

2022 First Nations Voice Project Description

VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

As outlined in our RAP, ACON's vision for reconciliation is an inclusive community where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community work together in the spirit of truth and in the pursuit of health equity.

It is a community that respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of diverse genders and sexualities' identities and cultures, listens to their voices and ensures they are at the centre of health responses.

The future that we envisage is free from HIV transmissions and one where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of diverse genders and sexualities, alongside the rest of our communities, live their healthiest lives. No one should be left behind.

OUR COMMITMENT

The ACON First Nations Voice Project will deliver on our RAP commitments to investigate, determine, and formalise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led collaborative process for the development of strategic directions, programs & services (1.3); and to a community listening an truth-telling process (1.4).

WHAT THE VOICE WILL LOOK LIKE

The process, governance and content of the Voice Project will be shaped by conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ACON RAP Working Group has already provided feedback on a range of important issues, including a lack of trust, representation, engagement, and action. The Working Group has also pointed to some of the key features for the Project.

What we have heard so far is that the Voice Project should:

- articulate a clear vision;
- be led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, centre on the perspectives of, benefits for, and ways of working of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- include 1-1 relationship and trust building, prior to formalising any working group or structure;
- be prioritised at a high level (Executive Team and Board);

- be well resourced;
- be flexible and culturally appropriate;
- include community consultations across NSW; and
- be followed by actions.

NEXT STEPS

- Phase 1** ACON's Executive Team and Board connect with Aboriginal leaders (first half of 2022)
- Phase 2** Defining the principles, objectives and modalities of the project (first half of 2022)
- Phase 3** Community engagement events (second half of 2022)
- Phase 4** Evaluation and report back to community (end of 2022)
- Phase 5** Adjust process based on evaluation outcomes and renew process in 2023

RESOURCES

Click on the items below to access the following resources:

- ACON Innovate RAP 2020-2022
- List of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders (link available to ACON staff)
- Reconciliation Australia's brief on truth-telling
- ACON Policy Paper on HIV in the NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population

Contact details
RAP@acon.org.au

