



ANNUAL REPORT

2003-2004

**Presented at the Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 30th October 2004**



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Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated

Vision

A united Australia that respects this land of ours, value the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provide justice and equity for all.

Mission

The mission of Reconciliation Queensland is to deliver tangible outcomes for reconciliation by establishing meaningful and strategically targeted partnerships to:

- ❖ Sustain the reconciliation process and strengthen the people's movement for reconciliation;
- ❖ Acknowledge the past and build a framework for a shared future;
- ❖ Promote recognition of the rights of and achieve social and economic equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Values

Trust and respect for people

Community focus

Capacity building

Transparency and accountability

Leadership in the community

Unity with the community

Collaboration

Improving relationships



RQI Committee Members and Local Reconciliation Groups 2003-2004

Office Bearers:

Joan Hendriks	Co-Chair (Indigenous)
Terry Tyler	Co-Chair (Non-Indigenous) & Acting Treasurer
Anne Campbell	Secretary

Management Committee:

Richard Cherry	Cairns
Debbie DeBree	Brisbane
Steve McDonald	Brisbane
Marshall Saunders	Brisbane
Peter Smith	Mount Isa
Charlie Watson	Brisbane
Michael Yau	Brisbane
Nick Xynias	Brisbane

RQI Part-time Staff

Lisa Reynolds	Coordinator
Karen Lea	Administration Officer

Local Reconciliation Groups

Benarrawa Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Solidarity Group (Graceville)
Bray Park Reconciliation Group
Bundaberg Reconciliation group
Dadirri Reconciliation Group
Gold Coast / Tweed Reconciliation Group
Gympie Reconciliation Group
Hervey Bay Reconciliation Group
Ipswich Reconciliation Group
Maryborough Reconciliation group
Mt Isa Reconciliation Group
Noonga Reconciliation Group Inc
Noosa Reconciliation Group
Northside Reconciliation Group
People for Reconciliation in Cairns
QCT Churches Together Indigenous Peoples Partnership
Reconciliation Action Group (New Farm)
Rockhampton Reconciliation Group
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Reconciliation Group
Samford Reconciliation Group
Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Group (Caloundra)
University of Queensland – School of Social Work & Social Policy Reconciliation Group
Reading for Reconciliation (Brisbane Eastern suburbs)

Co-Chair's Report (Indigenous)

The RQI Management Committee elected at the previous Annual General Meeting, held on the 18th October 2004, became responsible for the management and administration of the role of RQI. That being forwarding Reconciliation as detailed in our constitution.

The Committee and staff have, to the best of their ability, endeavored to focus on the Unfinished Business of Reconciliation using best possible practice according to the resources to hand. There have been obstacles and when the going got tough we continued to hold on to the positives and thus eliminate the negatives.

Lack of secured funding continued to be a major issue and we are still trying to cope with this serious situation. However, we have continued our journey and vision of forwarding Reconciliation as a Peoples Movement. Our staff must be commended for their untiring efforts in carrying the load of the day to day operations of the administration of RQI.

Monthly Executive meetings as well as RQI Management Committee meetings is naturally first and foremost in our diary. Our main focus areas have been:

National Sorry Day: Journey of Healing

- A Candlelighting Ritual Ceremony at King George Square.
- An Early Morning Commemoration Service at Wynnum foreshores

Reconciliation Week

- "Bridging the Gap" film presentation and dialogue between Youth and Elders
- Reconciliation forum "Reconciliation: "Are we Doing It".

Townsville Project

There have been 2 meetings with the Youth and community members in Townsville and numerous follow-up phone calls between the contact person in Townsville, the Police Commissioner's Office and RQI and to date this matter is still ongoing.

Meeting with Minister Liddy Clark

The meeting with Minister Liddy Clark was enthusiastic, warm and refreshing and RQI are now awaiting another meeting with the Minister for further discussion regarding our submission for funding.

Australia Day

RQI were invited to participate in the Australia Day Parade and after considerable deliberation the Committee made a decision not to participate on advice from community.

RQI receives many requests and invitations to participate in a diverse range of community events and ceremonies. Some of the areas of participation, I, as Co-Chair of RQI have been involved with, are as follows:

.Acknowledgements / Speaker at opening of events and ceremonies

- Premier's Youth Business Forum
- Queensland Legal Aid Launch of Reconciliation Statement
- Southbank Institute of TAFE Harmony Day celebrations
- Queensland Police NAIDOC Ceremony
- Education Queensland NAIDOC Ceremony
- Department of Immigration and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) "Tartan Day" celebration
- Brisbane City Council Holy, Holy, Holy Art Exhibition
- Vice Chancellors of Queensland Universities and Premiers Affirmation of Diversity



- Australian Catholic University Opening of Reflection Space
- Noonga Sorry Day Ceremony
- Bayside Sorry Day Ceremony
- Department of Immigration and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) NAIDOC Celebrations
- Australian Bureau of Statistics

Invitations to attend and participate

- Premier's Awards Presentation
- Brisbane City Council official opening of Museum
- Police Commissioner Senior's Taskforce
- Premier's Awards for Community Participation Judging Panel
- Indigenous Advisory Committee Queensland Police

Workshop Presentations

- National Chinese Conference
- National Indigenous Health conference "Women in Reconciliation" workshop
- University of Queensland Reconciliation Group
- Royal Brisbane Hospital Reconciliation Group

This list of invitations to participate in events indicates that RQI is valued as the State peak body for Reconciliation in Queensland and a necessary resource to both Government departments and community organisations.

The change of membership of the RQI Executive on 2 occasions during the year has at times caused overload for the RQI staff. For several months RQI operated without a secretary due to the resignation of the Secretary elect early in the year. In August, Anne Campbell took up the position of Secretary and has been nominated to carry on this position for the coming year.

A Special General Meeting was held in August to make changes to the Constitution. The Constitutional changes were applied so as to enable the smooth running and organisation of meetings. It was, and is, vital for RQI to maintain an acceptable level of attendance at meetings by Management Committee members, who are the driving force needed to continue the decision making process of management of this organisation.

Thank you to the members of RQI and the Outgoing Management Committee for your support and efforts over the past year.

A special thank you to Lisa Reynolds for your integrity, sincerity and untiring efforts along the way when dealing with the glad and the mad, the good and the not so good times. Also thank you to Karen Lea for your time and efforts in the role of Administration Officer. We appreciate your presence and valuable input in the forwarding of Reconciliation.

I look forward to continuing an association with RQI, as we journey the road ahead towards a more just and equitable Australian society. A society that truly values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples heritage.

Joan Hendriks
Co-Chair (Indigenous)



Co-Chair's Report (Non-Indigenous)

During the past year RQI has made steady progress in gaining more recognition for the lead role it plays in the process of reconciliation. When I look back over the days of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC), and the period of implementing the recommendations from the Commission I genuinely believe we have progressed. The voice and influence of RQI, is being heard around the State at local levels right through to Government level. Recognition must be given to the Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) throughout the State that are performing great work.

RQI relies on the efforts of all its members to promote reconciliation, and a driving force has been Aunty Joan Hendriks. She was invited to participate in the Indigenous Women Forum at the United Nations in New York; has been the keynote speaker at various public meetings, performed the welcoming ceremony at functions, and has conducted numerous reconciliation workshops throughout the State.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that Nick Xynias and Michael Yau, as Non-Indigenous members of the Committee, have helped to promote reconciliation and the work of RQI to the Non-English speaking members of our community. Charley Watson and Debbie DeBree have also strongly promoted the message of reconciliation and RQI within their working environments and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Lisa Reynolds has worked hard to promote the reconciliation process in Townsville with the Aboriginal and Islander youth and members of the Queensland Police Service. Lisa has also been the central linchpin at the RQI office here at Windsor, with strong support and from Karen Lea.

As the Non-Indigenous Co-Chair of RQI, I have endeavoured to perform my part in the reconciliation process throughout the year. I have represented RQI at functions and meetings ranging from the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland to the Vietnamese community. In order to promote issues relating to reconciliation I have had meetings with the State Director of DIMIA, the Commissioner of the Anti Discrimination Commission, Executive members of the Queensland Police Service, and members of DATSIP and the Premiers Department.

As part of the reconciliation process, I sit on two reference groups with Legal Aid Queensland, and again this year I was a judge for the Queensland Government Reconciliation Awards for Business, this year as Chair of the Employment Category. My friend and colleague, Charley WATSON was the Chair of the Joint Ventures committee.

I believe that it is important for RQI, to be based in Brisbane, and to focus on working with members of various Federal and State Government agencies. It is important that we strive to influence government policies that promote justice and equity for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Yours in Reconciliation,

Terry Tyler
RQI Co-Chair



Acting Treasurer's Report

This year finances have been like previous years, hard to come by but easy to spend. I have endeavoured to ensure that RQI receives the maximum benefit from every dollar it receives. As can be seen by the annual financial statement we have been very frugal with our money. Members of the Committee not claiming for expenses when promoting reconciliation have aided this, and when possible, piggybacking on other programs being undertaken.

When we heard that Reconciliation Australia (RA) received \$15M in the Federal Budget, we, like the other State Reconciliation Councils were hoping for financial support. Unfortunately RA made it very clear this will not occur. RQI presented a detailed written budget submission to the Minister for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (DATSIP) Ms Liddy CLARKE. We received a very sympathetic hearing from the Minister, and I am hopeful that we will hear some good news when we meet with her again on the 4 November.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the new incoming Treasurer.

Yours in Reconciliation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Tyler'.

Terry Tyler
RQI Acting Treasurer

Coordinator's Report

What is Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated (RQI) doing? This is a question that I am asked regularly and the answer is always difficult to qualify. Since starting with RQI in September 2002, my role as Coordinator has taken many turns.

The past twelve months have presented similar challenges as the first twelve months; however, this last year has been a very different journey in comparison to my first year with this organisation. The focus in my first year was to establish an identity for RQI and raise the profile of this organisation by building relationships with the Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs), community members and organisations, Government departments and agencies and also trying to open the door in the broader corporate community. This last year, my role as Coordinator has focused on moving plans and projects forward in the hope of achieving positive outcomes. RQI's Annual General Report clearly outlines the projects that have taken place over the past year, which include:

- Townsville Youth Leadership and Reconciliation Project
- National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week
- Woodford Folk Festival
- Creating a youth arm of RQI - YAARR - Young Australians for Anti-Racism and Reconciliation
- RQI website

In addition to these projects, I have focused on linking in with other organisations and community events in order to keep the Reconciliation process alive and on the agenda around the State. Accepting invitations to planning and reference groups meetings has not only kept Reconciliation on the agenda but has also created an avenue for RQI to voice the concerns of the community to the relevant authorities and bodies.

For example; by being a part of the Indigenous Police Review and Reference Group, RQI was able to voice the concerns of the Townsville youth directly to the Police Commissioner himself and receive a clear commitment to the young Indigenous people of Townsville. My participation in the Multicultural Affairs DIMIA Harmony Day Interagency Planning Group has also increased the awareness and importance of Reconciliation to many diverse cultural groups living in Queensland and connected some LRGs with these community organisations.

The RQI Committee asked me to represent RQI on the Stolen Wages Working Group and subsequently RQI provided support via a mail out of the Stolen Wages postcards. This commitment has since subsided due to a lack of time and resources. However, RQI is kept informed and up-to-date through emailing of the minutes from each working group meeting. This is an area that the new incoming RQI Committee will have to evaluate for the future. RQI has built strong relationships and worked collaboratively with both Education Queensland and Queensland Health to create avenues to raise awareness of the importance of Reconciliation in Queensland.

Currently RQI is working closely with Education Queensland in the event to contact schools throughout Queensland in preparation for YAARR's annual Anti-Racism & Reconciliation Awareness Week 2005.

Keeping up the momentum is always challenging and this year has presented many challenges. In December 2003 RQI was faced with the prospect of closing the RQI office and becoming purely a volunteer organisation. This is clearly a debilitating state for an organisation, yet, the promise of a further \$50,000 from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (DATSIP) allowed RQI to function for a further year. Once again RQI is faced with a clouded future unless we are able to secure ongoing funding. For RQI to work proactively as the State peak body for Reconciliation we require the

security of ongoing funding to prevent this reactive state of working year to year. This is a major issue that I hope the incoming RQI Committee will prioritise immediately.

The reality over the last twelve months is that RQI has worked without a Treasurer for the majority of that time and without a Secretary for a considerable amount of months. For seven months I worked without any administration support in the office. These difficulties have impacted on my role as the RQI Coordinator and furthermore have decreased the level of proactive work that RQI has been able to participate in.

In May this year, Karen Lea began as the RQI Administration Officer. Karen came on board at a crucial time for me and worked with me to finalise details for National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. Since these events, Karen and I have prepared for the RQI Special General meeting, which called to make structural changes to the RQI Committee and therefore changed the RQI Constitution. We have managed to produce two RQI newsletters in this time and hope to generate one more before the year ends. The preparation of a funding submission to Minister Liddy Clark was also a collaborative project by Karen and me. We have worked on creating the RQI website that should go live in early November this year and of course prepared for this year's AGM. Additionally, Karen and I have formed a working relationship that is interchangeable so we are able to work together on a particular job to completion. Karen is currently working 18 hours a week and in this time she has been a wonderful support for me here in the RQI office, not only on a productive level but Karen has helped me to maintain my sanity in a sometimes manic and lonely environment.

There are a few particular people that I would like to thank deeply for their continued support and reliability.

- Arthur McCutchan who is a former RQI Committee member. Arthur continues to play a major role as a sounding board and adviser on Constitutional and formal matters;
- Aunty Joan Hendriks and Jackie Huggins. These two women have acted as mentors for me over the last few years and without their guidance and support I would not have been able to continue to work fruitfully for RQI;
- Also to Debbie DeBree and Marshall Saunders for spending some of their spare time with me in the office catching up on the tedium tasks such as filing and correspondence.

The commitment of all the community people who participate in the Local Reconciliation Groups are the frontline works in this peoples' movement. RQI would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude for their ongoing enthusiasm and support in progressing Reconciliation and maintaining this process as a priority in society.

In closing, I would just like to express my appreciation to the outgoing RQI Committee. These voluntary positions on the RQI Committee are demanding roles and, for this organisation to work productively and to be seen as the State peak body for Reconciliation, the Committee is the driving force of this organisation. This is why I feel I need to express that joining the RQI Committee is not just about monthly meetings. It is a commitment that requires much time and effort and I look forward to a new year ahead with the incoming RQI Committee.



Lisa Reynolds
RQI Coordinator



Overview

Special General Meeting

After many difficulties with working with a Committee of 21 members, the RQI Executive called for a Special General Meeting to agree upon constitutional changes to the structure of the Committee which reduced the number of RQI Committee members to 12 people. This change will enable the RQI Committee to work more effectively for the Reconciliation Peoples' Movement here in Queensland.

Townsville Youth Leadership and Reconciliation Project "People Reaching People"

On advice from the then Minister of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Judy Spence, RQI began a consultation process in July 2003 in the Townsville region on the Reconciliation process. RQI's initial visit to the region was to meet with community members and host a community meeting to talk about race relations in Townsville and to strategise about an appropriate way to forge ahead Reconciliation.

Many issues were highlighted during the individual consultations over a two-day period. These included:

- Youth issues
- Employment and business opportunities
- People in the parks
- Media (need for positive representation)

Dr. Evelyn Scott attended the community meeting and her insight and support was invaluable to the process. Many of the people who participated in the community meeting are involved in a multitude of community based initiatives and this made it clear that youth leadership programs are required to prepare and facilitate future community leaders. A youth forum was suggested to allow indigenous youth to be involved and to determine what, how and who should lead them into the future on social issues.

The following February 2004 RQI, with the support of Reconciliation Australia, was able to facilitate a youth workshop at St Teresa's Church in Townsville. Wilma Kemp from the Aboriginal & Islander Catholic Council and community members were instrumental to the organisation of this event. RQI Co-Chair Aunty Joan Hendriks rallied the adult together for a day of sharing and working through some of the issues faced by the Indigenous peoples of Townsville. Reconciliation Australia's Youth Coordinator, Nick Cowan along with Tony Bell and Lisa Reynolds ran the workshop for the young people. The main theme that came from the young people was their similar experiences of racism at school and poor relations with the police. The afternoon focused on solutions and the young people suggested that they would like to see more positive Indigenous symbols in their schools and community and to facilitate positive interaction with police to improve relationships. Both outcomes proved empowering to the young people involved in the workshop.

RQI approached the Queensland Police Commissioner and invited him to meet with the indigenous youth of Townsville to talk about ways of improving relationships between themselves and the police. The Police Commissioner accepted the invitation and RQI along with the people of Townsville are working on a time in the New Year when this meeting will take place. The following solution requires RQI to commence talks with the Queensland Education Minister to find avenues to have both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the schools of Townsville and for that matter the rest of the State.

National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week

RQI led a convening group to organise National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week 2004. The convening group included organisations such as QCT Churches Together Indigenous Peoples Partnerships, The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, ANTaR, LinkUp Qld, Songlines Choir and individual community members.

Much support was given by Brisbane City Council, Brisbane Powerhouse and 4 Triple A 98.9 FM Murri Country, which made the year's events a success. A wonderful array of speakers donated their time and support to these events, including, Reconciliation Australia's Co-Chair Ms Jackie Huggins, Minister of Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Ms Liddy Clark, RQI Co-Chairs, Aunty Joan Hendriks and Terry Tyler, Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, ANTaR President Christine Howes, Mark Copeland, 4AAA General Manager Tiga Bayles, YAARR founder Renee Coffey, Uncle Bob Anderson, and many more great community advocates.

Working with many different organisations and community members gave this year's National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week a much broader platform to reach out to the wider mainstream community. RQI's hope and plan is to continue with this convening group to ensure that 2005 produces an even bigger set of events that will ripple the message of Reconciliation even further into the broader community.

RQI funded the following events with exception to the interfaith Witness that was kindly funded by Multifaith Centre at Griffith University.

- Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week Program Of Events 2004
- Sorry Day Commemoration
- Launch Of Reconciliation Week
- Bridging The Gaps: Generations & Culture Yarning Circle
- Reconciliation Forum
- Interfaith Witness For Reconciliation

Woodford Folk Festival

Reconciliation Queensland Inc had a stall at Woodford Folk Festival 2003 / 2004 for the first time. A small core group of volunteer workers made a commitment to put in the work that was required to promote Reconciliation and the Stolen Wages Campaign during the 12 hour daily shifts of the Festival program, which ran from December 27th through to and including January 1.

Over the 5 day period, volunteers managed to have 1000 Stolen Wages Postcards signed which were presented at the following Stolen Wage Working Group meeting. RQI applications for membership also increased through the volunteer's dedication to forwarding the Mission and Vision of RQI. The RQI Committee would like to express their thanks to Angela Mulgrew for leading this project and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

YAARR - Young Australians for Anti-Racism & Reconciliation

RQI & YAARR are currently working to formalising our existing relationship so YAARR is able to work as the youth-arm of RQI.

YAARR was formed in the early months of 1998 by two Brisbane secondary school students – Andrew Davison and Renee Coffey. The main aim of YAARR is to educate secondary school students on issues of racism and Reconciliation through student to student education. YAARR is firmly committed to training young people to empower them to educate others in their school community.

The main activity of YAARR is the annual **Anti-Racism & Reconciliation Awareness Week** that is scheduled for February 2005. The Awareness Week provides young people with an opportunity to have recognition of Australia's true history, better understanding of the context of current problems facing Indigenous peoples and strategies for students to work together to create stronger communities. Prior to the Anti-Racism & Reconciliation Awareness Week a development day will assist young people in their planning and participation for the awareness week. The aim is to bring young people from around the State together to participate in issues based creative and cultural workshops; to listen to elders; to discuss issues with community leaders; and to develop further Anti-Racism and Reconciliation Awareness activities for their schools and youth organisations. Materials and resources are provided on-line for students and teachers to access at <http://www.yaarr.org>

- Anti-Racism & Reconciliation Development Day - Saturday 12th February 2005
- Anti-Racism & Reconciliation Awareness Week 21 – 27 of February 2005
- Debrief Day & Preparation for National Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week – 11th March 2005

For further details check out YAARR website at <http://www.yaarr.org> or contact Reconciliation Australia's Project Coordinator – Youth Nick Cowan on 0418 991 560 or at nick.cowan@reconciliation.org.au

RQI Website

The Multicultural Community Centre Community Jobs Plan – IT Program is funded by the Queensland Government to assist people from non-English Speaking Backgrounds to gain work experience and ultimately jobs.

The IT Program is made up of well qualified IT and creative Multi Media graduates who have the expertise to design any promotional material including brochures, posters, and websites, provide training, and design computer networks at no cost to non-profit organisations.

RQI is fortunate to have the website designed and developed at no cost. The project timeline has been extremely short due to the demand for these professionals. Our first meeting was October 7, and the project finished on October 26, 2004. The RQI website has been produced and is functioning accordingly but the text is not yet completed. The text will be inputted over the next couple of weeks by the RQI staff. RQI does not have the flexibility to change the number of pages or format as the deadline has been and gone. Once all text is approved by the new incoming RQI Committee the RQI website will go live onto the internet. We will let all RQI members know once this happens.

The Aim of the RQI website:

Promote Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated to increase the organisation's image.
Provide alternative means of information with ease of access. Assorted information presented in the website allows fast access of information as well.
Create website appealing to the community, and to attract corporate and government funding.
Appearance of the website comprises modern and corporate design.
Content of the website can be updated and maintained with minimal knowledge.

Scope:

The objective of this project is to increase public awareness of RQI and to provide information of Local Reconciliation Groups and guide users to relevant sites to gain a greater cultural understanding and realisation of the necessity of the Reconciliation process.

Invasion Day / Australia Day

RQI was invited to participate in the Brisbane Golden Casket Australia Day Parade on January 26, 2004. After much consideration and debate from the RQI Committee it was decided that it was inappropriate to participate in a celebration. RQI decided to support the Invasion Day march and rally. RQI donated 600 bottles of water for the participants in the Invasion Day march and also participated in the day.

The University of Queensland, Social Science Research Project

RQI Coordinator, Lisa Reynolds worked collaboratively with students from UQ on a research project to evaluate how Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated can best support the regional and Local Reconciliation Groups in promoting Reconciliation.

RQI has acted on the following research to improve it's relations with the Local Reconciliation Groups.

Aims for the research:

Specifically, the project's aim is to find out how Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated can effectively support Local Reconciliation Groups so that they can foster the **skills** necessary to:

- 1) Increase community awareness around reconciliation issues,
- 2) Encourage the community to enter into dialogue around these issues and
- 3) Increase community capacity to support reconciliation.

Results

For the Local Reconciliation Groups, results have shown that:

- Respondent's expectations from the Reconciliation Learning Circles (RLCs) were met.
- 100% of Respondents all agreed that the RLCs were effective in its presentation, its form and its content, providing them with a different perspective of Australia's true history.
- Most respondents felt that meeting, exchanging knowledge and discussing issues with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was most useful.
- All respondents felt that they are now able to deal with issues of conflict and racism through dialogue.
- The majority of respondents felt that the RLCs had an impact of the on the local communities

Ways in which Reconciliation Queensland Inc improve their services to local reconciliation groups:

- Provide ideas, brochures, lists of possible guest speakers, access to professional looking resources and networking opportunities.
- Provide leadership, support, creative ideas, donations and assistance.

On the issue of reconciliation:

- Most respondents disagree that the process of reconciliation is given priority.
- 72.7% of respondents do not believe that adequate support networks exist, and that there was not enough information to the wider public about the reconciliation process.
- All respondents believe that society can't address the social issues of racism and inequality without understanding Australia's true history from an indigenous person's perspective. Unless everyone can fully acknowledge and understand the true history of Australia, true equality and unity cannot be achieved.

The research has so far ascertained the need for:

- More publicity on Local Reconciliation Groups.
- More participation from RQI staff in local fundraising activities
- More support through quality pamphlets, brochures, posters, etc
- More publicity on reconciliation issues.

RQI Working as the State Peak Body for Reconciliation in Queensland

Increasingly, RQI is called upon by Government departments and agencies for advice and guidance on Reconciliation issues, acknowledgements and welcomes to country and keynote speaking roles. Over the last two years the Premier's Department has called on the RQI Committee members to work as consultants and judges on the Premier's Reconciliation Awards. RQI does NOT charge for the Committee's time and input while working in these roles and this does take time away from their roles and responsibilities as RQI Committee members. The increasing dependence on RQI from these departments, agencies and community organisations highlights the valued and necessary position that RQI plays in Queensland. Hopefully in the future the Government will recognise RQI's important position and provide ongoing financial support for the services RQI provide.



RQI Achievements 2003-2004

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (DATSIP) granted RQI an initial amount of \$80,000 to establish the RQI office. In December 2003 a total of \$50,000 was given to continue the work of RQI. This enabled Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated (RQI) to establish a strong foundation, a professional presence and an effective organisation through which to promote Reconciliation across Queensland. Following are some of RQI achievements:

- Maintenance of a database of over 1000 people and financial membership of approximately 100 individuals and organisations
- Production of 5000 copies of four quality newsletters which have been distributed widely throughout Queensland
- Appointment of a part-time Administration Officer to support the part-time Coordinator
- Townsville Youth Project
- Establishment of relationships with a wide range of community groups and individuals
- Facilitation of new Local Reconciliation Groups
- Support and liaison with Local Reconciliation Groups
- Facilitating a National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week Convening group including a significant number of community organisations
- Organisation of inaugural National Sorry Day events and early morning services
- Organisation and financing events for National Reconciliation Week in Brisbane and in various regional areas in Queensland
- Development of a workshop program for establishing Reconciliation Learning Circles
- Working with Government departments and organisations on Statements of Intent for Reconciliation, including Legal Aid Queensland
- Establishing a youth arm of RQI – formalising a partnership with Young Australians for Anti-Racism and Reconciliation (YAARR)
- Constitutional and structural changes that has reduced the number of Committee members in order to make RQI a more effective organisation.



Future Directions

RQI Priorities:

The priority of RQI has been to establish an identity and develop a firm foundation through building strong relationships and to disseminate information, provide support and continue to build on our achievements.

In the coming year RQI plans to:

- continue to build and strengthen new and existing relationships
- continue to provide support to Local Reconciliation Groups
- support the establishment of new Reconciliation groups in targeted further Regional areas
- increase membership and database
- continue provision of referral, information and resource services
- facilitate speakers on request and establishing a registry of indigenous speakers, artists and performers
- participate in core Reconciliation events
- continue to increase the annual events held by RQI and work with YAARR on the annual awareness week for high school students. Including a development day, supporting the awareness week and concluding with a debriefing day for students
- seek sponsorship

Nominated people for the RQI Committee 2004 – 2005

Office Bearers

Co-Chair (Indigenous)	Aunty Joan Hendriks
Co-Chair (non-Indigenous)	Bill Schonefeld
Treasurer (non-Indigenous)	Paul Hodgson
Secretary (Indigenous)	Anne Campbell

RQI Committee

Debbie DeBree (Indigenous)
Marshall Saunders (Indigenous)
Beverley Johnson (Indigenous)
Bernice Ann Fischer (Indigenous)
Rosalie Raciti (non-Indigenous)
Renee Coffey (non-Indigenous)
Malcolm McSwan (non-Indigenous)
Michael Yau (non-Indigenous)



RQI Work Plan 2004 – 2005

GOAL

PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL BASE FOR CARRYING OUT THE MISSION OF RECONCILIATION QUEENSLAND INC.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to expand financial membership
2. Continue to increase the number of Local Reconciliation Groups
3. Continue to Establish cooperative relationships with like minded bodies
4. Continue to co-operate with appropriate Government bodies
5. Establish cooperative relationships with interested corporate bodies
6. Continue to act as a source of information for Members and the public generally

STRATEGIES

1.
 - a) Increase promotion of RQI membership
 - b) Encourage Groups to expand membership
 - c) Use regional visits by staff and Committee Members for this purpose
2.
 - a) Prepare and make available “how to” kits, containing guidance on how to establish and sustain an effective LRG
 - b) Continue to arrange visits to regional centres with LRG formation as one of the objectives
3.
 - a) Meet with representatives of relevant bodies and reach agreement on nature and extent of cooperative activities
4. Maintain and strengthen existing relationships
5. Identify bodies showing some sign of interest and follow up as appropriate
6.
 - a) Maintain an up-to-date web site, including information on events, available resources, possible speakers etc.
 - b) Produce 4 Newsletters annually

GOAL

PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY, OUR SHARED HISTORY SINCE 1788, AND THE CONTINUING EFFECTS OF THAT HISTORY ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TODAY, AS THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING A SHARED FUTURE WITH MUTUAL RESPECT AND ACCEPTANCE

OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage and assist in the development of appropriate material for informal education, in Learning Circles and community groups generally.
2. Encourage and assist LRGs in running Learning Circles and education programs in other community groups
3. Encourage LRGs, in cooperation with local Indigenous people, to identify and appropriately protect and develop sites of special significance to Indigenous people.
4. Encourage the production and use of appropriate curriculum material, giving priority to primary and secondary schools.
5. Note - It is hoped that this may be done as part of a national program coordinated by RA
6. Promote and support participation in public events related to the objectives of RQI.

STRATEGIES

1. a) In cooperation with other interested bodies, and using existing material as far as possible, collect and compile suitable material, both print and video
b) As far as possible, arrange sponsorships to cover cost of production.
2. a) On request, provide assistance to those planning to run informal education programs
b) In conjunction with regional visits, train leaders to conduct these programs
3. a) Wherever possible, assist LRGs in identifying Indigenous people in their area, who maybe willing and able to advise and help in these activities
4. a) Seek to establish cooperative and productive relationships with Reconciliation Australia and State authorities
5. a) Seek opportunities for cooperation as appropriate