

Aboriginal Cultural Days of Significance Calendar

This calendar outlines significant cultural days and events observed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in NSW. It is important to note that there are numerous cultural events celebrated across different regions and communities. The dates provided are approximate and may vary slightly depending on the community's cultural practices.

Australia Day/ Survival Day

Jan 26

Also known as Invasion Day or Day of Mourning, is a day to reflect on the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing resilience and survival.

National Apology Day

Feb 13

Marks the anniversary of the formal apology by the Australian Parliament to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in particular the Stolen Generation, for past injustices.

National Close the Gap Day

March 20

A day of action to raise awareness about the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, promoting equality in life expectancy and health status.

Harmony Day

March 21

A day of cultural respect for everyone that calls Australia home. This day aims to promote cultural diversity and reaffirms that Australia is an inclusive nation.

National Sorry Day

May 26

Also known as the National Day of Healing, this day commemorates the "Stolen Generations" and is part of the ongoing efforts towards reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

National Reconciliation Week

May 27-June 3

A week to commemorate the anniversary of the 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo Decision. A time to celebrate and learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and explore how each can contribute to the national Reconciliation effort.

Mabo Day

June 3

A day to commemorate the landmark High Court decision in 1992 recognising Native Title and Eddie Mabo's contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land rights.

Coming of the Light

July 1

The anniversary of the day the London Missionary Society arrived in the Torres Strait in 1871, introducing Christianity to the region.

National NAIDOC Week

**First week of July
each year**

A week celebrating the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Aug 4

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.

International Day of World's Indigenous People

Aug 9

A day that raises awareness and protect the rights of the worlds Indigenous populations.

Indigenous Literacy Day

Date varies each year

An annual event that raises awareness and funds to improve literacy levels among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote communities.

Koori knockout

**October long weekend
each year**

A major rugby league sporting and cultural event that brings together Aboriginal communities from across NSW.

International Human Rights Day

10 December

A day to promote and celebrate human rights, including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It is essential to engage with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to gain a deeper understanding of cultural practices, protocols, and additional significant days that may not be listed in this calendar. This calendar should be used as a starting point for respectful engagement and cultural awareness, recognising the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in NSW.