



Gulanga
Program

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Cultural Resource for
Community Sector Workers
(ACT & Region)**

About ACTCOSS

ACTCOSS acknowledges Canberra has been built on the land of the Ngunnawal people. We pay respects to their Elders and recognise the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and ongoing contributions to the ACT community.

The ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS) is the peak representative body for not-for-profit community organisations, people living with disadvantage and low-income citizens of the Territory.

ACTCOSS is a member of the nationwide COSS network, made up of each of the state and territory Councils and the national body, the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

ACTCOSS' vision is to live in a fair and equitable community that respects and values diversity and actively encourages collaborations that promote justice, equity and social inclusion.

The membership of the Council includes the majority of community based service providers in the social welfare area, a range of community associations and networks, self-help and consumer groups and interested individuals.

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Initiative of



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Aboriginal Peoples

Aboriginal peoples are descendants of the original inhabitants of mainland Australia and its islands, such as: Tasmania, Rottnest, Magnetic, Palm, Hinchinbrook, Stradbroke, Fraser, Mornington, Bathurst, Groote Eylandt and Melville Islands. Aboriginal peoples believe they have always been here since Creation, the beginning of the Dreamtime. Researchers say their ancestors have lived across Australia for over 60 000 years.

Torres Strait Islanders

Torres Strait Islander peoples are of Melanesian origin and are descendants of the original inhabitants of the Torres Strait region which lies between the tip of Cape York Peninsula and south west coast of Papua New Guinea. In the last 25 years, archaeologists working in the Torres Strait have found evidence of human settlement dating back 2500 years.

Identity

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people assert their identity through ongoing connections to their ancestral groups, ancestral lands, families and communities, kinship, cultural beliefs, spirituality etc. Aboriginal peoples also identify within groups such as: Koori, Koorie, Goori, Murri, Palawa, Nunga, Noongar/Nyoonga, Anangu and Yolngu. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' identity is not determined by physical appearance e.g. skin colour, hair colour and facial features. However, it is important to note that persons of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent may choose not to identify. This is a personal choice.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals are expected to maintain connections with their families and the communities where they were raised and where they have lived. If this has not occurred, their identity may be questioned. For example, finding out or knowing that an ancestor was Aboriginal can mean this is part of your ancestry, rather than meaning you are an Aboriginal person.

Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Identity

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples may be required to confirm their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity. This may be required when applying for targeted services or programs in areas such as employment and education.

As a guide, a confirmation form is generally endorsed by an incorporated Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation to confirm the person:

1. is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
2. identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
3. is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives or has lived.

Being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent does not guarantee confirmation. Again, if the individual does not identify and is not known to the community, an organisation can choose not to endorse the confirmation form.

Statistics: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians

The most recent Australian National Census of Population and Housing was conducted on 9 August 2016.

AUSTRALIA: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Populations by State/Territory

State/Territory	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Total	% Population
New South Wales	207 256	4 839	4 080	216 176	2.9%
Queensland	148 943	21 053	16 493	186 482	4.0%
Western Australia	72 924	1 434	1 628	75 978	3.1%
Northern Territory	55 805	744	1 699	58 248	25.5%
Victoria	44 592	2 024	1 171	47 788	0.8%
South Australia	32 616	938	629	34 184	2.0%
Tasmania	21 570	1 119	889	23 572	4.6%
Australian Capital Territory	6 140	183	183	6 508	1.6%
TOTAL	590 056	32 345	26 767	649 171	2.8%

ACT: Population by Gender

Origin	Male	Female	Total
Aboriginal	3 087	3 051	6 140
Torres Strait Islander	88	92	183
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	96	93	183
Total	3 267	3 236	6 508

QUEANBEYAN: Population by Gender

Origin	Male	Female	Total
Aboriginal	658	714	1 368
Torres Strait Islander	18	10	27
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	9	8	21
Total	689	728	1 415

For more information: www.abs.gov.au

NB: The tables are based on usual residence. There are small random adjustments to protect the confidentiality of data. These adjustment may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Flags

Aboriginal Flag	Torres Strait Islander Flag
 <p>1971: The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971.</p> <p>1972: In late 1972, the flag was flown at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and adopted by Aboriginal peoples as a symbol of unity and pride. It was labelled as 'divisive' by some, but over the years grew in acceptance.</p> <p>1995: On 14 July 1995, the flag was proclaimed a <i>Flag of Australia</i> by the Australian Government. This proclamation expired on 1 January 2008.</p> <p>2008: On 25 January 2008, the Australian Government proclaimed the flag as the Australian Aboriginal Flag, the flag of Aboriginal people of Australia and a flag of significance to the Australian nation.</p> <p>About the Flag: The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia. It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people. As stated by Harold Thomas:</p> <p>Black: Represents the Aboriginal people of the past, present and future.</p> <p>Red: Is the earth, red ochre used in ceremony and our spiritual relationship to the land.</p> <p>Yellow: Represents the yellow ochre, the sun, giver of life.</p> <p>Copyright: Mr Harold Thomas awarded copyright for the Australian Aboriginal Flag to Carroll & Richardson – Flagworld Pty Ltd and Birubi Art Pty Ltd.</p>	 <p>1992: The Torres Strait Islander Flag was created in January 1992 as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>1992: The flag was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in June 1992 and given equal prominence with the Aboriginal flag.</p> <p>1995: On 14 July 1995, the flag was proclaimed a <i>Flag of Australia</i> by the Australian Government. This proclamation expired on 1 July 2008.</p> <p>2008: On 25 January 2008, the Australian Government proclaimed the flag as the Australian Torres Strait Islander Flag, the flag of Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and a flag of significance to the Australian nation.</p> <p>About the Flag: Designed by the late Bernard Namok, the winning entry from a design competition organised by The Island Co-ordinating Council. Each part of the flag is designed to represent something about Torres Strait Island culture.</p> <p>Green: Represents the land.</p> <p>Blue: Represents the sea.</p> <p>White: Represents peace.</p> <p>Black: Represents the Indigenous peoples</p> <p>Dhari (Headdress): Represents Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>5 Pointed Star: Represents the 5 major Island groups. The star also represents navigation, as a symbol of the seafaring culture of the Torres Strait.</p> <p>Copyright: The Torres Strait Regional Council holds copyright for the Torres Strait Islander Flag.</p>

A Timeline of Events for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Below are some key events we have identified and summarised. Other timelines may include other events.

Year	Summary
Occupation	<p>Aboriginal peoples: Aboriginal peoples believe they have occupied mainland Australia and many of its islands, since creation. In 2017, an archaeological site at Kakadu unearthed more than 10,000 artefacts as old as 80,000 years.</p> <p>Torres Strait Islanders: Archaeologists working in the Torres Strait have found evidence of human settlement dating back 2500 years.</p>
Pre-1770 Contact	Pre-1600 contacts occurred with neighbours such as Indonesia and New Guinea. Explorers documented encounters with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as early as the 1600s. The Torres Strait Islands is named after the Spaniard, Luis Baes de Torres, who explored the region in 1606.
1770 Terra Nullius	The Endeavour sailed the east coast of Australia. Cook claimed the east coast for Britain based on “terra nullius” despite recording encounters with Aboriginal people on his voyage.
1788 Botany Bay	Aboriginal groups in the Sydney region were the first to experience colonisation. Unaware, that in 1786 the British Government had chosen Botany Bay as a penal colony. In 1788, the British entered Botany Bay and proceeded to Port Jackson with over 1000 aboard 6 ships. This included convicts for the penal colony. Further ships with convicts arrived in 1790 and 1791. In 1793 free settlers arrived.
Post-1788 Aboriginal Land	Aboriginal peoples were dispossessed and dispersed from their land in brutal and fatal ways by British authorities, free settlers and squatters. They were forced to move further away from their land and previous lifestyle. Many died from starvation and exposure to diseases such as smallpox. Many were forcibly removed to prisons, concentration camps, reserves, missions and institutions. Many did not survive the conditions and did not return to their land.
1788 – 1928 Frontier Wars & Massacres	Aboriginal groups resisted settlers in many ways. These are described as ‘frontier wars’. Warriors included Windradyne, Jandamarra and Yagan. Battles included the Black War (1830), Battle Mountain (1884) and Jandamarra’s War (1894). Aboriginal deaths were significantly higher, underestimated or unrecorded. The last documented massacre occurred in 1928 and is described as the Coniston Massacre.
Post-1788 Colonisation	Aboriginal peoples across Australia encountered the impact of colonisation over time. 1788: Port Jackson, New South Wales 1803: Risdon, Tasmania 1824: Redcliffe, Queensland 1824: Port Dundas, Northern Territory 1827: Albany, Western Australia 1834: Portland Bay, Victoria 1836: South Australia

Year	Summary
<p>1815 Native Institution of Parramatta</p>	<p>The first institution was set up to place Aboriginal children in care.</p>
<p>1869 to 1970s The Protection Acts</p>	<p>In 1869, the <i>Aborigines Protection Act (Vic)</i> was the first act to control, segregate and oppress the lives of Aboriginal peoples such as deciding where they could live, work and who they could marry. It gave the power to remove children from their families; and it removed people to reserves and institutions. Further acts followed in other states, such as the <i>Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 (Qld)</i> and the <i>Torres Strait Islander Act 1939</i>. These were all amended over time.</p>
<p>1871 Coming of the Light</p>	<p>The London Missionary Society arrived in the Torres Strait introducing Christianity to the region. Their arrival is celebrated each year on 1 July through the Coming of the Light Festival.</p>
<p>1876 Torres Strait Islands</p>	<p>Thursday Island was founded. In 1879, the majority of the Torres Strait Islands were annexed to the British colony of Queensland. The islands were under control of a Queensland Police Magistrate until 1885. This was followed by a Government Resident until 1917. After 1917, the Torres Strait was controlled by the Office of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals through a local Protector on Thursday Island.</p>
<p>Late 1800s – 1970s Stolen Wages</p>	<p>Under various protection acts, wages were strictly controlled by the 'Protector' in the region. A portion may have been directed to a trust account, however many were underpaid, not paid at all, or were given rations. The reasons why this occurred were determined by the 'Protector'. These are described as stolen wages. The 'Protector' directed workers to cattle and sheep stations, to perform domestic duties, to work on railways and roads etc. They were often treated unfairly, worked long hours, and were subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. A small minority were treated better than others.</p>
<p>1914 First World War</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples fought in the First World War and subsequent wars. They also provided informal service, such as using their bushcraft to patrol areas.</p>
<p>1938 Day of Mourning</p>	<p>On Australia Day 1938, Aboriginal peoples and their supporters marched through Sydney to protest against the status and treatment of Aboriginal peoples. This was followed by a congress attended by more than 1000 people. It was described as a day of mourning. On the same day, a re-enactment occurred at the 150 year celebrations. It included Aboriginal peoples from western New South Wales who were chased along the shore by British soldiers with bayonets and paraded through the street on a float. They were forced to participate and were locked in cells at Redfern for the duration.</p>
<p>1939 Cummeragunja Walk-Off</p>	<p>On 4 February, Aboriginal peoples from the Cummeragunja Station walked off in protest of the restrictive controls and cruel treatment under NSW Aboriginal Protection Board.</p>
<p>1946-1949 Pilbara Strike</p>	<p>At least 800 Aboriginal pastoral workers in the Pilbara (WA) walked off stations in recognition of human rights, fair wages and working conditions - the longest strike in Australia's history.</p>

Year	Summary
<p>1963 Land Rights</p>	<p>The Yolngu people of north-east Arnhem Land presented the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Australian Parliament, in the form of a bark painting, calling for recognition of their land rights. They were the first documents from Aboriginal people that were recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament. They are now on display at Parliament House.</p>
<p>1965 Freedom Rides</p>	<p>Led by the late Charles Perkins, it exposed to the wider community, nationally and internationally, the racism faced by Aboriginal peoples.</p>
<p>1966 Gurindji Strike or Wave Hill Walk-off</p>	<p>Vincent Lingiari led the strike due to poor wages, working and living conditions at Wave Hill Station, but also included Gurindji assertion of traditional land ownership. In 1975, the Gurindji received part of Wave Hill Station through the Daguragu pastoral lease.</p>
<p>1967 Referendum</p>	<p>Over 90% of Australians voted 'Yes' in a Referendum so Aboriginal people be included in the national census. It also gave legislative powers for Aboriginal peoples to the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>1969 Removal of Aboriginal Children</p>	<p>By 1969, all States had removed legislations that 'protected' Aboriginal children by removing them from their families. Some would argue this practice continued into the 1970s.</p>
<p>1971 Aboriginal Flag</p>	<p>Designed by Harold Joseph Thomas, A Luritja man from Central Australia, the Aboriginal flag was first flown in Adelaide on 12 July, National Aborigines Day. The flag grew national recognition as the flag representing Aboriginal people.</p>
<p>1972 Aboriginal Tent Embassy</p>	<p>On 26 January, the Aboriginal Tent Embassy appeared on the lawns in front of Parliament House, Canberra.</p>
<p>1972-1990 Department of Aboriginal Affairs</p>	<p>The Whitlam Government established the Department who took responsibility for matters related to the Aboriginal people.</p>
<p>1976 Repatriation of Remains</p>	<p>In 1976, Truganini's remains are repatriated to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the first return by an Australian museum. The remains of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are located in Australian museums and worldwide. It is unknown how many were taken, held in storage, displayed, lost or destroyed. Some countries refuse to return remains to Australia.</p>
<p>1976 Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act</p>	<p>On 26 January, the first Aboriginal Land Rights Act was passed in Parliament. The Act recognised Aboriginals as traditional land owners for the first time in Australian history.</p>
<p>1977 Warri & Yattungka</p>	<p>Warri (1909-1979) and Yattungka (1917-1979) ran away together in the 1930s because their union broke tribal law. For over 40 years, they led the lifestyle of their ancestors, in isolation from their people. In 1977, they were found in the Gibson Desert after Mandildjara elders became concerned about their welfare. In 1979, they passed away within weeks of each other. They are described as the last of the desert nomads.</p>

Year	Summary
1985 Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park 'Handover'	The Governor-General passed over the title deeds at a ceremony at the base of Uluru. The traditional owners then signed an agreement leasing the Park back to the Australian Parks and Wildlife Service for 99 years.
1987 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody	This was announced after a spate of Aboriginal deaths in prison and policy custody. Hearings began in 1988 and 99 deaths within a 10 year period were investigated. The final report (1991) included 339 recommendations.
1988 100 Years - Bicentenary	Aboriginal peoples and their supporters marched through Sydney to mark the 200th anniversary of the invasion.
1990 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission	ATSIC is established to involve Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in the processes of government affecting their lives. ATSIC was abolished from 30 June 2005.
1994 Torres Strait Regional Authority	The Commonwealth Authority, Torres Strait Regional Authority was established as the presentative body for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples living in the Torres Strait.
1991 Reconciliation	The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation was established to promote the process of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community. The Council ended in 2000, and Reconciliation Australia was established to continue the reconciliation process.
1992 Survival Day	26 January: The first Survival Day Concert was held in Sydney.
1992 Torres Strait Islander Flag	The Torres Strait Islander flag was designed and recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). It was given equal prominence with the Aboriginal Flag.
1992 Redfern Speech	Paul Keating delivered a speech at Redfern Park to launch Australia's participation in the International Year of the Indigenous Person. Keating spoke about "recognising the injustices the impact and suffering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people in Australia's course of modern Australia's creation."
1993 Native Title Act	Passed by Federal Parliament, the Act provided statutory recognition and protection for the concept of native title as recognised by the High Court in the case of Mabo v. The State of Queensland (1992). The Act came into effect on 1 January 1994.
1995 Bringing Them Home	The National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families began in response to research and concerns raised around the impact on victims and their families. Evidence was heard across Australia and the report <i>Bringing Them Home</i> was tabled in Parliament in 1997.
1995 Flags of Australia	On 14 July, both the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag were officially proclaimed by the Australian Government as 'Flags of Australia'. This proclamation would expire on 1 January 2008.

Year	Summary
<p>1996 Wik Decision</p>	<p>The High Court of Australia made judgement that native title rights could exist with the rights of pastoralists on cattle and sheep stations. However, if there was conflict, the pastoralists' rights would prevail, and pastoralists could continue with grazing and related activities.</p>
<p>2000 Peoples Walk for Reconciliation</p>	<p>On 28 May 250 000 people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in a public declaration that 'Reconciliation is the work of all Australians.'</p>
<p>2004 The Long Walk</p>	<p>Former AFL footballer Michael Long walked from Melbourne to Parliament House in Canberra (650kms) to meet with Prime Minister John Howard. The Long Walk is now a charity that aims to get the lives of Indigenous people back on the national agenda.</p>
<p>2007 NT Intervention</p>	<p>The NT Emergency Response was announced based on the Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse, titled 'Little Children are Sacred'.</p>
<p>2008 Aboriginal Flag & Torres Strait Islander Flag</p>	<p>On 25 January 2008, the Australian Government proclaimed both flags and both were also recognised as flags of significance to the Australian nation.</p>
<p>2008 The Apology</p>	<p>On 13 February, a formal apology by government and the Parliament of Australia was given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in particular the Stolen Generations.</p>
<p>2009 UNDRIP</p>	<p>After refusing to endorse the declaration in 2007, the Australian Parliament endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2009.</p>
<p>2013 Constitutional Recognition</p>	<p>The Bill for an Act of Recognition was passed through Senate unopposed. The Act includes a sunset date of two years to campaign for change and to hold a successful referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.</p>
<p>2016 NT Protection and Detention of Children</p>	<p>After the shocking abuse of young people was exposed at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in Darwin, the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory started in September.</p>
<p>2017 City of Fremantle</p>	<p>Yarra City councillors voted unanimously to no longer refer to January 26 as Australia Day and end its tradition of holding citizenship ceremonies on that date in recognition of it being a day of distress for many Indigenous people.</p>
<p>2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart</p>	<p>At the 2017 Constitutional Convention, over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders met at Uluru in Central Australia. The 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' sought the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' in the <i>Australian Constitution</i> and a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise a process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>
<p>2017 ANZAC Day</p>	<p>For the first time, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander veterans marched together at the National Anzac Day Ceremony in Canberra.</p>

Significant Dates to Recognise & Celebrate

Following are some significant dates that are recognised and celebrated nationally.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
Jan	26	1935	Common terms used: Day of Mourning Invasion Day Survival Day	Australia Day occurs on the anniversary of the day the British arrived at Port Jackson in 1788. Today, many Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islanders and their supporters acknowledge their ongoing survival and resilience since the British invasion in 1788.
Feb	13	2008	Anniversary of The Apology	Recognises the formal apology by government and the Parliament of Australia to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - in particular to the Stolen Generations.
Mar	21	1999	Harmony Day	Coincides with United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. A day to encourage tolerance and understanding between Australians of all races and cultural backgrounds.
Apr	25	1993	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commemorative Ceremony	On ANZAC Day, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commemorative Ceremony is conducted to remember Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have served in the Australian Forces. It is held at the Aboriginal Memorial Plaque on Mt Ainslie. Other ceremonies are held throughout Australia.
Mar	TBA	2009	National Close the Gap Day	A campaign calling on governments to take real, measurable action to achieve Indigenous health equality by 2030.
May	26	1998	National Sorry Day	Held each year on the anniversary of the tabling of the <i>Bringing Them Home</i> report to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Sorry Day is followed by National Reconciliation Week.
May/June	27 May to 03 June	1996	National Reconciliation Week	Beginning with the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, this week is celebrated with activities across Australia. The week ends with Mabo Day on 3 June.
June	03	1992	Mabo Day	Commemorates the High Court decision that recognised the existence of native title rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Mabo Decision is named after Eddie Koiki Mabo, one of the leaders in the action that overturned the myth of terra nullius.
Jul	01	1871	Coming of the Light Festival	This is a significant day for Torres Strait Islanders, who are predominantly of Christian faith. The festival of religious and cultural ceremonies is held annually.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
Jul	First Sunday to Sunday in July	1975	NAIDOC Week	NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee; this is a week that celebrates Aboriginal and Islander people and culture. The week is marked with different activities, with each year having a different theme.
Aug	04	1988	National Aboriginal and Islander Childrens' Day	The Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care established this annual event. Each year the day is marked with a special theme.
Aug	09		International Day of the World's Indigenous People	A day marked to recognise Indigenous history, culture, languages, rights and aspirations throughout the world. It is celebrated with activities highlighting Indigenous Peoples and their culture.
Dec	10	1948	Human Rights Day	Celebrates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since its adoption in 1948, this declaration has been translated into 360 languages, showing its universal relevance and forethought for securing human rights around the world.

Campaigns: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Campaigns can assist to raise awareness and understanding, and support social action for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Many campaigns provide information on how to get involved as an individual or as a service such as holding an event, sharing resources within your service, or making a pledge or commitment to the campaign.

There are many campaigns across a wide range of issues such as health, education, children, social justice and human rights. These may be driven nationally, at a state or territory level or within your local region.

Close the Gap

www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/close-the-gap

Calling on governments to take real, measurable action to achieve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality by 2030.

RECOGNISE

www.recognise.org.au

RECOGNISE is the people's movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution.

Racism. It Stops With Me

<https://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au>

Invites all Australians to reflect on what they can do to counter racism wherever it happens.

Stop Think Respect: The Invisible Discriminator

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/resources/for-me/stop-think-respect-home/the-invisible-discriminator>

beyondblue's national anti-discrimination campaign highlights the impact of racism on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Historical Campaigns, Events & Movement

Some campaigns, events and movements in the history of Australia have influenced change and raised a greater understanding and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- 1938 – Day of Mourning
- 1957 – Vote Yes for Aborigines
- 1963 – Bark Petitions
- 1966 – The Gurindji Strike or Wave Hill Walk Off
- 1965 – Freedom Rides
- 1972 – The Aboriginal Tent Embassy
- 1972 – The Larrakia Petition
- 1972 – Smash the Act
- 1998 – Sorry Books Campaign
- 2000 – Peoples Walk for Reconciliation

List of Websites

The following websites provide information on a wide range of topics.

Name	Suggested Extension	Address
ABC Indigenous	News	www.abc.net.au/indigenous
Australia Council	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts	www.australiacouncil.gov.au
Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistics > People > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	www.abs.gov.au
Australian Government	News, stories and information	www.indigenous.gov.au
Australian Human Rights Commission	Our Work > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice	www.humanrights.gov.au
Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIATSIS)	Little Red Yellow Black Site	www.aiatsis.gov.au
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Closing the Gap Clearinghouse	www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/
Analysis & Policy Observatory	Indigenous	www.apo.org.au
Deadly Vibe	Home	www.vibe.com.au
National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC)	Frequently Asked Questions	www.naidoc.org.au
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	Latest News	www.nationalcongress.com.au
National Museum of Australia	History & Ideas > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Histories	www.nma.gov.au
Reconciliation Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources • Share Our Pride 	www.reconciliation.org.au
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care	Clearinghouse Tools and Resources	www.snaicc.org.au
Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)	The Torres Strait > General History	www.tsra.gov.au

List of Resources

Following are suggestions for resources and publications you may wish to purchase or subscribe to. Please search online for more information.

Name	Format	Description
Aboriginal Australia Map	Map	The map attempts to represent language, tribal or nation groups of Australia's Indigenous peoples.
Aboriginal Studies Press	Catalogue	Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) is the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' (AIATSIS) publishing arm and Australia's leading publisher of Australian Indigenous studies.
First Australians: An Illustrated History	Publication	An illustrated history of Australia that accompanies the major nine-part television series.
I'm not racist but ...	Publication	A collection of social observations, thoughts and conversations the author has had over 15 years travelling Australia and the world.
Islander Magazine	Magazine	The Torres Strait's lifestyle magazine.
Koori Mail	Newspaper	Fortnightly newspaper providing news, views, advertisements and other material of interest.
Macquarie Aboriginal Words	Publication	Brief history and culture behind the words.
Mark Olive's Outback Café Cookbook	Cookbook	A mixture of lifestyle and cookery: Aboriginal communities, remote locations, bush foods and restaurant cuisine.
Ngunnawal Plant Use	Guide	A traditional Aboriginal plant use guide for the ACT region.
Portraits from a Land Without People	Pictorial	A pictorial anthology of Indigenous Australia 1847-2008
Reconciliation News	Magazine	Compiled quarterly by Reconciliation Australia to share reconciliation stories, issues and opinions.
Stories of the Ngunnawal	Book	A book of seven stories by Ngunnawal Elders living in the ACT area.
The Little Red Yellow Black Book	Publication	A snapshot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
The Stolen Children: Their Stories	Book	Personal stories of indigenous people that appear in the Report from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Bringing Them Home.

Accessing Audio-visual Resources

The following information is a guide to accessing audio-visual resources on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

Where can I purchase audio-visual resources in Canberra?

Name	Website
ABC Shop	http://shop.abc.net.au
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	http://www.aiatsis.gov.au
National Film & Sound Archive	http://nfsa.gov.au
Ronin Films	http://www.roninfilms.com.au
SBS Shop	http://www.sbs.com.au/shop

Other online outlets?

Name	Website
The Black Book	www.theblackbook.org.au
Blackfella Films	www.blackfellafilms.com.au
CAAMA – Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association	www.caama.com.au
Skinnyfish Music	www.skinnyfishmusic.com.au

Where can I loan audio-visual resources?

Name	Website
Libraries ACT	www.library.act.gov.au
National Film and Sound Archive – Black Screen	www.nfsa.gov.au/blackscreen

Where can I view audio-visual resources online?

Name	Website
ABC – Indigenous/Online Documentaries	www.abc.net.au/indigenous
Australian Screen	http://aso.gov.au/education/indigenous/
National Film and Sound Archive – Indigenous Connections	www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/indigenous-collection
NITV	www.nitv.org.au
SBS Living Black	www.sbs.com.au/shows/livingblack
SBS On Demand	www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/

List of Audio-visual Resources

Television Channels and Programs

Title	Genre / topic	Station
Living Black	TV Program - News/Doc	SBS
Message Stick	TV Program - Current Affairs	ABC1
NITV	TV Channel - Various	NITV

Television Series

Title	Year	Genre / topic	Source
Women of the Sun	1981	Drama	ABC
Bush Mechanics	2001	Auto	ABC
Remote Area Nurse	2006	Drama	SBS
The Circuit	2007	Drama	SBS
Going Bush	2008	Adventure	ABC
Who Do You Think You Are? Catherine Freeman (2009), Christine Anu (2009), Michael O'Loughlin (2012), Adam Goodes (2015)	2009 - 2015	Family History	SBS
Family Confidential: The Mundines (2010), The Dingos (2012)	2010	Family	ABC1
The Straits	2012	Drama	ABC1
Embedded with the Murri Mob	2012	Factual	SBS
Redfern Now – Season One & Two		Drama	SBS
First Footprints	2013	History	ABC1
The Gods of Wheat Street	2014	Drama	ABC1
The Secret River	2015	Drama	ABC1
Ready for This	2015	Teen Drama	ABC3

Documentaries

Title	Year	Genre / topic	Rating
My Survival as an Aboriginal	1978	Survival	
Lousy Little Sixpence	1983	Stolen Generations / Stolen Wages	G
The Secret Country: The First Australians Fight Back	1985	History	
Mabo: Life of an Island Man	1997	Native Title	
The Last of the Nomads	1997	Law, Marriage	PG
Welcome to Australia	1999	Exclusion	
Stolen Generations	2000	Stolen generation	

Title	Year	Genre / topic	Rating
The Foundation 1963-1977	2002	Political and Social Change	
Island Fattlers	2006	Torres Strait Islanders	PG
Jimmy Little's Gentle Journey	2006	Jimmy Little	G
My Brother Vinnie	2006	Siblings, carers	
Liyarn Ngarn	2007	Reconciliation	M
First Australians	2008	History	PG
Lionel	2008	Boxing	M
The Apology	2008	Stolen Generations	G
Emily in Japan	2009	Art	PG
Fire Talker	2009	Charles Perkins	PG
Lani's Story	2009	Domestic and Family Violence	
My Home the Block	2009	Redfern	M
Eye	2010	Transgender sisters	
Our Generation	2010	Culture	PG
Freedom Rides – 40 Years On	2011	Aboriginal Resistance	PG
Jandamarra's War	2011	History	M
The Tall Man	2011	Deaths in Custody	M
Big Boss	2012	Aboriginal Elder	G
Coniston	2012	History	MA15+
Queen of the Desert	2012	Transgender	PG
Tombstone Opening	2012	Torres Strait Islanders	G
Utopia	2013	Racism	G
88	2014	1988 Centenary	M
A Silent Shout: The Nick Winmar Story	2014	Racism in Sport	
A Message from Mungo	2014	Archaeology	G
Still Our Country – Reflections on a Culture	2014	Culture	
North of Capricorn	2014	Northern Australia	G
Another Country	2015	Culture	

Feature Films

Title	Year	Genre / topic	Rating
Jedda	1955	Drama	G
Walkabout	1971	Drama	R18+
Storm Boy	1976	Drama	G
The Last Wave	1977	Drama	PG
The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith	1978	Drama	R18+

Title	Year	Genre / topic	Rating
Manganinnie	1980	Drama	G
We of the Never Never	1982	Drama	NR
Babakiueria	1986	Comedy	PG
The Fringe Dwellers	1987	Drama	PG
Rose Against the Odds	1991	Drama	PG
Blackfellas	1993	Drama	MA15+
Dead Heart	1997	Drama	MA15+
Radiance	1998	Drama	PG
YoIngu Boy	2001	Drama	M 15+
Rabbit Proof Fence	2002	Drama	PG
The Tracker	2002	Drama	M
Jindabyne	2006	Drama	M
Ten Canoes	2006	Drama	M
Australia	2008	Drama	PG
Stone Bros	2009	Comedy	MA15+
Samson & Delilah	2009	Drama	MA15+
Bran Nue Dae	2010	Musical	PG
Serenades	2011	Drama	M
Mad Bastards	2011	Drama	MA15+
Here I am	2011	Drama	M
Toomelah	2011	Drama	MA15+
Mabo	2012	Biography	PG
The Sapphires	2012	Drama	PG
Croker Island Exodus	2012	Drama	G
Satellite Boy	2012	Drama	PG
The Darkside	2013	Suspense	M
Mystery Road	2013	Drama	M
Around the Block	2013	Drama	
Charlie's Country	2014	Drama	M

Government Departments & Agencies

Australian Government

Below are some departments and agencies who deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs:

Department / Agency	Website
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	www.ahl.gov.au
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	www.aiatsis.gov.au
Indigenous Business Australia	www.iba.gov.au
Indigenous Land Corporation	www.ilc.gov.au
National Native Title Tribunal	www.nntt.gov.au
Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations	www.oric.gov.au
Torres Strait Regional Authority	www.tsra.gov.au

ACT Government

Below are some ACT Government directorates who deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs. For more info call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

Directorate	Agency/Program/Web Portal
Canberra Institute of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yurauna Centre
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs • ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body • ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture Centre • Growing Healthy Families Program • United Ngunnawal Elders Council
Education & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Education Officer Program • Koori Preschool / Indigenous Early Entry Program
Environment & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Natural Resource Management
ACT Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit • Health Liaison Officers • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Portal • Bush Healing Farm
Justice & Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galambany Circle Sentencing Court • Indigenous Liaison / Probation and Parole Officers, Corrections • Indigenous Guidance Partner, Restorative Justice • Indigenous Justice Affairs Portal • Office of Regulatory Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Portal
Territory & Municipal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring for Ngunnawal Country • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Bus

Directory of Contacts: ACT & Region

Name	Brief Description	Location	Contact
<u>Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)</u>	Information, referral, legal advice and court representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women and children in NSW/ACT.	Civic	02 6249 8488
ACT Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Promotes and encourages Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture. through economic, social and educational activities		0418 210960
<u>Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association</u> (National Office)	Advocates for improvements in Indigenous health in Australia and encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work in medicine by supporting students and doctors.	Barton	1800 190 498
<u>Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre</u> (National Office)	A national provider of accredited Indigenous leadership education programs.	Yarramundi Reach	02 6251 5770
<u>ANTaR ACT - Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation</u>	Works locally and nationally on a range of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander issues.		<u>antaract@yahoo.com</u>
<u>Australian Catholic University</u> Dhara Daramoolen Indigenous Higher Education Unit	Provides encouragement and support for Indigenous students in their studies and a place where they can meet, study and work on assignments.	Watson	02 6209 1222
<u>Australian National University</u> Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre	Academic support, advice and a meeting place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students: personal and pastoral care, counselling, advice on cadetships and scholarships, academic skills and learning, access to local services and community.	ANU - Acton	02 6125 3520
<u>Benny Hodges Consultancy</u>	Cross culture awareness, facilitation, governance, mentoring, catering, dance etc.	Charnwood	02 6259 2053 0415 623 571
<u>Building Indigenous Capability</u>	HR and management consulting, facilitation and training services	Fyshwick	02 6162 6325
<u>Burrinju Aboriginal Art Gallery</u>	Gallery for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists, Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm. Art workshops, exhibitions, displays.	Yarramundi Reach	02 6251 4371
<u>Calvary Health Care ACT</u>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers		02 6264 7097

Name	Brief Description	Location	Contact
Canberra & District NAIDOC Committee	Coordinates Canberra and district NAIDOC Week activities which is held the first week in July.		Contact ACTCOSS 02 6202 7200
<u>Canberra Rape Crisis Centre</u> Nguru Program	Counselling for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, who have experienced sexual assault, and their families. Education and training on causes, effects, responses to sexual violence against women/children.	Canberra	02 6287 3618
<u>Carers ACT</u> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program	Support for carers to link them with information and advice, counselling and support groups, respite, educational and social activities, carer advocacy, campaign for change. Has Koori Yarning Trips.	Belconnen	02 6296 9900
<u>Curijo Pty Ltd</u>	Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in professional HR, management services	Deakin	02 6285 4802
<u>Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation</u>	A variety of support services to young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.	Wanniassa	02 6296 8900
<u>Healing Foundation</u> (National Office)	A focus on healing the community. Supports culturally strong, locally run Indigenous healing programs around Australia and funds education and research on Indigenous healing.	Kingston	02 6124 4400
<u>Indigenous Allied Health Australia</u> (National Office)	National peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students.	Deakin	02 6285 1010
<u>Indigenous Community Volunteers</u> (National Office)	Facilitates partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader Australian community, governments and the private sector to address identified needs.	Phillip	1800 819 542
<u>Indigenous Reading Project</u>	To improve the reading ability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.	Canberra	1300 882 330
Kemarre Arts	Arts, creative writing	Weston	02 6288 2259 0423 629 470
<u>Legal Aid ACT</u> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Client Support	Legal aid services through staff and professional partners.	Civic	02 6243 3411
Munjuwa Queanbeyan	Community service, housing and health programs.	Queanbeyan	02 6297 3578

Name	Brief Description	Location	Contact
Aboriginal Corporation			
<u>National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation</u> (National Office)	Peak Aboriginal health body.	Braddon	02 6248 0644
<u>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association</u> (National Office)	Professional association for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers in Australia.	Phillip	1800 200 800
<u>Ngambri Country</u>	Ngambri Dance Group, welcome to country, didgeridoo performances etc.		ngambri@ngambri.org 0404 362 595
Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation Ngunnawal Community Care	Aged care, Home and Community Care - Yass Valley, Queanbeyan, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Young, Palerang, ACT.	Yass	02 6226 3799
<u>Ngunnawal Elders - Welcome to Country</u>	A current list is available.		02 6207 9784
<u>Northside Community Service</u> Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Engagement	Various programs - ConnXtions Training and Job readiness - and partnerships	Dickson	02 6063 0434
<u>NSW Aboriginal Land Council</u> Southern Zone	Regional office for Aboriginal land councils in the Southern Zone.	Queanbeyan	02 6124 3555
<u>NSW Aboriginal Land Council</u> Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council	Aboriginal land issues.	Queanbeyan	02 6297 4152
<u>Queanbeyan City Council</u> Community Development Aboriginal Project Officer	Focuses on community development projects designed for the Aboriginal community.	Queanbeyan	02 6285 6553
<u>Reconciliation Australia</u> (National Office)	Promotes reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community. Includes programs such as the Reconciliation Action Plans, along with advocacy and public education work.	Parkes, ACT	02 6273 9200
<u>Relationships Australia</u>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander therapeutic service –	Deakin	1300 364 277

Name	Brief Description	Location	Contact
(Canberra & Region) Dhunlung Yarra Service	provides a range of services including counselling, family dispute resolution with qualified Aboriginal professionals.		
<u>United Ngunnawal Elders Council</u>	Council providing advice to the ACT Government in relation to heritage and connection to land matters for the Ngunnawal people. Representatives are nominated by each of the Ngunnawal family groups.		02 6207 9784
<u>University of Canberra</u> Ngunnawal Indigenous Higher Education Centre	For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders studying at the University of Canberra. Provides education and development programs on a national basis.	UCAN, Bruce	02 6201 2998
<u>Warriors – Canberra Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Basketball Club</u>	Winnunga Warriors is the Canberra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Basketball Team.	Canberra	Via Facebook
<u>whISPers Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Softball Corporation</u>	Junior, senior softball club.	Canberra	0432 754445
<u>Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services</u>	An Aboriginal community controlled primary health care service. The holistic health care includes medical care and a range of services and programs.	Narrabunda h	02 6284 6222
Wiradjuri Echoes	Aboriginal dance group, workshops.		0415 623 571
<u>Women’s Legal Centre (ACT & Region)</u> Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women’s Access to Justice Program	Legal information and advice, referrals to sympathetic lawyers and other support services, community legal education sessions and produces information for women about their legal rights and the law.	Civic	02 6257 4377



Gulanga Program

Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders are a diverse group of peoples made up of many different nations. They have a strong physical and spiritual connection to the land, sea and their people.

This resource has been developed to provide basic information and should be used as a guide to start further research and conversation.

It is hoped that the information provided will assist the community sector to further engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and as a result become a more inclusive workplace which respects and values a diversity of cultures.

It is recommended that staff, volunteers and leaders of community organisations attend cultural awareness training to raise their knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

For more information about the Gulanga Program and to download this resource, visit the ACTCOSS website: www.actcoss.org.au.

We appreciate your feedback. Please phone 02 6202 7200 or email gulanga@actcoss.org.au.

The Gulanga Program is supported by funding under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments, and the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP), an ACT Government funded initiative.

Artwork: *Gulanga Program 'We Too, Including You'*, by Kristie Peters, 2013

The Goanna Tracks – represents Gulanga and the impact it has to encourage change which then leaves imprints of influence towards reconciliation between Aboriginal Peoples and all Cultures.

The Meeting Places – represents different places where we gather and meet while we are moving in the same circles.

The Travelling Lines – the unbroken connections between the meeting places and the goanna tracks represents – The continuation of many networks between all services who are supporting disadvantaged groups within the ACT.

The Artist: Kristie Peters is a Wiradjuri woman from NSW and a promising young artist with a natural talent and a curious mind eager to explore many different mediums. Her talent is eye-catching and well executed. Her style of art is a mix of contemporary traditional using acrylic paints on canvas. Kristie's story is a growing one where she is literally hoping to carve out a future for herself and her family by using her natural gift.