

Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group (RAPCRG)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Reconciliation?

In the context of Reconciliation Action Plans, reconciliation means “growing positive, two-way relationships built on trust and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians throughout society. Creating a society that values and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage as a proud part of a shared national identity. The active support of reconciliation by the nation’s political, business and community structures.” (Reconciliation Australia, 2018).

What is a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)?

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a document that outlines how an organisation will realise their vision for reconciliation by creating practical actions built on relationships, respect and opportunity. It is reported that there are over 650 registered RAPs in Australia, and over 500 currently in development.

What is a Reflect RAP?

Reconciliation Australia’s RAP program has four consecutive levels (RISE) that progress through Reflect, Innovate, Stretch, and Elevate. The City will commence in stage one by developing a Reflect Level RAP. This has a focus on building respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a strong foundation for future reconciliation efforts.

Why is the City of Joondalup developing a RAP?

The intention of the RAP is to strengthen the City’s reconciliation commitments by encouraging relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, organisations, and the broader community. A RAP would help to embed respect, participation and opportunity to improve cultural and socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the whole community.

What is the purpose of the RAPCRG?

The purpose of the RAPCRG group is to meet, discuss and draft the development of a City of Joondalup RAP.

Why is a community reference group needed?

The RAPCRG will help guide the vision, strategies and actions contained within the RAP. The RAPCRG is important to contribute ideas, provide advice, share information and help oversee the development of the RAP. It will ensure the RAP is guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives.

Can the RAPCRG make decisions at its meetings?

The RAPCRG can discuss matters, exchange views and collectively guide the process or make recommendations. The RAPCRG cannot make decisions that commit the Council to spend money.

Who makes the final decision to approve the RAP?

The City will submit the draft RAP to Reconciliation Australia for their review and endorsement. Following that, Council will ultimately make the decision to approve the City of Joondalup Reconciliation Action Plan.

Who is Reconciliation Australia?

Reconciliation Australia is the peak body for reconciliation in Australia. They are an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes and facilitates reconciliation by providing an oversight role through advocacy, creating awareness and supporting organisations with information and templates to develop, maintain and implement meaningful RAPs. The purpose of Reconciliation Australia is to “inspire and enable all Australians to contribute to the reconciliation of the nation”.

How is the City communicating the Expression of Interest process to its residents?

Public advertising of the EOI process will be by way of advertising in the community newspapers, information on the City's website, social media and by invitation to individuals who have previously contacted the City directly with an interest in the development of a RAP.

I am an individual that wants to nominate for the group - how do I do this?

Read the Terms of Reference for the RAPCRG and if you have any questions, contact the City on the telephone number/email address provided below. Once you are satisfied that you can meet the criteria, complete and submit the Nomination Form before the closing date.

I want to nominate myself to represent the interest group I am a member of - how do I do this?

It is the same process as detailed above but with the added obligation of getting approval from the group you are a member of. The group will need to approve your nomination and please state this is the case on your Nomination Form.

What would be expected of me as a member of the RAPCRG?

If you have agreed to the Terms of Reference for the RAPCRG by checking the box, this document details the criteria on being a member. In summary, it is to attend scheduled meetings and engage in positive and respectful discussion on agenda items. Providing feedback to and from the community is also requested of the group members.

How often and what time will the meetings be?

The meetings will be approximately every two to three months, with the first meeting scheduled to commence before the end of 2019. The meetings will be during the working week, outside of normal business hours. Meeting times are yet to be decided but as a guide – 5.30pm and for up to 1.5 hours.

What if I become a member of the RAPCRG but cannot attend a scheduled meeting?

If you cannot attend a meeting for some reason, please let the City know as soon as possible. It is requested that every effort is made by the RAPCRG members to attend all scheduled meetings.

Where will the meetings be held?

The venue for meetings may vary, including the City's Civic Building at 102, Boas Avenue, Joondalup, one of the City's four libraries or a community facility. Prior notice will be given on the agenda.

Will I get paid?

Like all equivalent City Reference Groups, being a member is completely voluntary. There is no payment or reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

How long do we have to send in our Nomination Forms?

Expressions of Interest will be over a 30 day advertising period, closing **5.00pm Thursday 21 November 2019**.

What happens once the EOI process has closed?

Once the period for the receipt of completed nominations has closed, the details on the Nomination Forms will be assessed against the requirement of the RAPCRG Terms of Reference to have diverse community representation. A report with recommendations will be submitted to Council seeking endorsement of the RAPCRG members.

Successful nominees will be advised by the City within three weeks from Council's approved selection.

What if my nomination is unsuccessful?

The City will advise you if your nomination is unsuccessful. There will be other opportunities for you to contribute to the RAP as part of a full community consultation taking place in the future.

Who do I contact for more information?

For further information, please contact Community Development on **9400 4200** or via email on **info@joondalup.wa.gov.au**