

# 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.

### Why is the City of Joondalup developing a RAP?

The City is developing a RAP 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 will 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 stage of the Reconciliation Action Plan journey is the City of Joondalup at?

The Council appointed members to a RAPCRG in September 2020. Since this time the RAPCRG has met over the past two years to begin to draft a vision for the City RAP.

The group is currently in the drafting stage of the RAP development and is expecting to have the the RAP endorsed by Council by the end of 2023. Once the RAP has been approved by council, and Reconciliation Australia, the RAPCRG will switch its focus to overseeing the delivery of the RAP.

### What is the Term of Membership

The term of membership of the RAPCRG will be until the October 2023 Local Government elections.

The City is required to consider its committees and groups after each Local Government election to determine which committees and groups, including the RAPCRG, will be re-established. Sitting RAPCRG members will be given an opportunity to re-nominate which will be subject to Council approval.

### Why is the City recruiting RAPCRG members prior to the current membership term being up?

As a result of resignations received since the RAPCRG was first established in September 2020, there are six vacancies on the RAPCRG, four community vacancies and two organisational vacancies.

To ensure adequate community representation on the RAPCRG, and specifically from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, the City is seeking to fill these vacancies now.

### 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 West Australian, community newspapers, information on the City’s website and social media platforms.

### 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 overleaf. 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 or organisation 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 or organisation 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?

By nominating for membership on the RAPCRG you have agreed to Terms of Reference for the RAPCRG, you are expected to adhere to the Terms of Reference including but not limited to:

- Show willingness to continue positively at meetings
- Champion reconciliation efforts
- Liaise with extended networks and community groups to facilitate information sharing
- Comply with the City’s Code of Conduct
- Commit to the RAPCRG for the required term.

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

Members are expected to make reasonable efforts to attend scheduled meetings. If a member fails to attend three consecutive meetings their membership may be terminated unless a leave of absence has been granted.

### **What is the purpose of the RAPCRG?**

The RAPCRG will guide the development of the City's RAP and scope and reflect on how the City of Joondalup can contribute to reconciliation in a way that is meaningful, mutually beneficial and sustainable.

The RAPCRG exists solely to inform the development of the City's RAP and reconciliation efforts.

### **Can the RAPCRG make decisions at its meetings?**

The RAPCRG and its individual members do not have any delegated powers, the ability to expend City funds, the authority to represent the City of Joondalup, direct City staff or implement any action without the approval of the City.

### **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".

### **Where will the meetings be held?**

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

### **Will I get paid?**

No. Membership of the RAPCRG is a voluntary contribution made towards furthering reconciliation within the City of Joondalup. There is no payment or reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

### **How long do I have to send in our Nomination Forms?**

Expressions of Interest will be open for a 30-day advertising period, closing **Monday 10 April, 5.00pm**.

### **What happens once the EOI process has closed?**

Once the period to receive nominations has closed, the details on the Nomination Forms will be assessed against the requirements of the RAPCRG Terms of Reference and selection criteria set out in the nomination form. A report with recommendations will be submitted to Council seeking endorsement of the RAPCRG members. Successful nominees will be advised by the City shortly after Council's decision.

### **What if my nomination is unsuccessful?**

The City will advise you if your nomination is unsuccessful shortly after Council's decision.

### **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**