This issue is being printed at the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launches its Declaration for Reconciliation at Corroboree 2000. The document is a culmination of 10 years of work toward achieving reconciliation between non-indigenous and indigenous Australians, towards achieving an understanding of our shared history and of Australian history before white settlement, and of developing ongoing strategies to advance reconciliation.

A draft document for reconciliation was released in 1999 and earlier this year the Council released four draft strategies to advance reconciliation. They were strategies to:

- promote the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights,
- for economic independence,
- to sustain the Reconciliation Process, and
- to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

Corroboree 2000 was intended to be the culmination of a ten-year reconciliation process. It was designed to bring together the white political leaders of Australia’s Commonwealth and States with indigenous leaders. Here was a great opportunity to signal to Australians and the world that Australia’s political leadership had spent ten years listening, discussing, and learning from each other and would celebrate that in agreeing on a document about our past and future.

It is now unlikely that this great hope will be achieved. In February the Prime Minister’s Message, the document was published quarterly and distributed free to members. Copies are held by libraries and educational institutions throughout Australia. Non-members may subscribe for $48 (in Australia) or $58 (overseas). Single issues are available at $15 plus postage.

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