

Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation The Key Issues of Reconciliation, 1994

The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation has a clear view of the practical achievements that are necessary to bring about reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community.

It has identified eight key issues which are essential to the reconciliation process. These require a practical response by whole Australian community. Addressing these issues in a committed and effective way is essential to our future.

The key issues are:

Understanding Country: A greater understanding of the importance of land and sea in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies;

Improving Relationships: Better relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the wider community;

Valuing Cultures: Recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are a valued part of Australian heritage;

Sharing Histories: A sense for all Australians of a shared ownership of their history;

Addressing Disadvantage: A greater awareness of the causes of indigenous Australians' disadvantage;

Responding to Custody Levels: A greater community response to addressing the underlying causes of the high levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody;

Agreeing on a Document: Agreement on whether the process of reconciliation would be advanced by a formal document or documents of reconciliation ; and

Controlling Destinies: Greater opportunities for indigenous Australians to control their destinies.