

Archive No. 109

Aboriginal Reconciliation Study Circle for Lesbians

As part of the process of Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-indigenous, an educative kit was devised and Study Circles were set up around Australia to give people the opportunity to educate themselves about the issues of racism and the concerns of Indigenous people. By working with the kit on a regular basis over a period of time the people in the Study Circles were able to gain a better understanding of how racism works not only to the detriment of the Indigenous people but in a dehumanising way for non-Indigenous people as well.

A Lesbian Reconciliation Study Circle was formed in Melbourne on 14 February 1994 by a group of lesbians interested in dealing with the effects of racism from a non-Aboriginal perspective and in learning more about the invasion and how it impacted on Indigenous cultures right up to the present day. The group met once a month in each other's houses for eight months working their way slowly through the kit provided by the Reconciliation Council. The many discussions mainly centred around the implications of the invasion of Victoria in 1835 and the subsequent racist government and social policies and how these affected both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in quite different ways.

The group agreed the kit was very comprehensive and provided an educative means to access information and open up discussion about these important issues.