

# NATIONAL DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

## **13 February – Anniversary of National Apology Day**

On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology to Australia's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the injustices of past government policies, particularly to the Stolen Generations.

## **19 March – National Close the Gap Day**

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event that raises awareness and seeks to close the gap with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, educational and employment outcomes between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and other Australians.

## **26 May – National Sorry Day**

National Sorry Day provides an opportunity for people to come together and share the journey towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

## **27 May – 1967 Referendum**

The 1967 Referendum was a landmark achievement following decades of activism by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians, where more than 90 percent of Australians voted in favour of amending two sections of the Australian Constitution.

## **27 May – 3 June – National Reconciliation Week**

National Reconciliation Week celebrations commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo Decision.

## **3 June – Mabo Day**

On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia overturned the principle of “terra nullius” or “nobody’s land” as claimed by the British when they first arrived in this country. The decision has paved the way for Native Title legislation.

## **1 July – Coming of the Light**

The Coming of the Light is celebrated annually by Torres Strait Islander peoples. It marks the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.

## **5 –12 July 2020 – NAIDOC Week**

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **4 August – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

## **4 September – Indigenous Literacy Day**

Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of culture, stories, language and literacy. This day raises awareness of the disadvantages experienced in remote communities and advocates for more access to literacy resources.