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|  |  | ***- "Koories in Victorian Councils" -* A Victorian Local Government Framework** | |
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| **RESOURCES FOR COUNCILS:** | |  |  |
|  | **RESPECT Understanding & Acknowledgement** | **RELATIONSHIPS Engagement & Connection** | **OPPORTUNITIES Employment of Aboriginal People** |
|  | ***"Here in Australia we’re fortunate enough to have one of the richest and oldest continuing cultures in the world. This is something we should all be proud of and celebrate." Dr Tom Calma AO, Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair*** | ***"The way forward starts with all of us. Both individually and collectively, we must learn ourselves and understand how racial and cultural majority views, laws and institutions are acting to exclude and deny others. We all must understand our shared history." Professor Eleanor Bourke and Dr Diane Sisely Reconciliation Victoria Local Government Forum Report 2004*** | ***"The business benefits [of employing Aboriginal people] are quite***  ***considerable. The engagement and development of our staff as they participate***  ***with Indigenous individuals and organisations is plain to see, it's a fantastic***  ***outcome for all staff." Peter Nash, Australian Chairman KPMG*** |
| **Why it is important** | Councils understanding and acknowledging the unique place of Aboriginal people in their local community is often the first step in councils becoming an employer of choice for Aboriginal people. Having an informed understanding about the Aboriginal community will better enable councils to take the actions that will result in Aboriginal people wanting to work in local government. | Organisations which have recruited and retained Aboriginal employees all say that having meaningful relationships with the Aboriginal community is vital to success. | Sustained employment is key to the economic and social wellbeing of all Australians. For Aboriginal  people to enjoy the benefits that flow from employment, they need to have jobs to do. There is an  Aboriginal workforce ready and willing to work, but currently very few are employed in Victoria's 79  councils. |
| **Statistics at a glance** | Over 47,000 Aboriginal people live in Victoria, with government projections expecting this number to rise to over 80,000 people by 2021.  Only 76 Aboriginal people are known to be employed in a Victorian council workforce of more than 40,000 employees. | More than half (42 out of 79) of councils have specific Indigenous commitments or initiatives as part of their organisational plans.  61 councils celebrate Aboriginal culture through events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week.   32 councils have Reconciliation Action Plans or similar commitments. | Over 12,000 Aboriginal people are in the labour force in Victoria, and a further 2,800 were registered as unemployed according to 2011 ABS workforce data.   The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people is 18.9%, three times the general rate of 6.5%.  In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to halving the gap in employment  outcomes between Indigenous and other Australians by 2018. |
| **Top 3 actions councils can do to make a difference** | 1. Get to know your local Aboriginal community and learn about their employment needs and aspirations. | 1. Be open and willing to engage with your local Aboriginal community - get to know who they are - ring up local Aboriginal organisations and visit their offices. | In addition to current best practice human resource management, consider the following Aboriginal-  specific initiatives: |
|  | 2. Have a conversation about racism in the workplace and whether the council workplace is a place an Aboriginal person would feel welcome coming to work. | 2. Hold information sessions with local Aboriginal communities to provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to better understand what councils do. | **1. Getting to the job - attraction & recruitment** \* Decide to actively seek Aboriginal candidates for all vacant positions. \* Develop and promote council’s approach to Aboriginal employment in existing employment  Strategies and articulate this on the council website. \* Include wording on job advertisements that candidates from culturally diverse backgrounds,  including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, are encouraged to apply. |
|  | 3. Recognise Aboriginal people and their heritage in the local community, such as flying the Aboriginal flag from council buildings and inserting acknowledgement of traditional owners into official proceedings at council meetings and events. | 3. Formally document, and include in the Council Plan, that the council welcomes engagement with the Aboriginal community. | **2. On the job - induction & retention** \* Undertake cultural awareness training for line managers and the team where the new Aboriginal  employee will be working. \* Consider options for linking new Aboriginal staff with other Aboriginal employees in your council or  if there are none, other contacts who could assist. \* Provide clarity about council requirements and expectations about bereavement and cultural leave. |
|  |  |  | **3. Procurement** \* Use Aboriginal businesses listed in the [**Aboriginal Business Directory**](http://directory.business.vic.gov.au/aboriginal#.VUBJUWdWG70) compiled  by the Victorian Government \* Become a member of [**Supply Nation**](http://www.supplynation.org.au/) \* Find out if there are Aboriginal businesses operating in your municipality. |
| **Resources** | There is more information about [**Respect**](http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/aboriginal-employment/Pages/respect.aspx) on the MAV website under Aboriginal Employment. | There is more information about [**Relationships**](http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/aboriginal-employment/Pages/relationships.aspx)on the MAV website under Aboriginal Employment. | MAV Fact Sheets [**Getting Started**](http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/aboriginal-employment/Documents/Getting%20started%20-%20Aboriginal%20employment%20in%20Victorian%20local%20government.docx) and [**Resources**](http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/aboriginal-employment/Documents/Resources%20guide%20-%20Aboriginal%20employment%20in%20Victorian%20local%20government.docx) outline additional ideas, useful references and website links – see the MAV website under Aboriginal Employment. |
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| \* The terms Aboriginal and Indigenous are used inter-changeably through this document to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people generally. "Koories" is a word commonly used to refer to Aboriginal people who come from south-eastern Australia. There is no strict  Way of spelling it, with Koori or Koorie commonly used. The MAV gratefully acknowledges the artwork provided by Ngarra Murray, who is a proud Wamba Wamba and Yorta Yorta woman having strong family connections to Lake Boga and Cummeragunja.  The MAV acknowledges with thanks the support of the Victorian Government in providing funding for the Local Government Aboriginal Employment Project through the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources Employment Start-up for Aboriginal  Jobseekers Program.  **THIS FRAMEWORK IS A 'WORK-IN-PROGRESS' - please provide any comments to MAV Policy Adviser,** [**Rosemary Hancock**](mailto:rhancock@mav.asn.au) **– email rhancock@mav.asn.au**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | |  |  | ***- "Koories in Victorian Councils" -* A Victorian Local Government Framework** | | |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | **RESOURCES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE** | |  |  | | This section of the framework provides suggestions for members of the Aboriginal community about ways they can connect with their local council | | | | |  | **RESPECT Understanding Local Government** | **RELATIONSHIPS Engagement & Connection** | **OPPORTUNITIES Employment of Aboriginal People** | |  | ***“While there is nothing more empowering than to visit a local council and see that it has a diverse workforce – to see Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in various roles is even more so.”***  ***Todd Jigarru Condie, Wyambarra Clan, Yidinji language group, working in local government at City of Port Phillip*** | ***"As Indigenous Australians, we want nothing more than any other Australian citizen wants: a safe place to live; the fair opportunity to work for a decent living and for our children to be guaranteed health, education and a secure future." Michael Long, in his letter to the Prime Minister at the end of The Long Walk, 2004*** | ***“Working in a local council is working for the community, something we***  ***do anyway as Aboriginal people.”***  ***Lidia Thorpe, Gunnai Gunditjmara woman working in local government***  ***at the MAV.*** | | **Why it is important** | Working in a council will enable you to play a role in making your local community a great place to live for everyone. | Councils which are committed to engagement with Aboriginal Australians are good places to start looking for work in, because they have started their journey to greater understanding of their local Aboriginal communities. | Working in local government offers the chance to make a difference in public health,  planning, recreation, finance, arts, environment, communication, law, engineering,  community services, marketing and more. | |  |  |  |  | | **Statistics at a glance** | There are 79 councils in Victoria, with 31 metropolitan, 10 regional cities and 38 rural shires.  Councils provide more than 100 different services to communities. | More than half of councils have specific Indigenous commitments or initiatives as part of their organisational plans. Sixty-one councils celebrate Aboriginal culture through events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week.   Thirty-two councils have Reconciliation Action Plans. | Victoria's 79 councils employ over 40,000 people.  Councils have more than 100 different career paths. | | **What you can do to get a job in local government** | Learn about what your local council does and the sorts of jobs available. | Attend council events to start networking. | Contact your local council. | |  | View the [**summary**](http://www.mav.asn.au/about-local-government/local-government-services/Pages/Local-government-services.aspx) of council services on the MAV website.  Look at your [**council’s website**](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/local-government/find-your-local-council) for a copy of its Annual Report. | Contact Aboriginal people working in local government. | Go to the [**MAV website**](http://www.mav.asn.au/careers/Local-government-careers/Pages/work-for-council.aspx) which has a link to the job vacancy section of all councils in Victoria. | |  |  | Contact the Aboriginal Employment Adviser at the MAV. | Contact the MAV employment adviser to find out about other Aboriginal people  working in Victorian councils. | | **Resources** | Visit the [**MAV website**](http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/aboriginal-employment/Pages/respect.aspx)for examples of council acknowledgements and commitments with Aboriginal communities. | Visit the [**MAV website**](http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/reconciliation/Pages/raps.aspx)for a list of Victorian Councils with Reconciliation Action Plans. | Visit the MAV website [**Local Government Careers section**](http://www.mav.asn.au/careers/Local-government-careers/Pages/work-for-council.aspx) View the [**Careers in Local Government website**](http://www.localgovernmentcareers.com.au/). | | \* The terms Aboriginal and Indigenous used inter-changeably through this document to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people generally. "Koories" is a word commonly used to refer to Aboriginal people who come from south-eastern Australia. There is no  strict way of spelling it, with Koori or Koorie commonly used. The MAV gratefully acknowledges the artwork provided by Ngarra Murray, who is a proud Wamba Wamba and Yorta Yorta woman having strong family connections to Lake Boga and Cummeragunja.  The MAV acknowledges with thanks the support of the Victorian Government in providing funding for the Local Government Aboriginal Employment Project through the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources Employment Start-up for  Aboriginal Jobseekers Program  **THIS FRAMEWORK IS A 'WORK-IN-PROGRESS' - please provide any comments to MAV Policy Adviser, Rosemary Hancock – email rhancoc@mav.asn.au** | | | | | | | |
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