

Reconcile-What are you waiting for?

I am a 31 year old Australian and growing up in school I do not recall learning much about our Indigenous history. It was not until I went to university that I had learnt so much about the history of Indigenous Australia that I began to feel a sense of sadness that this rich history was not taught thoroughly during my early school years.

Because I was not taught that much at school about the history, people, events, celebrations, triumphs, losses etc I feel that I did not connect the way that I wanted to with Indigenous communities and people.

As an adult now and learning more and more each day from Indigenous elders about their people and history and future gives me the appreciation and understanding that I always wanted. It is important for any child growing up in Australia to learn and become aware about Indigenous Australians.

They are the oldest of all living cultures, which distinguishes Australia from the rest of the world. The Indigenous cultures are complex with strong kinship and spiritual beliefs, social systems laws and survival. Why this rich history is not embraced as much in schools as it should still amazes me.

In order for reconciliation to process meaningfully there must be respect. A respect for difference, respect for culture, respect for land, respect for integrity as human beings. And as a group Indigenous peoples are currently the most disadvantaged. Basic human rights are enshrined throughout Australia yet it is widely known that these rights are not enjoyed as much by the Indigenous communities.

Why?

Well does my school years growing up in Sydney answer the question!!

Come on Australia lets put unity back in the community!!

Our children need this in order for reconciliation to move forward as a nation.