## Summary of high level findings from Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy community consultations

September 2021

**Responsible Directorate: Community Support** 



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### Introduction

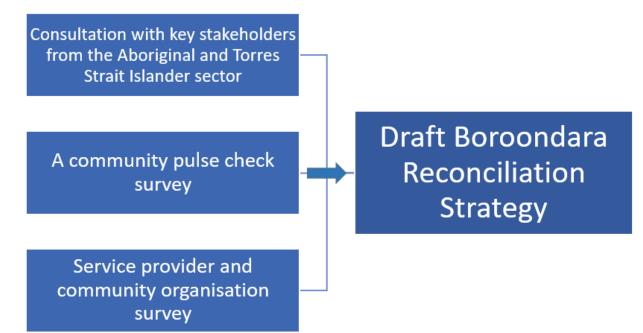
This report presents the high level findings from the community consultations undertaken between July and August 2021 to inform the development of the draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26.

The draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy provides Council with a vision for reconciliation in the municipality and set out a clear roadmap and framework for implementing reconciliation initiatives in the community. It includes a four year action plan outlining our existing commitments and identifies a program of additional actions which will continue to contribute to the reconciliation process locally and in partnership with our community.

The community consultations included three phases as shown in Figure 1 and outlined below:

- **Phase 1** targeted consultation sessions with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector
- Phase 2 a community pulse check survey
- **Phase 3** a survey of a select group of community organisations and service providers from different sectors.

The community consultations were supported by the analysis of information from a range of other sources including relevant policies and legislation of other levels of government and benchmarking against other local councils reconciliation policies and actions.



**Figure 1:** Overview of the three phases of community consultation undertaken to inform the development of the draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy

The objectives of the community consultations were to:

- ensure the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' voices were heard and respected and the important issues and priorities were understood, acknowledged and considered
- facilitate authentic relationship building and strengthening between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' sector and the City of Boroondara
- understand the vision for reconciliation in Boroondara and how residents, community groups, service providers and organisations would like to collaborate with Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to progress and celebrate reconciliation in our municipality
- recommend appropriate strategies and actions Council can include in its draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy to progress reconciliation locally and in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the broader community and organisations.

This report provides an overview of each phase of consultation and who participated, along with a summary of the key findings from each phase. The overall key findings from the consultations, as well as information from a range of other sources including benchmarking and a review of relevant policies and legislation, informed the development of the draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy.

It is important to note the City of Boroondara is at the beginning of its formal reconciliation journey and it may take a number of years for Council to undertake the foundational work required before it can progress some initiatives. It is also important to note some of the ideas suggested in the community consultations fall outside the scope of the work Council does. However, where appropriate Council can advocate to other levels of government on particular issues or play a role in facilitating partnerships between different groups in the community.

# Phase 1 – Consultation with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector

To ensure the development of the draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy was informed by feedback and advice from key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, 14 conversation style consultation sessions were held online during July and August 2021 with 24 key stakeholders in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector.

The consultation sessions were facilitated by a consultant, Karen Milward, who is a Yorta Yorta<sup>1</sup> woman. Karen also provided advice on the drafting of the Strategy. The consultation sessions enabled Council to hear directly from a diverse range of key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector about their aspirations for reconciliation locally in Boroondara and opportunities for action and collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector and peoples.

#### Who did we hear from?

As noted above, 24 people took part in the 14 consultations sessions including an Aboriginal resident and representatives from 13 organisations, including but not limited to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, First Peoples - State Relations Group - Department of Premier and Cabinet, Inner East Melbourne Area and Aboriginal Engagement Team, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the Boroondara Reconciliation Network.

# What did the key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector tell us?

The conversations with the key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector provided rich insights into the needs and aspirations of their communities. During these sessions a lot of ideas were raised and many opportunities identified about how Council could work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and peoples, community organisations and service providers and the broader community to progress reconciliation locally.

The analysis of the consultation findings identified 14 key topics which are outlined in Table 1 below. It is important to note that the below represents a high level summary of the key topics captured during the consultations. Further details will be provided to relevant areas of Council and our partners to help inform their action planning over the four years of the Strategy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Traditional Yorta Yorta lands lie on both sides of the Murray River roughly from Cohuna to Albury / Wodonga. They include towns such as Echuca, Shepparton, Benalla, Corowa and Wangaratta and extend northwards to just south of Deniliquin.

**Table 1:** Brief overview of the 14 topics identified through the consultationsessions with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islandersector.

| Key topic   | Brief overview  |
|---|---|
| Topic 1 – Improve<br>Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander cultural  | Prioritise whole of Council and community learning about<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.   |
| awareness within Council<br>and in the community  | Cultural awareness training and activities for staff, councillors<br>and the broader community were suggested as ways to<br>progress this work. Topics proposed included the impacts of<br>colonisation, Stolen Generations, truth telling, treaty, learning<br>about the importance and meaning behind a Welcome to<br>Country and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, and<br>cultural protocols. |
| Topic 2 – Acknowledge<br>and/or celebrate dates of<br>significance  | Acknowledge and/or celebrate culturally significant dates during<br>the year and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders<br>and peoples are invited to lead, plan, participate and attend as<br>guests.   |
|   | Specific annual dates of significance include: NAIDOC Week,<br>National Reconciliation Week, National Sorry Day and<br>Aboriginal Children's Day.   |
|   | Cultural immersion events and activities suggested included:<br>storytelling sessions, book readings, yarning circles with the<br>local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and<br>celebrations of the Stolen Generations resilience and<br>achievements through art, film and guest speakers at<br>community events.  |
| Topic 3 – Acknowledge<br>Traditional Owners,<br>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung<br>Cultural Heritage<br>Aboriginal Corporation,<br>within Council and across | Strengthen and amplify the acknowledgement of Traditional<br>Owners in the municipality to assist in building the communities'<br>connections to places and spaces. An Acknowledgement of<br>Traditional Owners pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of<br>the land and is central to progressing reconciliation.                |
| the municipality  | Ideas proposed for respectfully and appropriately<br>acknowledging the Traditional Owners included using Aboriginal<br>language to name places and spaces within the municipality,<br>developing signage and plaques, flying the Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander flags and including written<br>Acknowledgements of Traditional Owners in Council's print and<br>digital communications.     |

| Key topic   | Brief overview  |
|---|---|
| Topic 4 – Develop a<br>better understanding of<br>the local Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander<br>peoples and communities<br>in Boroondara                  | Develop a better understanding of the local and diverse<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure<br>Council services and programs can be delivered in a<br>responsive, targeted and culturally safe way.  |
|   | Suggestions included developing a profile of the local<br>Boroondara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities<br>beyond the ABS Census data to include information about<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohorts, residents,<br>Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations <sup>2</sup> and<br>businesses, and people working within the City of Boroondara.   |
| Topic 5 – Acknowledge<br>and celebrate local<br>Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander stories,<br>histories, cultures and<br>peoples.                          | Acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander histories, cultures and peoples all year round and not<br>just during significant dates.<br>Suggestions included providing spaces in the municipality which<br>includes reflections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>cultures and histories through visual arts or reflective<br>landscaping. Inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander guest<br>speakers from a range of backgrounds to speak at Council<br>events throughout the year and hosting conversations with<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and<br>the broader community on truth telling were other ideas<br>suggested. |
| Topic 6 – Strengthen<br>relationships and<br>collaborate with the<br>Traditional Owners,<br>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung<br>Cultural Heritage<br>Aboriginal Corporation | Continue to build a strong working relationship and partnership<br>with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal<br>Corporation.<br>Potential ways suggested for continuing to strengthen<br>relationships with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage<br>Aboriginal Corporation included continuing to meet regularly<br>with them and formalising our way of working together.   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> According to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation is 'a primary health care service initiated and operated by the local Aboriginal community to deliver holistic, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate health care to the community which controls it, through a locally elected Board of Management'.

| Key topic   | Brief overview   |
|---|--|
| Topic 7 – Establish and<br>strengthen relationships<br>with Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander<br>stakeholders and peoples<br>and identify opportunities<br>for collaboration           | The reconciliation process and aspirations should concentrate<br>on promoting mutually respectful and genuine two-way<br>relationships of shared significance. Developing these can take<br>time as strong relationships are built on trust and respect.<br>The need to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>peoples and stakeholders are actively engaged in the<br>Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy was highlighted as<br>important.<br>Ideas proposed to improve Council's engagement and<br>communication about the delivery of the strategy included<br>keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples informed<br>on a regular basis, updating Council's reconciliation progress on<br>our website, and inviting Community Controlled Aboriginal<br>organisations to participate in local Council events and activities<br>held throughout the year. |
| Topic 8 – Participate in<br>the development and<br>delivery of culturally safe<br>spaces and places for<br>Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander community<br>members in the Inner<br>East | The delivery of culturally safe spaces and places for the<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Inner<br>East to meet was identified as important to practice cultures,<br>celebrate community achievements and promote and support<br>cultural strengthening and connections to land, waterways and<br>each other. They also offer spaces and places for Aboriginal<br>and Torres Strait Islanders to feel safe in expressing their<br>opinions and for their voices to be heard.<br>Opportunities suggested included Council delivering programs<br>and activities at the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering   |
|   | Place's potential new Inner East Aboriginal Community Hub and<br>promoting Aboriginal sites of significance in Boroondara, with<br>approval of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage<br>Aboriginal Corporation, so they are easily accessible by local<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.  |
| Topic 9 – Identify<br>opportunities for<br>collaboration with local   | Facilitate collaboration with local organisations and community groups to progress reconciliation locally.   |

| Key topic   | Brief overview  |
|---|---|
| community groups,<br>community services and<br>schools to progress<br>reconciliation initiatives<br>locally   | Groups identified through the consultation which Council could<br>collaborate with to progress reconciliation initiatives include<br>community groups, service providers, schools and<br>kindergartens. Opportunities proposed to support collaboration<br>included implementing cultural awareness training and capacity<br>building workshops and facilitating and/or supporting<br>opportunities for community groups, organisations, educational<br>providers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>communities to network and collaborate.  |
| Topic 10 – Establish a<br>governance structure to<br>oversee implementation<br>of the strategy and ensure<br>the voices of Aboriginal<br>and Torres Strait Islander<br>people are heard | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' voices to be<br>heard every step of the way in the reconciliation process,<br>including recognition and understanding of how self-<br>determination will drive action. As Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander communities are not homogenous, it is important to<br>hear from many voices.<br>Suggestions included the development of a formal process to<br>provide feedback to Council as well as having more informal<br>conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>stakeholders in small yarning sessions to build trust and<br>rapport. Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>people's voices on other established committees and working<br>groups of Council was also proposed. |
| Topic 11 – Promote and<br>support the procurement<br>of goods and services<br>from Victorian Aboriginal<br>and Torres Strait Islander<br>businesses                                     | Explore opportunities to promote and support the procurement<br>of goods and services from Victorian Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander businesses to support and create opportunities<br>for Aboriginal employment and participation of Aboriginal<br>businesses in the economy.<br>Ideas proposed included showcasing the strengths and<br>successes of local Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs.  |
| Topic 12 – Promote and<br>support Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander<br>employment and ensure<br>the organisation is<br>culturally welcoming                                      | Support the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>staff.<br>Suggestions included developing a workforce strategy, which<br>could outline different opportunities for recruiting and retaining<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff within Council.   |

| Key topic  | Brief overview   |
|--|--|
| Topic 13 – Contribute and<br>support state-wide<br>advocacy efforts in<br>consultation with<br>Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander<br>stakeholders to address<br>health inequities and the<br>rights of Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander<br>peoples | Ensure up to date social, economic, physical, and<br>environmental data and issues occurring in the Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander communities is maintained so Council can<br>appropriately advocate, where required, in consultation with<br>Wurunderji Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage and other local<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders. |
| Topic 14 – Improve<br>accessibility to Council<br>services and activities to<br>ensure they are inclusive<br>and support the needs of<br>Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islanders peoples   | Improve local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's accessibility to Council's mainstream services, programs and activities available across the municipality.  |

### Phase 2 – Community pulse check survey

As the reconciliation process involves the non-Aboriginal community working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Council undertook an online community pulse check survey which was open to the broader Boroondara community. The survey was open from 8 July to 1 August 2021 and was hosted on the Engage Boroondara website. The survey was open to all Boroondara residents, as well as people who work, visit, play or study in Boroondara.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, data collection was conducted exclusively through the online survey and opportunities to participate in the survey were widely promoted through Council's communications channels including the Boroondara Bulletin and utilising our networks and e-newsletters. In addition, targeted social media posts were used to reach a diverse cross section of our community.

The survey aimed to take a pulse check with the community to assess the community's awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Islander histories and cultures and the community's views on why reconciliation is important in Boroondara and how we can progress it locally. The survey included the following two open ended questions:

- 1. Why is reconciliation in Boroondara important to you?
- 2. What specific actions would you like Council to take to progress reconciliation locally?

It also asked respondents to rate their level of knowledge about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and Boroondara and to note whether they knew who the Traditional Owners are in Boroondara.

### Who did we hear from?

Overall, 480 respondents completed the online survey. Due to COVID-19 restrictions coinciding with the survey, an online mode of data collection was used.

The survey results provided a pulse check of the sentiment towards reconciliation in the broader Boroondara community. As can be seen in the table below, 12 respondents (2% of the sample) were from people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, which is higher than the overall proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in Boroondara (0.16%).

It is encouraging and positive to see the key themes which were identified in the community survey strongly support and align with the findings from the consultations with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**Table 2:** Demographic overview of the total sample for the broad communitysurvey. The total sample amount is 480.

#### Demographic overview by gender

| Gender                  | Sample proportion | Count |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Male                    | 29%               | 138   |
| Female                  | 63%               | 303   |
| Prefer to self-describe | 1%                | 6     |
| Prefer not to say       | 7%                | 33    |

#### Demographic overview by age

| Age               | Sample proportion | Count |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 12-17             | 1%                | 4     |
| 18-24             | 1%                | 6     |
| 25-34             | 8%                | 38    |
| 35-49             | 24%               | 113   |
| 50-59             | 19%               | 92    |
| 60-69             | 20%               | 96    |
| 70-84             | 21%               | 101   |
| 85 and over       | 1%                | 7     |
| Prefer not to say | 5%                | 23    |

#### Demographic overview of parents with a child 12 years old or younger

| Are you a parent of a<br>child 12 years old or<br>younger? | Sample<br>proportion | Count |
|--|----------------------|-------|
| Yes  | 19%                  | 92    |
| No   | 75%                  | 362   |
| Prefer not to say  | 5%                   | 26    |

#### Demographic overview of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples

| Are you of Aboriginal or<br>Torres Strait Islander<br>origin? | Sample<br>proportion | Count |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| Yes, Aboriginal   | 2%                   | 11    |
| Yes, Torres Strait Islander                                   | 0%                   | 0     |
| Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander               | 0.2%                 | 1     |
| No  | 92%                  | 440   |
| Prefer not to say   | 6%                   | 28    |

#### What did the community tell us?

Outlined below is a summary of the key findings from the broad community survey for each question.

#### Awareness of the Traditional Owners of Boroondara

As shown in Figure 2 below, nearly two-thirds of respondents (61%) stated they know who the Traditional Owners of Boroondara are while 24% of respondents reported they did not know and an additional 15% reporting they were 'not sure' (Figure 2).

Do you know who the Traditional Owners are in Boroondara?

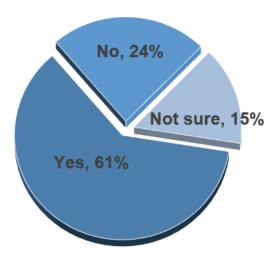


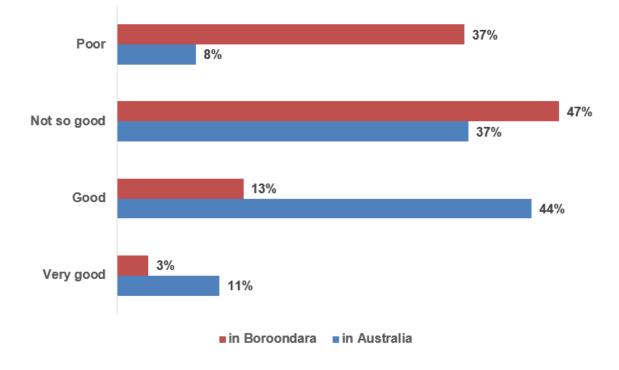
Figure 2: Self-reported knowledge about the Traditional Owners in Boroondara

# Self-reported level of knowledge about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Self-reported levels of knowledge about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and Boroondara varied significantly among respondents as shown in Figure 3 below. While just over half of the respondents (55%) reported their level of knowledge as either 'very good' or 'good' about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, only 16% did so for histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Boroondara.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (84%) reported their knowledge about histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Boroondara as 'poor' or 'not so good'.

How would you rate your knowledge about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?



**Figure 3:** Self-reported knowledge about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and Boroondara

#### Why is reconciliation in Boroondara important to our community?

When respondents were asked 'Why is reconciliation in Boroondara important to you', a variety of ideas and opinions were expressed. All comments were thematically analysed, which resulted in 13 key themes being identified as shown in Table 3 below. As can be seen, these themes strongly align with the topics identified in the consultations with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector.

While the survey question did not ask whether reconciliation is important, analysis of verbatim comments found 78% of respondents expressed support for reconciliation in Boroondara. Conversely, 19% of respondents stated reconciliation is not important with a further 3% of respondents not being sure about its importance.

**Table 3:** Themes identified by survey respondents for why reconciliation inBoroondara is important.

| Theme  | Count | % <sup>3</sup> |
|--|-------|----------------|
| The right thing to do  | 124   | 26%            |
| Need to acknowledge the past and ensure visibility of<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultures<br>and histories through education and awareness | 117   | 24%            |
| Justice: truth-telling, making amends, fighting unfairness   | 115   | 24%            |
| Local communities, including Council, should lead the reconciliation process   | 93    | 19%            |
| Respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultures   | 91    | 19%            |
| Not important  | 91    | 19%            |
| Recognise Traditional Owners and their unique relationship to the land   | 84    | 18%            |
| Important for the future and shared national identity  | 79    | 16%            |
| Building an inclusive community for all  | 38    | 8%             |
| Healing trauma and damage  | 35    | 7%             |
| Personal importance  | 33    | 7%             |
| Include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' voices in decision-making   | 24    | 5%             |
| Not sure   | 15    | 3%             |

#### Proposed actions for Council to progress reconciliation in Boroondara

A 'top of mind' approach was used to gather the community's ideas about what actions Council can take to progress reconciliation in Boroondara. Rather than presenting a list of potential actions and asking the community to express their approval, the survey asked an open-ended question which allowed the community to provide a wider variety of comments without being constrained by a list of suggestions. These answers were then coded and organised in broader

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The sum is more than 100% as respondents could mention more than one theme for why reconciliation is important in Boroondara.

action categories the community would like to see Council take to progress reconciliation in Boroondara, as presented in the Table 3 below.

Importantly, while the 'top of mind' approach allows us to identify a wider spectrum of actions, it often results in lower frequency of identified actions. Thus, the reported frequencies below should not be interpreted as the approval rate of identified actions. For example, flying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags which was nominated by 13% of respondents may be more frequently chosen by respondents if this was offered in a multiple choice question.

Table 4, below, presents the actions nominated by at least 25 respondents (5% of the sample). Once again, these areas for action strongly correlated with the suggested areas for action identified by the key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sectors.

| Action  | Count | % <sup>4</sup> |
|---|-------|----------------|
| Educational and awareness-raising programs about<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories<br>developed for all age groups (e.g. dedicated website pages,<br>special section in Council's bulletin, library resources,<br>workshops, talks, movies, school programs etc.) | 175   | 36%            |
| Signs, plaques, and information boards (e.g. stories, history<br>trails) on Council buildings and in public spaces and<br>Aboriginal traditional names used for naming and dual<br>language naming of buildings and open spaces (e.g. new<br>streets, parks)                                    | 138   | 29%            |
| Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome to Country at<br>Council meetings and events and on the website and in<br>Council publications   | 107   | 22%            |
| Actively engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about matters that concern them  | 90    | 19%            |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples-led events e.g. storytime, walks, history talks, smoking ceremony   | 90    | 19%            |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples involvement in Council and decision making processes   | 68    | 14%            |

**Table 4:** Suggested actions to progress reconciliation in Boroondara.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The sum is more than 100% as respondents could nominate more than one action to progress reconciliation in Boroondara.

| Action  | Count | % <sup>4</sup> |
|---|-------|----------------|
| Fly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Council buildings  | 64    | 13%            |
| Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art in Council<br>buildings, public spaces and parks (e.g. sculptures,<br>paintings, murals etc.)   | 43    | 9%             |
| Provide opportunities (spaces and events) to bring together<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the non-<br>Aboriginal community | 39    | 8%             |
| Celebrate culturally important dates (e.g. National Sorry day, NAIDOC etc.)   | 30    | 6%             |
| Reconciliation Action Plan and other policy documents   | 28    | 6%             |
| Increase employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.  | 25    | 5%             |

# Phase 3 – Service provider and community organisation survey

An important part of the development of the Strategy was to deepen our understanding of existing activities already taking place across the municipality to support reconciliation at a local level.

To do this we invited a select group of community organisations and services providers to complete an online survey during July and August 2021. By inviting a select number of organisations to complete the survey enabled us to develop an understanding of activities happening in arts groups, religious groups, educational institutions, neighbourhood houses, early years' services, health and wellbeing services and community groups. It also enabled us to gauge the level of interest of respondents in forming partnerships or collaborating with Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to further support reconciliation in Boroondara.

#### Who did we hear from?

In total, we heard from 26 local services providers and community organisations representing different sectors including:

- arts (1)
- church (2)
- community groups (i.e. health and welfare service) (4)
- kindergarten (3)
- long day care (1)
- neighbourhood house/ community centre (3)
- toy library (1)
- historical society (4)
- school (3)
- seniors groups (4).

# What did the service providers and community organisations tell us?

The findings from the survey indicated service providers and community organisations in Boroondara are active in delivering a range of local reconciliation initiatives. These include:

- celebrating/acknowledging significant cultural days (e.g. Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week)
- providing cultural awareness training for staff
- placements of signs or a plaques acknowledging Traditional Owners
- flying the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flags either permanently or for specific occasions
- giving a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgment of Country at assemblies, meetings, programs and special events

- giving a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders languages
- attending meetings and networks with key stakeholders from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In addition, some services/groups noted they have been delivering innovative and creative initiatives in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations including:

- projects focused on music/songs in Australian Aboriginal languages
- projects responding to prevention of violence against women
- excursions to cultural places of significance
- inviting local Aboriginal speakers to present
- embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into early years/school curriculums
- Indigenous planting and bush tucker programs
- creative artworks.

Most importantly, all service providers/community groups expressed their interests to collaborate with Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to further progress reconciliation in Boroondara.

### Conclusion

The three phases of community consultation to inform the development of the draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy gathered rich insights and ideas for how reconciliation can be progressed in the City of Boroondara. The consultations also identified there is strong support both from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, service providers, community organisations and the broader community to work together to progress it locally.

The topics and ideas raised through the consultations with key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector and the community were strongly aligned and these were used to inform the development of the vision, themes, strategic objectives and actions in the draft Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy.

As noted earlier, it is important to note the City of Boroondara is at the beginning of its reconciliation journey and it may take a number of years for Council to undertake the foundational work required before it can progress some initiatives. It is also important to note some of the ideas suggested in the community consultations fall outside the scope of the work Council does.

As this report provides an overview of the key findings from the consultation, more specific ideas for actions will be provided to the relevant Council departments to inform the development of their actions over the four years of the Strategy.

To ensure the Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy reflects the voices of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that were heard during the consultations, Council will continue to seek feedback from the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and other key advisors during the process of developing and implementing the draft Strategy.