



ACTCOSS RAP Progress Report 2012

This year we made steady progress towards the second year of our 2010-13 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

ACTCOSS continued to engage with members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body as well as maintained and strengthened relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and individuals in the ACT. These relationships along with the work we carried out collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations are greatly respected and valued and we thank all organisations and individuals for their time and commitment throughout the year.

During NAIDOC Week we organised an event which attracted approximately 60 participants, coming together to share a breakfast, learn more about the meaning of NAIDOC Week, hear a presentation by Bill Bashford on his connection with NAIDOC celebrations, and be entertained by Benjamin Slabb.

ACTCOSS continued to sponsor the ACTNAIDOC Awards - ACT Indigenous Community Sector Worker of the Year, which in 2011 was awarded to Meg Huddleston from Burrunju Aboriginal Corporation.

Together with Reconciliation Australia (RA), we finalised a model RAP template for community organisations along with information on how to proceed with developing a RAP. A Workshop was jointly delivered by RA and ACTCOSS to community organisations, which was well received, providing a platform for services to embark on their journey of reconciliation.

During Reconciliation Week ANTA and ACTCOSS in partnership organised an event which attended by approximately 100 people. Speakers Mick Dodson AM, and Masepah Banu discussed how Native Title is changing lives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and considered next step in the 'rights agenda', the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

This year saw the development of strengthened wording to acknowledge traditional custodians throughout a range of ACTCOSS work, including publications, electronic signature blocks, signage in the ACTCOSS office, and meetings.

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage training with Kerry Reid-Gilbert (Kuracca Consultancy) and Torres Strait Islander awareness training with Benny Hodges (Wis Wei Consulting) continued to be delivered. Both workshops remained well attended often with significant waiting lists – representing an interest by organisations wanting to ensure workers have access to cultural awareness sessions. A big thank you to both Kerry and Benny for continuing to work with ACTCOSS on the delivery of these important workshops.

Other progress towards RAP actions included:

- amalgamation of the RAP working group and steering group;
- ACTOSS governance series advertised and provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations; and
- the RAP remaining a standing item discussed at each staff meeting and Governance Committee meeting.