

A stylized graphic in the top right corner featuring a sun with rays in shades of orange and red, and two blue silhouettes of people walking. The background of the slide is composed of blue, orange, and red curved shapes.

Walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on January 26.

**A ReconciliationWA introduction to
the Day of Mourning, Survival Day, Invasion Day.**

Listen and learn

“Until we **tell the truth**, what really happened in this country, the word respect will always be in the distance. **We need to listen to our Aboriginal people.**”

- Uncle Noel Nannup.

"Dr Noel Nannup discusses Reconciliation theme 'Respect', 2021"

Change the date, not the day.

Day of Mourning, Survival Day, Invasion Day, Australia Day.

Reconciliation WA recognises that, as with any community, there is a diversity of views within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities surrounding January 26. Some view the day as an opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' survival as the longest continuing culture on earth within the story of the modern Australian nation. For many, January 26 is not a day for celebration, but instead the beginning of an unlawful invasion with devastating impacts still felt by Aboriginal communities. We support #ChangeTheDate, so that the national day of celebration can include all Australians.

Listening to Aboriginal peoples.

January 26 is an opportunity to promote understanding, respect and reconciliation for us all. While some have argued that a push to change the date is divisive, it's actually a movement that seeks to bring us closer together. That's what reconciliation is – recognising and healing the past so that we can build a better and more unified tomorrow. Talk with your local First Nations' peoples to inform yourself on their views of the date.



Aboriginal People Respond to "Australia Day"

Resources

Reconciliation Australia

Let's talk January 26 - Factsheet

Share Our Pride - Learn how life looks from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

AIATSIS

The 1938 Day of Mourning - The history of the Day of Mourning

Australians Together

Pride and Pain timeline - Explore the timeline and discover how January 26 is a day of both pride and pain and why, for many, "Australia Day" is a difficult day.

Australia Day - A deep dive into the history of Australia Day

Australia Day: Answers to tricky questions - Answers to common questions surrounding January 26

Articles

The many days we've celebrated Australia Day - SBS NITV

We're changing our minds on Australia Day and it's happening rapidly - ABC

Share the message

“Aboriginal people are **spoken about, spoken to and spoken for**, before we've spoken. „ - Uncle Richard Walley, *Reconciliation in Action* May 2021

Advocating for an inclusive future.

We all have a responsibility in progressing reconciliation in Australia, and part of that is recognising our own privilege in starting and engaging in the tough conversations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make up 3.3% of the total Australian population. It is important for non-Aboriginal people to be brave, to become committed allies, and to help raise the profile on issues which adversely impact First Nations people.

When you've read up on the history surrounding Australia Day, have a respectful conversation with family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours about what you've learned, and share some information online. Your first step should always be to raise, amplify and highlight the voices and truths of First Nations' peoples.

Amplifying First Nations' voices.

Remember the importance of privileging and amplifying First Nations' voices when you add to discussions surrounding January 26. When the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are front and centre, they lead the conversations, and shape the decisions which ultimately impact their lives.

By starting conversations and sharing the message, you help encourage wider Australia to re-examine our true history and work together to create a future which acknowledges the rich Aboriginal culture and knowledge that contributes to this country.

Resources

Passing the Message Stick Report - A guide for changing the story of self-determination and justice, a First Nations' led research project.

IndigenousX - An online platform which shares Indigenous knowledge, opinions and experiences.

Australians Together

Australia Day teacher guide - A guide for educators including student activities

Articles

How to be an ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - ReachOut

How to be a good indigenous ally - SBS NITV

How to be a good ally to Indigenous Australians - ABC

Commit to Action

Moving from safe to brave.

We have reached a tipping point for reconciliation in Western Australia. Now is the time for everyone to stand up, to be brave, and to take action. Here are some ways you can walk alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples this January 26 as an individual, organisation or community.

“ *No more good intentions. Today, you need to think about **what you can do** and **how you can influence** and **change** the views in our society.*”

- Aunty Carol Innes, National Reconciliation Week Breakfast 2019

Be vocal

Take the ANTaR Pledge not to celebrate this Australia Day, and publicly support **#ChangeTheDate**.

Learn about the Traditional Owners of the land you live and work on, and share an Acknowledgement of Country on January 26.

Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at half mast, or request your local council to do so.

Attend an event

Birak Concert - Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures, the annual Birak Concert boasts a stellar line up of indigenous entertainment.

One Day in Fremantle - Presented by the City of Fremantle, One Day is a free, family-friendly event that provides a culturally-inclusive alternative to traditional Australia Day celebrations.

Create change

Join your workplace's RAP Working Group, or ask your CEO to begin the organisation's RAP journey.

Review your organisation's Cultural Leave policy, and develop options for staff to work on January 26.

Join the Change it Ourselves campaign.

Write to your local political representative acknowledging your support for **#ChangeTheDate**.



ReconciliationWA

**Ngala kaaditj Whadjuk Noongar moort keyen
kaadak nidja boodja.**

We acknowledge Whadjuk Noongar people as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits.

Contact:

admin@recwa.org.au

(08) 6552 6990

www.recwa.org.au

*This guide does not replace consultation with the
Traditional Owners of the land on which you live and work.*