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## Statement from the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Australia

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

The worth, dignity and equality of human beings is core to the Christian faith. We are made in God's own image. We see that image best in Jesus Christ. He was no respecter of race, status or privilege. He transcends all those boundaries. He is the saviour of the world.

Despite this basic belief that all are made equal, and therefore all are equally saved, we are often painfully separated by race, culture, power and prestige. In a world shaped by power, wealth and influence, Christians must work hard to remain true to the equality of all. Sometimes, we do well. Too often, we fail. Through Christ we are sorry for our sin and ask for and receive forgiveness from God and from each other. Then, by God's grace, we have the strength to continue our journey together as human beings reconciled in Christ.

This Reflect RAP is a step in that forward-looking journey. It began way back when we were created equal. It continued when God so loved the world that he sent his Son to be our saviour, without discrimination. The journey resumes when we step out together side by side, First Peoples and other Australians, listening to each other, respecting and learning from each other, deepening our relationships and discovering who we are to be and what we are to do.

May God bless this RAP, and our journey together.

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**John Henderson**  
*Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand*



## Reconciliation Vision Statement

Inspired by the Gospel and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the vision of Reconciliation for the Lutheran Church of Australia is...

*'to bring to life an expression of our ministry that helps all peoples recognise, understand, value and respect the histories, cultures, lands and contributions of First Nations peoples, as we honour our common humanity and provide each other with equal opportunity to flourish, as together, we grow as God's people'*