

Monday 7 December 2009

VIC COALITION WILL RESTORE FUNDING TO RECONCILIATION VICTORIA

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will re-establish Reconciliation Victoria as the peak body for reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Victorians.

The Coalition recognises the vital role Reconciliation Victoria plays in promoting and educating indigenous and non-indigenous Victorians about Australia's shared history.

A Coalition Government will enable Reconciliation Victoria to resume operations by providing \$200,000 per year in funding.

The Brumby Government cut funding for this valuable organisation in June, forcing its immediate closure, and has since failed in a bid to merge it with another group with different objectives.

Reconciliation Victoria has a proud history of helping to bring Victorians together and a Coalition Government will restore its funding to enable it to resume its great work.

Indigenous groups and the Coalition have campaigned strongly for the Brumby Government to rethink its decision to cut funding for Reconciliation Victoria.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Richard Wynne refused to budge, then made matters worse by trying to force a merger between Reconciliation Victoria and Stolen Generations Victoria – a proposal strongly opposed by indigenous groups.

The two organisations have vastly different objectives – Stolen Generations Victoria focuses on supporting indigenous Victorians, while Reconciliation Victoria works with non-indigenous groups, sporting clubs and schools across Melbourne and with regional reconciliation groups to inform and educate people about indigenous history and help fight discrimination.

The Minister's termination of funding and his subsequent proposal show the Brumby Government cannot be trusted to help bring Victorians together.

Policy

The Brumby Government has failed to recognise Reconciliation Victoria's valuable role in creating opportunities for indigenous and non-Indigenous Victorians to work closely together.

In contrast, the Victorian Coalition will fund Reconciliation Victoria so it can once again do great work in bringing Victorians together.