



Monday 27 May 2019

The Federal Circuit Court of Australia releases *Reconciliation Action Plan*

In recognition of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia's continued commitment to supporting access to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Court has released its second *Reconciliation Action Plan 2019–2021* (RAP).

The Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, the Hon Will Alstergren said, "Today is the first day of Australia's 2019 Reconciliation Action Week, and I am pleased to announce the release of the Court's RAP. This Plan provides practical measures to promote reconciliation, and addresses some of the barriers faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in interacting with the Court.

"From the day that the Court opened its doors, it has been committed to providing access to justice to all people of Australia. This RAP demonstrates the Court's continued commitment to the reconciliation process and dedication to improving the way it can better serve the community.

"I thank and acknowledge the Court's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access to Justice/RAP Committee for leading the way in this endeavour and for developing the new Reconciliation Action Plan. I also thank the Court's Policy Officer and Indigenous Liaison Officer for their invaluable advice and assistance."

The Federal Circuit Court was the first court in Australia to enter into a Reconciliation Action Plan which was originally released in 2014. Considerable progress has since been achieved, including:

- Establishment of an Indigenous list in Sydney, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Darwin and is proposed to be introduced in Melbourne.
- Mentoring opportunities and engagement with Judges and the law profession have been provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students in various states.
- The Court has hosted and participated in National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC events throughout Australia.
- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mediation model was launched in the Newcastle registry to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to resolve their parenting disputes.
- Judges have established Aboriginal Family Law Roadshows and held public education forums on parenting orders with Kin Carers and other indigenous community organisations.
- A Policy Officer has been employed and works closely with indigenous communities, including those in rural and remote locations.
- An Indigenous Liaison Officer works with the Court in North Queensland.
- Commitment to increase employment opportunities in the courts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Further details are outlined in the Court's [Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-21](http://www.federalcircuitcourt.gov.au/rap) which is accessible from the Court's website: <http://www.federalcircuitcourt.gov.au/rap>.