Reconciliation ⦿ NSW

SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2026

NATIONAL ART, WRITING & FILM COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS EXPLORING RECONCILIATION

for students year 3-10

Entries Close 21 August 2026

- Curriculum-aligned lesson plans
- Reconciliation Education Kit
- Certificates for participants
- Exhibition opportunities

Reconciliation NSW

General Information

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

- SRC is an annual Art & Writing Competition
- Run by Reconciliation NSW
- Inspired by a yearly theme about Reconciliation
- Students can submit artworks, written pieces or videos
- Every Submission will get a Certificate of Participation
- Finalist artists and schools gain prizes and are exhibited publicly

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Deepens understanding of First Nations cultures and history
- Fosters respect, empathy, and inclusion
- Encourages creativity and critical thinking
- Supports curriculum outcomes
- Offers a platform for student voices
- Chance for public recognition through exhibitions (e.g. in International Towers and Parliament)

HOW TO TAKE PART

- Register to get news and updates
- Use lesson plans and resources to explore the theme
- Create artworks, written pieces and/or videos
- Write Artist Statement or Writer's Reflection
- Submit entries online before the deadline via upload link on our website

SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

- Lesson plans for each stage developed with educational partners
- Classroom activities tailored to the theme
- Guidance for culturally competent teaching
- Reconciliation Education Kit
- Acknowledgement of Country and other cultural guides

FREE UPDATES STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX!

2026 Categories

Reconciliation Stories

What to submit:
Creative or persuasive written responses to the theme.

Possible formats include:
- Short stories
- Poetry
- Personal reflections
- Persuasive pieces
- Speeches
- Letters
- Hybrid creative forms

What judges are looking for:
- Clear connection to the theme
- Depth of thinking about belonging and reconciliation
- Original voice and creativity
- Emotional impact and clarity of message

Reconciliation Visions

What to submit:
Visual artworks responding to the theme.

Possible formats include:
- Painting
- Drawing
- Digital art
- Collage
- Mixed media
- Sculpture

What judges are looking for:
- Strong visual interpretation of the theme
- Symbolism and meaning
- Creativity and originality
- Technical effort appropriate to age level
- Clear artist statement explaining the idea

NEW — Reconciliation on Screen

What to submit:
Short films or promotional-style videos showcasing reconciliation in action.

This may include:
- Student-led initiatives
- School reconciliation projects
- Interviews or storytelling
- Documentary-style pieces
- Call-to-action videos

Suggested length:
2–4 minutes

What judges are looking for:
- Authentic student voice
- Demonstrated impact or initiative
- Clear link to the theme
- Storytelling and structure
- Creativity and collaboration

NEW — Reconciliation in Practice

What to submit:
Reflections, case studies, or creative documentation of programs that foster belonging, inclusion, and reconciliation.
Formats include:
- Written/Video reflections
- Case studies
- Photo essays
- Visual documentation

Focus areas may include:
- Classroom programs that build belonging
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Community partnerships
- Student leadership initiatives
- School-wide reconciliation strategies

What judges are looking for:
- Clear impact on students
- Thoughtful reflection
- Innovation or strong practice
- Alignment with reconciliation principles
- Evidence of inclusion and belonging

ALL AWARDS

- 60 Student Finalists
- 3 Judges' Choice Winners
- 3 People's Choice Winners
- 3 Teacher Finalists

OUR PARTNERS

NSW Government · Aboriginal Affairs · NARRA GUNNA WALI · INTERNATIONAL TOWERS · NATIONAL TRUST · BHP · CleverPatch · Wingaru Kids · RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA