

# SIGNIFICANT DATES!



Date	Title	Meaning
January 26	<b>Survival Day</b>	Many people know this as Australia Day. This is not a day of celebration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The date marks the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove, the beginning of invasion and dispossession.
February 13	<b>Anniversary of the National Apology</b>	On this day in 2008, then Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, moved a motion of apology to Indigenous Australians with specific reference to the stolen generations. The Apology passed with bipartisan support from the Parliament and received a standing ovation from the floor of the House of Representatives as well as from the public gallery. The anniversary of this significant event in history is remembered each year with a range of activities across the country and communities.
March 21	<b>Harmony Day</b>	Harmony Day is a day when all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day is often celebrated by Indigenous Australians and people from a range of cultures within communities. This celebration commenced in 1999.
May 26	<b>National Day of Healing (National Sorry Day)</b>	The Bringing them Home report recommended (Recommendation 7.a) that a National Sorry Day be held each year on the 26 May to remember the forcible removal of children from families and its long term devastating effect. In 2005 the National Sorry Day Committee renamed the day National Day of Healing for all Australians.
May 27 – June 3	<b>Reconciliation Week</b>	This week of celebration commemorates and acknowledges the rich culture and history of the first Australians. This is the time we can all think about reconciliation and how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians.
June 3	<b>Mabo Day (Named Mabo Judgement because it was Eddie's name that appeared first on the legal documents).</b>	On this day in 1992, the High Court of Australia rejected the notion of 'Terra Nullius', that this land was not occupied before European colonisation. Eddie Mabo, a Torres Strait Island man living in Queensland and four other plaintiffs, Father Dave Passi, Sam Passi, James Rice and Celuia Sale, conducted a ten year battle through the courts that led to this historic ruling. The Mabo Judgement stated in law that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have by prior occupation, ownership of land where native title has not been extinguished.
First full week in July	<b>NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee)</b>	NAIDOC is celebrated in an increasing number of government agencies, schools, councils and workplaces and is not just for Indigenous Australians to celebrate. This week is about celebrating Indigenous Australian culture, acknowledging the nation's first Australians and building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
4 August	<b>National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day</b>	NAIDOC was established in 1988 by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC). Each year is themed to highlight a significant issue, concern or hope for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.
9 August	<b>International Day of the World's Indigenous People</b>	The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was first proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1994, to be celebrated every year during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004). In 2004, the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade, from 2005 – 2015, with the theme of "A Decade for Action and Dignity."
September (no set date)	<b>Deadly Awards</b>	Vibe Australia has been hosting the Deadly Awards since 1995. The awards encompass Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music, Sport, Entertainment and Community awards. They promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievement as a marketable and growing force within Australia. These awards are growing ever more popular and attracting more and more attention for the achievement of Indigenous Australians.