



## 2023 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dates of Significance

<b>Australia Day / Survival Day / Invasion Day</b>	<b>26 January</b>
<b>National Apology Anniversary</b> Anniversary of the formal apology by the government and Parliament of Australia to the Stolen Generations.	<b>13 February</b>
<b>Close the Gap Day</b> Support for closing gap with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, educational and employment outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.  <a href="https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/closing-gap#latest-news">https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/closing-gap#latest-news</a>	<b>16 March</b>
<b>Harmony Day</b> Started in 1999 to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity, Harmony Day (within Harmony Week) is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Its also the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.  <a href="https://www.harmony.gov.au/">https://www.harmony.gov.au/</a>	<b>21 March</b>
<b>National Sorry Day</b> First held on 26 May 1998, this day commemorates the anniversary of the <i>Bringing them Home</i> report, the final report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families <sup>1</sup> . National Sorry Day remembers the grief, suffering and injustice experienced by the stolen generations.  <a href="https://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/get-involved/events/national-sorry-day">https://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/get-involved/events/national-sorry-day</a>	<b>26 May</b>

<sup>1</sup> **Bringing them Home**; Final Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families; Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (Australian Human Rights Commission); 1995 and 1997



<p><b>1967 Referendum Anniversary</b></p> <p>In 1967 over 90% of Australians voted in a Referendum to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Referendum also gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>	<p><b>27 May</b></p>
<p><b>National Reconciliation Week</b></p> <p>National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the first Australians. The week provides an opportunity to reflect on achievements so far and the things which must still be done to achieve reconciliation.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/">https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/</a></p>	<p><b>27 May- 3 June</b></p> <p><b>2023 Theme:</b> <i>Be a Voice for Generations</i></p>
<p><b>Mabo Day</b></p> <p>The anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgment in 1992 in the Mabo case, which overturned the legal fiction of Terra Nullius and recognised the existence of native title in Australia for the first time.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reconciliation.org.au/commemorating-mabo-day/">https://www.reconciliation.org.au/commemorating-mabo-day/</a> <a href="https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/mabo-case">https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/mabo-case</a></p>	<p><b>3 June</b></p>
<p><b>Coming of the Light</b></p> <p>The Coming of the Light is a holiday celebrated by Torres Strait Islanders on 1 July each year. It recognises the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.</p> <p><a href="https://www.qm.qld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+Cultures/Gatherings/Coming+of+the+Light+Torres+Strait+Islands">https://www.qm.qld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+Cultures/Gatherings/Coming+of+the+Light+Torres+Strait+Islands</a></p>	<p><b>1 July</b></p>
<p><b>NAIDOC Week</b></p> <p>NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.</p> <p>NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.</p> <p><a href="https://www.naidoc.org.au">https://www.naidoc.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>2 - 9 July</b></p> <p><b>2023 Theme:</b> <i>For Our Elders</i></p>



<p><b>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day</b></p> <p>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day has been celebrated for more than 30 years. It’s a special time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to celebrate their children, and for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures.</p> <p><a href="https://aboriginalchildrensday.com.au/">https://aboriginalchildrensday.com.au/</a></p>	<p><b>4 August</b></p>
<p><b>International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>To raise awareness of the needs of indigenous peoples around the world. The day was chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.</p> <p><a href="https://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/">https://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/</a></p>	<p><b>9 August</b></p>
<p><b>Indigenous Literacy Day</b></p> <p>This is a yearly initiative by Australia’s Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Through literacy programs, the organization seeks to improve the lives and possibilities of Indigenous Australians. Not just any literacy program, but one that puts the knowledge and wisdom of the indigenous people first. The events raise awareness of the educational struggles facing many Indigenous groups in Australia, while also serving as a fundraiser to collect literary resources for children living in more isolated areas of the country.</p> <p><a href="https://www.indigenoussliteracyfoundation.org.au/indigenous-literacy-day">https://www.indigenoussliteracyfoundation.org.au/indigenous-literacy-day</a></p>	<p><b>7 September</b></p>
<p><b>Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007. The Declaration is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples.</p> <p><a href="https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html">https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html</a></p>	<p><b>13 September</b></p>