremony,

The Sunshine Club performed at the Bowery Theatre in St Albans and the

First Nations craft activities and story time sessions.

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

- ✓ Hosted the Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee providing Council with advice on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and supporting the ongoing implementation of the RAP.
- ✓ Hosted Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee Ask Aunty/Ask Uncle Q&A sessions for Council staff on issues such as Indigenous Literacy Day and Voice to Parliament.

- ✓ Developed Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee member’s biographies for Council’s website. The biographies give insight into the member’s commitments and achievements.
- ✓ Developed an Australia Day video in partnership with a local Aboriginal Elder to raise awareness of what January 26 means for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- ✓ Hosted annual network meetings between the Councillors and Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee members. An opportunity to interact and advocate on important community matters.
- ✓ Continued to work in partnership with local Aboriginal organisations such as Victoria University Moondani Balluk, Local Indigenous Network (LIN), Western Region Local Government Reconciliation network and Western Metro Aboriginal COVID- 19 Local Response Network.
- ✓ Commenced the development of the second Innovative Reconciliation Action Plan 2024 - 2025.

Key Achievements

Respect

Council demonstrates respect to the people and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as a commitment towards reconciliation.

- ✓ Continued to fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at the Brimbank Community and Civic Centre.
- ✓ Installed Acknowledgement of Country decal at the Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre.
- ✓ Developed media releases and social media posts to help the wider Brimbank community to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and contribute to achieving reconciliation in Brimbank.
- ✓ Ongoing acknowledgement of Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee members meeting outcomes and achievements at Council Meetings.
- ✓ Celebrated annual NAIDOC Flag raising events with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders in July. These were followed by community events such as the NAIDOC 2023, "For Our Elders" series honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture and the
 - Be Bold Blakout Art Exhibition.
 - Brimbank Youth services delivered Aboriginal Art Workshop facilitated by Wanyara.
 - Brimbank Libraries delivered Traditional Aboriginal Games session facilitated by Wanyara and wooden Indigenous animal paint sessions.



Mural project honouring the legendary lives of local Indigenous elders Aunty Joyce and Uncle Boots Cooper



NAIDOC flag raising

Key Achievements

Opportunities

Council advocates, in partnership with other relevant stakeholders, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal access to local opportunities.



Brimbank Council chamber mural

- ✓ Supported the community to officially open Coinda in August 2023.
- ✓ Continued to program and deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs at the St Albans Community Centre and Coinda Centre such as Koorie Homework support.
- ✓ Created employment opportunities for Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people within Council through the recruitment of a Brimbank Libraries Aboriginal Library Customer Services Officer and Leisure Centre staff.
- ✓ Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency delivered Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training sessions for Council staff. This training was a recommendation from the Council's staff Aboriginal Cultural Awareness survey.
- ✓ Respectfully consulted with Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Custodians on matters related to cultural heritage management.
- ✓ Engaged Victorian-based Aboriginal-run businesses listed on the Council's social procurement database available to Council Officers.
- ✓ Engaged Narrap ('Country') Team - the Wurundjeri natural resource land management organisation - as Council's contractor for conservation reserves in Brimbank.
- ✓ Continued to program and deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs at the St Albans Community Centre and Coinda Centre such as Koorie Homework support.
- ✓ Conducted an Aboriginal Feasibility Study on the viability of setting up an Aboriginal Community Centre in Brimbank. The Feasibility Study was submitted to State Government - Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to consider future support opportunities.
- ✓ Council resolved to support and pilot a culturally-safe and welcoming space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, providing a council location rent free in Sunshine North for an initial period of up to five years.
- ✓ As an auspice for the local Aboriginal community group, Council received two year neighbourhood house program coordination funding from DFFH to set up Coinda - the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hub at, 43 Furlong Road, Sunshine North.