

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

### Significant Dates 2018

#### **Survival Day: Friday 26 January**

Australia Day is not a celebration for all Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples mark this day as Survival Day. Since colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been subjected to government-sanctioned violence, policies that removed children from families, the removal of people from their lands and the denial of self-determination.

#### **Harmony Day: Wednesday 21 March**

Harmony Day celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of Australia and promotes a culturally and diverse society.

#### **National Apology Day: Saturday 26 May**

National Apology Day is the anniversary of the formal apology made in 2008 by the Rudd Government and the Parliament of Australia to Australia's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, in particular the Stolen Generations.

#### **Reconciliation Week: Sunday 27 May**

The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort. The week is bookended by the two significant dates explained below.

#### **Commonwealth 1967 Referendum**

The Commonwealth Referendum acknowledges that over 90% of Australians voted to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution, which discriminated against Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Referendum also gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws on behalf of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

#### **Mabo Day: Sunday 3 June**

Mabo Day marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgement in 1992 in the Mabo case. The case made against the State of Queensland on 3 June accepted the claim by Eddie Mabo and the other claimants that their people (the Meriam peoples) had occupied the Islands of Mer for hundreds of years before the arrival of the British. This is a day of particular significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians as Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo's name is synonymous with native title rights.

### **Coming of the Light: Sunday 1 July**

This is a particular day of significance for Torres Strait Islander people. It marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871. Religious and cultural ceremonies are held by Torres Strait Islander Christians across the Torres Strait and on the mainland to commemorate this day.

### **NAIDOC Week: 1 - 8 July 2018**

NAIDOC Week is observed from the first to the second Sunday in July. NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC was originally 'National Aboriginal and Islanders' Day Observance Committee'. This week is celebrated not just in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities but also increasingly in government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces.

### **National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day: Saturday 4 August**

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD) is celebrated on 4 August and was established by Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care in 1988. Each year SNAICC has a theme for Children's Day to highlight significant issues, concern or hope for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children.

### **International Day of the World's Indigenous People: Thursday 9 August**

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed on 9 August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous population. This event also recognises the achievements and contributions that Indigenous peoples make to improve world issues such as environment protection.