



In the spirit of RECONCILIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

declares its public commitment to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of Australia. We recognize our responsibility to provide civic leadership, and services which are accessible and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge the historical relationship between police and Aboriginal peoples in implementing Government policies, and we express our sincere apologies for any adverse impact on Aboriginal peoples. We agree to work in partnership with Aboriginal peoples to redress that historical legacy, to ensure that police services are just and safe. We believe that to make reconciliation a living reality, requires constant effort, commitment, and shared understanding.

DECLARATION

SAPOL declares that it will:

PROVIDE the necessary leadership, training and moral climate to eliminate racism in the workplace and in the delivery of services

SEEK to develop enhanced, lasting partnerships based on shared understanding and mutual respect through improved communication which gives courage to talk about difficult issues

WORK with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and provide ongoing feedback as a means of ensuring that the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are reflected in the organisation's policies, human resource and service delivery planning

DEVELOP strategies, projects and programs to improve the safety and security of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the community, and which contribute towards efforts to reduce involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in crime and violence

SUPPORT maintain and review the effectiveness of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

PROMOTE an organisational culture which supports increased employment, retention and career development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as either police officers or public sector employees

INCREASE police workforce knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' heritage and contemporary culture through ongoing cultural training at all levels

OBSERVE protocols and liaise with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples elders or representatives to include appropriate Indigenous ceremony into official events, and celebrate important and significant Indigenous events together

REVIEW and monitor progress towards reconciliation in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

We support the vision of the Former Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. A united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all.

(Malcolm A Hyde)
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

July 2004