



Gulanga
Program

Gulanga Good Practice Guides

These guides provide information on topics that aim to assist organisations implement and embed good practice when working and engaging with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly within the ACT and region. Each guide provides a general overview, which we hope will generate change and discussion within a workplace. Links are provided at the end of each guide for further information and research. Feedback on the guides can be directed to gulanga@actcoss.org.au or by phone to 02 6202 7200.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

Last updated December 2016

NAIDOC Week emerged from Aboriginal people's movements such as the 'Day of Mourning and Protest' on 26 January 1938. Within the following year, Aboriginal persons sought support to establish an 'Aborigines Day'.

1940: The first 'Aboriginal Sunday' was observed on the Sunday before 26 January.

1955: 'Aboriginal Sunday' became 'National Aborigines Day' and was moved to the first Sunday in July.

1957: The National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC) was formed.

1974: 'National Aborigines Day' became NADOC Week, using the acronym of the committee.

1989: NADOC Week was changed to NAIDOC Week to include Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Today, NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week in July, from Sunday to Sunday, to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. This is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures. Based on a yearly theme, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists compete in a national poster competition to have their work reproduced for the national NAIDOC Week poster. The poster can be ordered online from

www.naidoc.org.au.

Here are some ideas on how your workplace can celebrate NAIDOC Week:

- Order and display the NAIDOC poster in your workplace
- Encourage and support all staff to participate in NAIDOC activities in your area
- Host/partner an event such as a morning tea or barbecue based on the national theme
- View or show a movie or documentary in your meeting/staff room/waiting room
- Purchase resources for your library, waiting room, e.g. art, books, flags
- Visit local sites of significance, e.g. Yankee Hat in Namadgi National Park
- Visit local attractions, e.g. National Museum of Australia
- Nominate an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person for an award.

Contact the Gulunga Program if you require more information on events in the ACT region.

If you are an employer of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff, we encourage you to offer them the flexibility to volunteer or attend events. Their participation can assist them with their social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, as well as meet their cultural and family obligations. Please be aware that some staff may travel interstate to attend events.

Many government and non-government agencies provide additional leave entitlements for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff to participate in NAIDOC Week activities. Some offer access to other leave such as cultural, ceremonial and special leave. By including provisions such as these, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff will appreciate that their employer recognises the significance of NAIDOC Week, and values diversity in the workplace.

The Canberra & District NAIDOC Committee coordinate activities in the ACT such as the Family Day and NAIDOC Awards. Nominations for local awards include:

- Person of the Year
- Youth of the Year
- Sports person of the Year
- Scholar of the Year
- Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Elder of the Year
- Artist of the Year
- Organisation/Agency/Committee of the Year
- Non-Indigenous Person/Organisation's Contribution to the Indigenous Community.

In addition to the ACT NAIDOC Awards, the ACT Council of Social Service coordinates the Canberra & District Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Sector Worker of the Year award.

Contact the Gulanga Program if you require more information on the ACT NAIDOC Awards.

Further information and research

NAIDOC

www.naidoc.org.au

Reconciliation Australia: Resources - Five Fast Facts – NAIDOC Week

www.reconciliation.org.au/resources

Australia Day: 1938: The Sesquicentenary and The Day of Mourning

www.australiaday.org.au/australia-day/history/1938-the-sesquicentenary-and-the-day-of-mourning/