



National Reconciliation Week of Prayer: May 27 – June 3

Its Origins

National Reconciliation Week ([NRW](#)) *originally* commenced as the **Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993** (the *International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples*) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

With the establishment in 2001, of **Reconciliation Australia** this group continued to provide national leadership on reconciliation annually promoting NRW.

Significantly, May 26, the day immediately before National Reconciliation Week is [National Sorry Day](#), and is an Australian wide occasion for both First Nations and other Australians

This day gives all Australians the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

On our pathway towards reconciliation, Sorry Day on 26 May is an important moment to remember the past policies of forced child removal. Here, we reflect on the sad and painful history of the Stolen Generations and recognise moments of resilience, healing and the power of saying Sorry.

