

Significant Dates

Survival Day – 26th January

This is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultures, languages, histories and strength. Events are held throughout Australia, they are an opportunity to promote truth-telling, understanding, respect, healing and reconciliation.

Harmony Day – 21st March

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Harmony Day) celebrates the cultural diversity of Australia and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone.

National Sorry Day – 26th May

On Sorry Day thousands of Australians from all walks of life participate in memorial services, commemorative meetings, survival celebrations and community gatherings to honour and commemorate the Stolen Generations.

Mabo Day – 3rd June

This marks the anniversary of the High Court's historic decision, led by Eddie Koiki Mabo, which overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius and recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original custodians of this land.

National NAIDOC Week – Early July

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Held from the first Sunday to the second Sunday in July, this week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 9th August

This day affirms the importance of protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous peoples all around the world. It also celebrates their unique contributions and diverse, rich cultures.

National Apology Day – 13th February

To mark the anniversary of the formal apology by the Parliament of Australia to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly the Stolen Generations, for past injustices.

National Close the Gap Day – 20th March

This is the annual event held to raise awareness about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health crisis in Australia, and promote equality in life expectancy and health status between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

National Reconciliation Week – 27th May – 3rd June

This week commemorates two significant milestones in the Reconciliation Journey – the anniversary of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo Decision. It is a time to celebrate and learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and explore how each of us can contribute to the national Reconciliation effort.

Coming of the Light – 1st July

The anniversary of the day London Missionary Society arrived in the Torres Strait for the first time. Torres Strait Islanders people mark this day by holding cultural ceremonies.

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day – 4th August

This is a day to reflect on the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: their right to be educated, cared for, protected, and to have the opportunity to understand and practice their culture.

NSW Aboriginal Languages Week – 24th October

This annual event takes place during the week of October 24, to coincide with the passing of the Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 into law. The aim of the week is to raise awareness about Aboriginal Languages and increase support for Languages revitalisation and reclamation.