

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap updated in 2020, aims to address inequality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. FRDC emphasises embedding Indigenous Peoples and culture in research, starting with our Indigenous Reconciliation Statement of Intent and Actions (IRISA), a document that outlines our progress on agreed actions, since May 2023.

Our progress at a glance

Good progress ●

Work in progress ●

Intent 1 Respect



- Increase understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning.
- Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols

Celebrating success

- Approved FRDC sponsorship of and participation in the inaugural Australian Sea Country Conference
- Reviewed and approved a 'refreshed' FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG)
- Increased Indigenous representation on FRDC Research Advisory Committees (RACs)

Intent 2 Relationships



- Strengthen relationships between ATSI People and FRDC
- Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence
- Promote positive race relations through anti-discrimination strategies.
- Celebrate National Reconciliation Week (NRW)

Celebrating success

- Continued IRG & FRDC engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on relevant projects
- Informed FRDC staff and encouraged their involvement in NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) activities
- Promoted NRW and NAIDOC to external parties by changing FRDC email signatures, virtual meeting backgrounds and publishing stakeholder communications
- Considered and embedded the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) ethical guidelines within FRDC's Project evaluation process section for project evaluations

Intent 3 Opportunities



- Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and professional development

Celebrating success

- Developed and implemented a new FRDC diversity and inclusion policy
- Included an acknowledgement of traditional knowledge in FRDC's Intellectual Property policy to include consideration of Indigenous IP
- Promoted FRDC's requirement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person as co-investigators where relevant
- Increased R&D engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People via FRDC's Extension Officer Network.