


# Significant Dates Australian First Nations

**2022-23**  
**STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL  
SAFETY IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**



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This resource is to support primary health care providers with enhancing the cultural responsiveness of their staff, premises and services.

The below ideas can be used to acknowledge, engage and learn more about some of the dates that are significant to Australia's First Nations people.






All staff complete the RACGP accredited cultural awareness [online training](#)


DAY	DATE	IDEAS FOR PRACTICE
<p><b>Australia Day (Survival or Invasion Day)</b></p> <p>Most Australians celebrate Australia Day as the day Australia was founded. In contrast, First Nations people mourn their history and call it 'Invasion Day'.</p> 	<p>26th January</p> <p>Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A sign or poster to acknowledge that this day may be looked upon differently for Australia's First Nations people</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Advertise posters for First Nations events that are happening within the local community</li> <li>- Incorporate an Acknowledgement of Country into your team meetings</li> <li>- Add Australia Day/Invasion Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research First Nations views on Australia Day and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anniversary of the Apology</b></p> <p>The day Kevin Rudd delivered the Apology to the nation.</p> 	<p>13th Feb</p> <p>Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A sign acknowledging the day</li> <li>- Display the Apology which can be found at <a href="http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/our-country/our-people/apology-to-australias-indigenous-peoples">www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/our-country/our-people/apology-to-australias-indigenous-peoples</a></li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Add the Anniversary of the Apology as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research the National Apology and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>


DAY	DATE	IDEAS FOR PRACTICE
<p><b>National Close the Gap Day</b></p> <p>National Close the Gap Day is observed on the third Thursday of March every year. It is a National Day of Action to pledge support for achieving First Nations health equality by 2031.</p> <p><b>CLOSE THE GAP</b></p>	<p>17th March 2022</p> <p>16th March 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hold a morning tea – invite your First Nations clients and discuss what you can offer E.g.: MBS 715 Health Check, GPMP, TCA, Allied Health visits and ask the community for their input and advice on access to health care</li> <li>- Display the 'Close the Gap goals (<a href="http://www.closingthegap.gov.au">www.closingthegap.gov.au</a>) and how your practice is working towards them. Put this info on your Facebook page or website if you have one</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Source posters and other resources to promote the day available at <a href="http://www.antar.org.au/campaigns/national-close-gap-day">www.antar.org.au/campaigns/national-close-gap-day</a></li> <li>- Add National Close the Gap Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research the Close the Gap Initiative and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>
<p><b>Harmony Day</b> (International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN))</p> <p>A day to accept diversity of other cultures and the multiculturalism in Australia 'Everyone Belongs'.</p> <p><b>HARMONY DAY</b></p> 	<p>21st March 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sell and wear the Harmony Day ribbons <a href="http://Harmony.gov.au">Harmony.gov.au</a></li> <li>- Wear a splash of orange on the day</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Add Harmony Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research Harmony Day and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of. If you have diversity in staff cultures, ask your staff to share their cultural stories at the meeting</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Youth Week</b></p> <p>Celebrates young people and their contribution to their local communities. It is now the largest annual youth participation event in Australia. Youth Week is a week that provides young people with an opportunity to express their views and act on issues that affect their lives.</p> 	<p>4th- 14th April 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the MBS 715 Health Check to First Nations clients aged 12-24 years</li> <li>- Check out <a href="http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au">www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au</a> for some ideas on engaging youth at your practice for youth week</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Add Youth Week as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the week to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research Youth Week and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Sorry Day</b></p> <p>A day to remember. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families, and communities.</p> <p>Stolen generations refer to First Nations Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, and the mistreatment that occurred.</p> 	<p>26th May Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wear and sell in your practice, the Stolen Generation flower from <a href="http://www.kimberleystolengeneration.com.au">www.kimberleystolengeneration.com.au</a> in solidarity for the day (order at least 2 weeks ahead)</li> <li>- Hold a lunch/morning tea for your community</li> <li>- Raising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags ceremony</li> <li>- Start a 'Sorry Book' at reception people can sign (ask your Local Aboriginal Land Council for advice)</li> <li>- Light a candle on the day in memory of the Stolen Generation</li> <li>- Check out Healing Foundation - National Sorry Day for more ideas <a href="http://www.healingfoundation.org.au">www.healingfoundation.org.au</a></li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Read some excerpts from the Bringing Them Home Report (<a href="http://www.humanrights.gov.au">www.humanrights.gov.au</a>)</li> <li>- Add National Sorry Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research National Sorry Day and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>


DAY	DATE	IDEAS FOR PRACTICE
<p><b>Reconciliation week</b></p> <p>This is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.</p> 	<p>27th May – 3rd June 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See <a href="https://reconciliationnsw.org.au">reconciliationnsw.org.au</a> for posters and other resources</li> <li>- Review or create a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for your practice. See link on how to develop one: <a href="https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-action-plans">www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-action-plans</a></li> <li>- Host a staff film night for an opportunity to bring people together to develop a deeper understanding of Australia's First Nations perspectives, histories, and cultures, to ignite conversation and spark change. It's also a platform to engage staff in your organisation's RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) <a href="https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/reconciliationfilmclub">www.sbs.com.au/nitv/reconciliationfilmclub</a></li> <li>- Hold a morning tea/lunch for your local community to acknowledge Reconciliation Week</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Incorporate an Acknowledgement of Country into your team meetings</li> <li>- Find an event in your area <a href="https://www.reconciliation.org.au/calendar">www.reconciliation.org.au/calendar</a> or better yet, host your own</li> <li>- Join the Reconciliation Week conversation on Facebook (@ReconciliationAus), Instagram(@reconciliationaus), and Twitter (@RecAustralia)</li> <li>- Post an Acknowledgement of Country on your practice Facebook page or website to mark the opening of National Reconciliation Week <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ReconciliationAus/">www.facebook.com/ReconciliationAus/</a></li> <li>- Take these actions and reflect on how you are going to move from safe to brave on issues affecting Australia's First Nations peoples, beyond Reconciliation Week. Share with your community, family, and friends. Ask others to take their awareness, and turn it into action on reconciliation</li> <li>- Add Reconciliation Week as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the week to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research Reconciliation Week and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>


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<p><b>Mabo Day</b></p> <p>On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia decided that terra nullius should not have been applied to Australia.</p> <p>This decision, known as the Mabo Decision, recognised that Australia's First Nations Peoples rights to the land existed before the British arrived and still exists today.</p> <p>Australia's First Nations people have stewarded, nurtured, and cared for Australia's diverse environment and waterways for over 80,000 years. Environmental knowledge and activism must prioritise First Nations rights to manage and self-determine their own Country.</p> <p>Acknowledging Country shows you accept and understand that no matter where you are across this nation, you are on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander lands. It is a cultural practice, and a political act.</p> 	<p>3rd June</p> <p>Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Know whose Country you are on – resources like the AISTSIS Map of Indigenous Australia <a href="http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia">www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia</a> are a useful starting point. You can purchase this for your practice</li> <li>- Learn the difference between an Acknowledgement of Country and a Welcome to Country</li> <li>- Acknowledge Mabo Day via a sign/poster</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Educate yourself and staff about Mabo Day, and the details and history of First Nations Land Rights <a href="http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/land-rights">www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/land-rights</a> and Native Title <a href="http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/about-native-title-in-Australia">www.aiatsis.gov.au/about-native-title in Australia</a></li> <li>- Support Australia's First Nations perspectives and systems of knowledge on our natural environment, including <a href="http://www.seedmob.org.au">www.seedmob.org.au</a>, the <a href="http://www.abcfoundation.org.au">www.abcfoundation.org.au</a>, <a href="http://www.firesticks.org.au">www.firesticks.org.au</a> and <a href="http://www.yerrabingin.com.au/projects">www.yerrabingin.com.au/projects</a></li> <li>- Learn about how climate change is going to directly affect Australia's First Nations Peoples: <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/18/too-hot-for-humans-first-nations-people-fear-becoming-australias-first-climate-refugees">www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/18/too-hot-for-humans-first-nations-people-fear-becoming-australias-first-climate-refugees</a></li> <li>- Stand up in support for those it's already affecting <a href="http://www.ourislandsourhome.com.au">www.ourislandsourhome.com.au</a></li> <li>- Include the name of Country when posting letters and parcels. Encourage businesses you buy from to add an address section for this on ordering forms: <a href="http://www.auspost.com.au/about-us/supporting-communities/rachael-mcphail-making-traditional-place-names-part-of-mailing-addresses">www.auspost.com.au/about-us/supporting-communities/rachael-mcphail-making-traditional-place-names-part-of-mailing-addresses</a></li> <li>- Support current calls by First Peoples such as treaties <a href="http://www.antar.org.au/treaty">www.antar.org.au/treaty</a>, constitutional reform, and the Uluru Statement from the Heart <a href="http://www.ulurustatement.org/the-statement">www.ulurustatement.org/the-statement</a></li> <li>- Add Mabo Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research Mabo Day and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Coming of the Light Festival (Torres Strait Islander)</b></p> <p>The Coming of the Light is a holiday celebrated by Torres Strait Islanders on 1 July each year. It recognises the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.</p> <p>Activities include church services and a re-enactment of the landing at Kemus on Erub. Hymn singing, feasting and Ailan dans strengthen community and family ties.</p> 	<p>1st July</p> <p>Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acknowledge the day via a sign/poster</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Add The Coming of the Light as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research The Coming of the Light and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>






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<p><b>NAIDOC Week</b></p> <p>This week is an occasion for all Australians to come together to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Australia's First Nations Peoples.</p> 	<p>4th-11th July 2022</p> <p>3rd-10th July 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wear NAIDOC shirts the month of NAIDOC week</li> <li>- <a href="#">BW Tribal</a> and <a href="#">Kulture</a> are 100% First Nations owned organisations</li> <li>- Hold a NAIDOC morning tea for community</li> <li>- Celebrate and display posters of any achievements of local First Nations community members</li> <li>- Display NAIDOC or some of Australia's First Nations role models posters in your workplace</li> <li>- Get some First Nations themed balloons for the kids during this week</li> <li>- Honour and celebrate your practice's Aboriginal Health Worker, Practitioner, or First Nations advocate within the practice if you have one. Display a sign and photo to recognise the work they do for First Nations clients within the community/practice</li> <li>- Commission an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artwork for your practice. Contact your Local Aboriginal Land Council <a href="http://www.alc.org.au/land_council">www.alc.org.au/land_council</a> for local artists. See below link regarding art and authenticity: <a href="http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/art-and-authenticity">www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/art-and-authenticity</a></li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Attend the local NAIDOC celebrations in your area. This is a great way to engage the local community</li> <li>- Find out some local Aboriginal words and their meanings</li> <li>- Research the traditional owners of your area or contact your Local Aboriginal Land Council on how to do this <a href="http://www.alc.org.au/land_council/">www.alc.org.au/land_council/</a></li> <li>- Visit <a href="http://www.naidoc.org.au">www.naidoc.org.au</a> for resources and other ideas</li> <li>- Add NAIDOC Week as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the week to plan activities in advance</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research NAIDOC Week and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>

DAY	DATE	IDEAS FOR PRACTICE
<p><b>National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Children's Day</b></p> <p>The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Australia's First Nations children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that culture, family, and community play in the life of every child.</p> 	<p>4th August Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote children's MBS 715 Health Checks for the day</li> <li>- Have some First Nations children's books in the waiting room for clients</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Check out <a href="http://www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au">www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au</a> to find out more information and access resources</li> <li>- Learn more about Australia's First Nations children and the issues which may affect them at <a href="http://www.snaicc.org.au">www.snaicc.org.au</a></li> <li>- Share and support the Raise the Age initiative <a href="http://www.raisetheage.org.au">www.raisetheage.org.au</a></li> <li>- Add National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Children's Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities in advance</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Children's Day and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>




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<p>International Day of the worlds Indigenous peoples</p> <p>This is a day commemorated as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in recognition of the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.</p> 	9th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check out <a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a> for ideas</li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Display posters in your workplace</li> <li>- Commission an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artwork for your practice. Contact your Local Aboriginal Land Council <a href="http://www.alc.org.au/land_council">www.alc.org.au/land_council</a> for local artists. See below link regarding art and authenticity: <a href="http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/art-and-authenticity">www.aiatsis.gov.au/explore/art-and-authenticity</a></li> <li>- Language is inseparable from culture, and culture is empowerment. There are more than 250 Australian First Nations languages, including about 800 dialects</li> <li>- Know your local area language(s) of the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you live. Where available, organise for a Traditional Custodian to teach some of this language to your workplace or community group. Find local languages here: <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/features/gambay-languages-map">www.abc.net.au/indigenous/features/gambay-languages-map</a></li> <li>- Find out more about Australia's First Nations diversity here: <a href="http://www.shareourpride.org.au/sections/first-australians">www.shareourpride.org.au/sections/first-australians</a></li> <li>- Actively support First Nations language revival programs. Know and use First Nations place names, and petition councils and governments to use place names. Make First Nations languages visible in public spaces</li> <li>- Add International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities in advance</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Indigenous Literacy Day</b></p> <p>Indigenous Literacy Day aims to help raise funds to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of First Nations Australians living in remote and isolated regions.</p> <p>We need your support to help raise funds to buy books and literacy resources for children in these communities.</p> 	<p>1st Sep</p> <p>Every year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find out more about Indigenous Literacy Day at <a href="http://www.ild.org.au">www.ild.org.au</a></li> <li>- Post information on your practices Facebook page/website</li> <li>- Raise funds at your practice for literacy resources for First Nations children in remote communities</li> <li>- Have some First Nations children's books in the waiting room for clients</li> <li>- Add Indigenous Literacy Day as a meeting agenda item in the lead up to the day to plan activities in advance</li> <li>- Ask a staff member to research Indigenous Literacy Day and do a 5 min presentation at the staff meeting the week of</li> </ul>







**FIRST NATIONS  
HEALTH**