

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE – ANNUAL REPORTING 2016-17

Aboriginal Reconciliation

South Australia Police Statement of Reconciliation remains the guiding document for engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people.

SAPOL is committed to engaging with ATSI people to deliver police services and create genuine relationships that recognise the importance of reconciliation and acknowledge their cultural rights.

During the review period, the South Australia Police Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was redrafted to reflect contemporary values and to re-affirm SAPOLs commitment to maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with ATSI people, communities and organisations to support positive outcomes.

SAPOL's commitment to early intervention and engagement with ATSI people is further supported through liaison with Federal and State Government and non-government agencies in programs aimed at working with identified 'at risk' families and vulnerable youth.

Supporting South Australia's Strategic Plan, SAPOL continues to promote and make accessible pathways for ATSI people to be employed. As at May 2017, SAPOL has 74 ATSI employees working as sworn police officers, community constables, police Aboriginal liaison officers (casual), and administrative support officers.

SAPOL also has seven additional ATSI staff as police cadets undertaking training towards becoming sworn police officers.

SAPOL, through the Commissioner of Police, is a member of the Chief Executive's Group on Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Commissioner State Operations Service is the sponsor of the ATSI Focus Group which functions as a working group to provide operational and organisational guidance on Indigenous issues that will impact on SAPOL.

SAPOL promotes and actively participates in reconciliation activities including Indigenous specific youth programs, Blue Light camps, sporting events such as the Power Cup and the Don McSweeney Cup; and events such as the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week. In 2017, SAPOL again provided staff with a NAIDOC ribbon to wear as a symbol of awareness, celebration and acknowledgement of the importance and relevance of NAIDOC week to ATSI people.



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