



Vinnies
good works

SOCIAL JUSTICE
NETWORK

LOCAL ACTIVITY – FIRST AUSTRALIANS

PART 1:

Australia is home to the oldest continuing living culture in the entire world. Before the arrival of Europeans, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from more than 270 different language groups cared for Australia's land and waters for between 40,000 and 70,000 years.

Find out more about the original custodians of the land on which you live, including by:

- ④ Contacting your local Aboriginal Land Council or visiting their website. You can find contact information on the NSW Aboriginal Land Council's website.
- ④ Visiting the Gambay Map to hear 'language legends' talk about their culture, learn how to pronounce words in language, or learn the original place names used in your area.

You can present this information using Google Slides, PowerPoint, and Word or make a collage.

PART 2:

Acknowledging country is an opportunity to show respect for Traditional Owners and their continuing connection to the land on which we live.

- ④ Read more about the importance of acknowledgements on Reconciliation Australia's website.
- ④ If your school does not already acknowledge country at the beginning of important events (such as assemblies), use the information you collected in Part 1 to work out an appropriate acknowledgement.

PART 3:

Since the colonisation of Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced extreme injustices, including the loss of traditional culture and homelands, the forced removal of children, and the denial of citizenship rights. The burden of intergenerational trauma is still felt today, and can be seen most clearly in the gap in health and life expectancy between First Australians and non-indigenous Australians.

Like many organisations, Vinnies NSW has developed a Reconciliation Action Plan to guide the way in which we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations, towards greater equality.

- ④ Find out whether your school has a Reconciliation Action Plan. If it does, what are some of the actions you could contribute to? If it doesn't, what steps could you take to encourage your school to develop one?
- ④ You can learn more about Reconciliation Action Plans in schools on Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali Platform.

Write a list of actions your school could take to contribute to reconciliation. You may wish to share this with your teacher or principal.

WEB LINKS FOR THIS ACTIVITY:

- ④ alc.org.au/land_council
- ④ gambay.com.au
- ④ www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Welcome-to-and-Acknowledgement-of-Country.pdf
- ④ www.vinnies.org.au/page/Publications/NSW/Reconciliation_Action_Plan
- ④ www.narragunnawali.org.au/raps/what-is-a-rap



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