



Australia Country Program: Indigenous Governance

Our aim is to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations in their drive towards more effective governance and self-determination.

In 2016, Australia celebrated 25 years of a formal reconciliation process. To mark the occasion, Reconciliation Australia identified five dimensions of reconciliation to define the process in this country and to measure progress. Fundamental to the idea of reconciliation is the ability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples making and implementing decisions about their communities, lives and futures. Effective Indigenous Governance is the pathway to this.

Our vision

Indigenous Australians have an existence that extends as far back as 60,000 years, with a depth of connection to country and culture built across countless generations. Despite this, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples often face poorer life outcomes than non-Indigenous people, including in life expectancy, health, education, and employment. Additionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are more likely to experience racism and to suffer from the negative effects of both personal and institutionalised racism.

Inherent in the reconciliation dimensions of equality, equity and unity is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to self-determination.

Self-determination is ultimately about two simple things: choice and voice.

Improving outcomes requires Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities being empowered to make informed **choices** about their own futures and having a greater **voice** in decisions affecting them.

Within Australia and across the globe, experience and research tells us that Indigenous peoples' ability to be self-determining through exercising choice and voice is the only long-term sustainable solution to addressing issues of disadvantage. This is a foundation stone for reconciliation in Australia.

Commencing in 2017, our five-year vision is to contribute to:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities having greater capacity to realise self-determination as a means to create a just, equitable and reconciled Australia;
- fostering a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions across Australia; and
- establishing a strength-based policy framework based on choice and voice through building and disseminating best practice tools, research and training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, governments, business and the not-for-profit sector.



RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN
**Indigenous
Governance**
INSTITUTE

Our projects

Our Indigenous Governance projects contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



Reconciliation Australia Indigenous Governance

The Reconciliation Australia Indigenous Governance Program aims to progress reconciliation through recognising, supporting and celebrating strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and self-determination.

The program will:

- build the capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to create better outcomes for the communities they serve; and
- build a positive strength-based community and policy discourse around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and success.

AIIGI: Self-determined governance for Indigenous development outcomes

Through this project the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIIGI) aims to support the economic, social and cultural aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by connecting them with world-class governance practice, research, thought leadership and educational resources.

Key elements of the project include:

- undertaking collaborative research on nation building and best practice (including a national Indigenous Governance Index);
- developing an accessible suite of tools and resources that will assist Indigenous governance practices (including online resources);
- developing a wide-reaching communications strategy to engage and promote Indigenous governance;
- designing and implementing a range of classes and curriculum for Indigenous peoples to access and build individual and community capacity; and
- providing a space for future development, capacity building and innovation among Indigenous peoples and their nations.

Reconciliation Australia Narragunnawali

In addition to Indigenous Governance projects, the BHP Foundation also recognises the importance of reconciliation and the next generation through our support of Reconciliation Australia's online platform Narragunnawali.

Narragunnawali provides Australian schools and early learning services with practical ways to introduce meaningful reconciliation initiatives into the classroom, around the school and with the community.

Narragunnawali:

- supports schools and early learning services develop and/or strengthen links with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and engage in meaningful, symbolic and practical actions of reconciliation; and
- empowers and supports teachers and educators to develop their own awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures and be confident and competent to support reconciliation in their schools and classrooms and with their students and their students' families.

What we do

The BHP Foundation was established in 2013 and works to address some of the most critical global sustainable development challenges facing our generation. By working in partnership with others we seek to raise the bar, find new solutions and set new standards for the future.

Who we are

We are a charitable organization solely funded by BHP, a leading global resources company, and through our programs we work to address challenges that are directly relevant to the resources sector. Our global programs focus on Natural Resource Governance, Environmental Resilience and Education Equity.

For more information, visit bhp.com/foundation