



9 April 2009

Reconciliation Week 2009: Celebrating the UN International Year of Reconciliation

For Reconciliation Week 2009 (27 May – 3 June), the NSW Reconciliation Council is calling on all Australians to consider how we can better protect Indigenous rights on a local level, state level, and nationally.

“The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation, so Reconciliation Week presents an important opportunity to celebrate the Australian Government’s reversal of its opposition to the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and to consider how we can better protect the rights of all Indigenous Australians” said Renee Williamson, Indigenous Co-Chairperson of the NSW Reconciliation Council.

To mark this symbolic occasion, the NSW Reconciliation Council in partnership with the Social Justice Unit of the Australian Human Rights Commission, has produced a Community Education Resource for students, teachers and anyone who wants to learn more about rights and reconciliation. The booklet contains questions and answers about reconciliation, Indigenous rights, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and includes activities suitable for classrooms and community discussions.

This booklet will also contain a list of Reconciliation Week events to be held across NSW. “We encourage everyone to attend one of the many events to be held around NSW for Reconciliation Week this year” said David Crew, non-Indigenous Co-Chairperson of the NSW Reconciliation Council.

The booklet will be available to download from the NSW Reconciliation Council's website at www.nswrecon.com from 4th May. Hardcopies can be ordered online or by calling (02) 9219 0719 or emailing nswrc@daa.nsw.gov.au.

An up-to-date list of local and state events for Reconciliation Week 2009 will also be available at www.nswrecon.com.

For further information contact Joanna Lunzer at the NSW Reconciliation Council on (02) 9219 0719.