

Resource Guide

Humanities and Social Sciences— Civics and Citizenship

The information and resources contained in this guide provide a platform for teachers and educators to consider how to effectively embed important ideas around reconciliation, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions, within the specific subject/learning area of [Humanities and Social Sciences—Civics and Citizenship](#).

Please note that this guide is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive and that teaching staff are encouraged to consult with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and [critically evaluate resources](#), in engaging with the material contained in the guide.

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Please be aware this guide may contain references to names and works of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that are now deceased. External links may also include names and images of those who are now deceased.

Background and Introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Civics and Citizenship

“Leadership in an Aboriginal cultural context is not given or measured by how much media you get or if you earn big money. True Aboriginal leadership does not come from high-level appointments or board membership. It doesn’t come from and cannot be given by white constructs. Leadership is earned; it is given when you have proven you can deal with responsibility and you understand that responsibility.” – The Honourable Linda Burney MP (first Aboriginal politician to be elected to the NSW Parliament)

It is important to appreciate that, for tens of thousands of years prior to colonisation and Federation, the continent of ‘Australia’ was comprised of many [hundreds of distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander geo-cultural nations](#). Indeed, according to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, the term “Country” or “nation” is generally used to refer to these distinct geo-cultural communities, rather than to the whole Australian continent or citizenship group. As the quote from the Hon. Linda Burney above suggests, the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander geo-cultural communities and respective identities cannot be fully accommodated by non-Indigenous civics and citizenship constructs, and is indeed mirrored by a diversity of customary protocols and laws; governance structures/systems; conceptualisations of ‘leadership’; and traditional languages to explain or express such perspectives and practices. These unique structures, systems and semantics have been informed by, and intricately intersect with, the physical Country on which living and learning takes place, and the Dreaming narratives and knowledges tied to it.

Representing the oldest living continuous cultures on the planet, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander conventions and conceptualisations pertaining to civics and citizenship are still very much alive and active to this day. It is important to appreciate the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, particularly in the context of colonial threats to sovereignty, [self-determination](#) and equitable civil participation more generally. Consider, for example, the fact that colonial powers did not provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with [the right to vote](#), or indeed be [counted as citizens in the Census](#), until well into the 20th Century. Conversations around adequate recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures—past and present—continue to this day, pushing for Australia’s First Peoples and cultures to be better valued as an essential part of our national identity.

The example resources listed throughout the remainder of this guide may help to provide a positive platform for meaningful conversation and action around the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions to civics and citizenship in your classroom, and across Australia.

Timeline of Key Dates in the Contemporary History of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Civics and Citizenship

This timeline chronologically lists some of the key dates in the more recent history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Civics and Citizenship, and/or in regard to the relationship between Civics and Citizenship and reconciliation more generally.

- **60,000+ years ago:**
 - The continent of 'Australia' was comprised of many [hundreds of distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander geo-cultural nations](#), each with longstanding conventions and conceptualisations pertaining to civics and citizenship.
- **1932:**
 - [William Cooper](#) establishes the [Australian Aborigines' League](#). During the 1930s, Mr. Cooper and other leaders of the [Aborigines Progressive Association](#) gathered 1814 signatures on a petition calling on Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and King George VI to intervene "for the preservation of our race from extinction and to grant representation to our race in the Federal Parliament".
- **1948:**
 - The Commonwealth [Nationality and Citizenship Act](#) gives the category of 'Australian Citizenship' to all Australians, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, for the first time (however, at a state government level, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples still suffer legal discrimination).
- **1962:**
 - The [Commonwealth Electoral Act](#) is amended to give the vote to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at Federal elections.
- **1965:**
 - University of Sydney students, including [Charlie Perkins](#), launch the [Freedom Rides](#), travelling around NSW by bus to draw attention to discrimination against Aboriginal people and to promote stronger recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civil rights.
- **1967:**
 - On May 27, more than 90 per cent of Australians vote 'yes' in a [referendum](#) to give the Australian Government the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the census.
- **1971:**
 - [Neville Thomas Bonner](#) becomes the first Aboriginal parliamentarian following his election as Senator for Queensland.
- **1972:**
 - January: The [Aboriginal Tent Embassy](#) was pitched outside Parliament House in Canberra, campaigning for the recognition of Aboriginal land rights.
- **1975:**
 - The Australian Parliament passes the [Racial Discrimination Act](#) to help to ensure that Australians of all backgrounds are treated equally and receive the same opportunities.

- **1976:**
 - [Patricia \(Pat\) O'Shane](#) becomes Australia's first Aboriginal barrister. Over the course of her lifetime, Pat O'Shane has not only been recognised as Australia's first Aboriginal Barrister but also the first Aboriginal female teacher in Queensland, the first Aboriginal person in the country to graduate in law, the first Aboriginal magistrate for the NSW Local Court and the first woman to head a government department.
 - The Australian Parliament passes the [Aboriginal Land Rights \(Northern Territory\) Act 1976 \(Cth\)](#), leading to the establishment of Land Rights legislation in most Australian states in the 1970s and 1980s.
- **1988:**
 - The [Barunga Statement](#), calling for self-management and land rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, is presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who indicates his support for a treaty.
- **1991:**
 - The [Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation](#) is established.
- **1992:**
 - The High Court recognises native title in the landmark [Mabo v Queensland \(No.2\) \(1992\)](#), busting the legal fiction of *terra nullius*.
 - Prime Minister Paul Keating delivers the [Redfern Speech](#), recognising the history of dispossession, violence and forced removal of Aboriginal children.
 - The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner](#) position is created, with [Professor Mick Dodson AM](#) appointed to the position.
- **1993:**
 - The United Nations declares 1993 the [International Year of the World's Indigenous People](#).
 - The Australian Parliament passes the [Native Title Act](#).
- **1995:**
 - The Australian Government officially recognises the [Aboriginal](#) and [Torres Strait Islander](#) flags.
- **1998:**
 - [National Sorry Day](#) is commemorated for the first time on May 26.
- **2000:**
 - The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation delivers its final report to Prime Minister John Howard and the Australian Parliament at Corroboree 2000, leading to the setup of [Reconciliation Australia](#) as an independent, not-for-profit organisation.
- **2004:**
 - The Commonwealth Government establishes a [memorial to the Stolen Generations at Reconciliation Place in Canberra](#).
- **2005:**
 - A National Reconciliation Planning Workshop is held, attended by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the opposition.
- **2006:**
 - The [Close the Gap](#) campaign for Indigenous health equality is developed following the release of the [Social Justice Report 2005](#).

- **2008:**
 - Prime Minister Kevin Rudd formally [apologises to the Stolen Generations](#) on behalf of the Australian Parliament.
- **2009:**
 - Australia supports the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (previously, Australia had been one of only four nations to oppose the Declaration).
- **2010:**
 - The [National Congress of Australia's First Peoples](#) is established.
- **2011:**
 - The [Expert Panel](#) on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples leads wide-ranging public consultations, before delivering its [findings](#) in January 2012.
- **2012:**
 - The [RECOGNISE](#) campaign—to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution and deal with the racial discrimination in it—begins.
- **2013:**
 - The Australian Parliament passes the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act 2013](#) to maintain momentum towards a referendum.
- **2015:**
 - The [Referendum Council](#) is established.
- **2016:**
 - Victoria becomes the first Australian state to enter into [Treaty-making processes](#) with Aboriginal peoples.
- **2017:**
 - After holding First Nation Regional Dialogues across the country between 2016 and May 2017, to discuss constitutional recognition with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Referendum Council organised for the priorities from each of the First Nations Dialogues to be reported to a First Nations Convention at Uluru. Out of this Convention came the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#).
- **2018:**
 - Together with the Healing Foundation, Reconciliation Australia hosts a [Truth-Telling Symposium](#), drawing on the growing momentum behind the historical acceptance and truth-telling at the local, state and national level.
- **2019:**
 - [Ken Wyatt](#) is appointed as the first Aboriginal person in the role of Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

Recently Released Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Civics and Citizenship Resources

Organised below are a number of examples of recently produced or published Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civics and citizenship-related resources that can meaningfully contribute to contemporary classroom learning, and to the field of Civics and Citizenship in Australia as a whole.

Curriculum-aligned Film Clips

Listed below are a number of film clips which may have been created to be specifically aligned with the Civics and Citizenship curriculum, and/or which are aligned to civics and citizenship concepts and the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority](#) more broadly.

ABC film clips:

- ABC Education—[Aunty Dorrie and the 'dog tag'](#)
- ABC Education—[Australia's 1967 Referendum](#)
- ABC Education—[Australia's first Aboriginal member of parliament](#)
- ABC Education—[Calls for recognition of Indigenous Australians](#)
- ABC Education—[Charles Perkins campaigns for Aboriginal rights](#)
- ABC Education—[Indigenous Australian Activism in 1974](#)
- ABC Education—[National Sorry Day](#)
- ABC Education—[Native Title: 200 years in the making](#)
- ABC Education—[Native Title begins with an act of recognition](#)
- ABC Education—[Remembering the Freedom Ride](#)
- ABC Education—[The history of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy](#)
- ABC Education—[What's Australia Day all about?](#)
- [Behind the News—Aboriginal ANZACS](#)
- [Behind the News—Closing Communities](#)
- [Behind the News—Constitution](#)
- [Behind the News—Discrimination](#)
- [Behind the News—Freedom Ride](#)
- [Behind the News—Government Apology](#)
- [Behind the News—Indigenous Parliament](#)
- [Behind the News—Land Rights](#)
- [Behind the News—Racism](#)
- [Behind the News—Stolen Generations](#)
- [80 Days that Changed our Lives—Paul Keating's Redfern Address](#)

Australian Human Rights Commission film clips:

- [Participation in decision-making—United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

- [Respect for protection of culture—United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Self-determination—UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [TeachMeet Human Rights](#)
- [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Use it—United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

SBS film clips:

- [Face Up To Racism classroom clips](#) (and accompanying [How to Use Face Up to Racism at School](#) resource)
- [First Australians](#) (see, in particular, the ‘250 Nations’ clip)
- [Occupation: Native](#) (with accompanying Teacher Notes)

Reconciliation Australia short films:

- [Family and Kinship](#)
- [Indigenous Governance Awards films](#)
- [Let’s Talk Recognition!](#)
- [Who We Are: People](#)

Australian Screen/National Film and Sound Archive film clips:

- [Indigenous Australia: Families and communities](#) clips
- [Indigenous Australia: Policies and related issues](#) clips
- [Indigenous Australia: Politics](#) clips

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Customary Laws and Traditional Governance Structures/Systems

- Australian Indigenous Governance Institute—[Indigenous Governance Toolkit: 4.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership](#)
- National Film and Sound Archive— [Screen Australia Digital Learning: Indigenous Customary Law](#)
- New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council—[What Makes an Elder?](#)
- Reconciliation Australia— [Share Our Pride: Our Culture](#) (and see corresponding *Customary law* paragraph).
- University of Sydney— [Kinship Learning Module](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Linguistic/Geo-cultural Maps

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander linguistic-geo-cultural maps are of interest to civics and citizenship in that they convey important conceptualisations around what represents a ‘nation,’ and the diversity of individual and shared identities within and across nations. The SBS/NITV article, [Do you know what Aboriginal land you’re on today?](#), helps to express why it is important to ensure that, “no matter what you’re doing in Australia today... know that it’s on Aboriginal

land... and *what* Aboriginal land.” Listed below are examples of cartographic representations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander linguistic/geo-cultural communities. Note that each map is just one representation of the many other map sources that are available. They indicate only the general location of larger groupings of linguistic-cultural communities, which may include distinct languages within a wider language family, and indeed various dialects of a distinct language. Boundaries are not intended to be exact.

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: [AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia](#)
- First Language Australia: [Gambay – Languages map](#) (with accompanying [Teachers’ Notes](#))
- Google Earth—[Celebrating Indigenous Languages](#) map
- Our Languages—[Language Maps](#)
- Resource Unit for Indigenous Languages—[50 Words Online](#) map
- South Australia Museum—[Tribal Boundaries in Aboriginal Australia I Norman B Tindale](#)
- State Library of New South Wales—[Rediscovering Indigenous Languages: Community map](#)
- State Library of Queensland: [Indigenous languages map of Queensland](#)

You may also consider contacting your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Council or Language and Culture Centre in seeking information and resources around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander linguistic/geo-cultural maps or mapping.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights

The United Nations [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) builds on the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) to affirm that Indigenous peoples, including Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, are no less equal to all other peoples and to recognise the rights of all peoples to be different and to be respected as such. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are co-constructive frameworks which sanction the simultaneous importance of equality and equity and humanity and diversity. Some recently released rights-based classroom resources include:

- Australian Human Rights Commission—[Building belonging: A toolkit for early childhood educators on cultural diversity and responding to prejudice](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[Face the Facts: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[Human rights in the school classroom](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[Racial Discrimination? Know your rights](#) film clip
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[Tackling racism in Australia: A unit of work for the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Years 9 and 10](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[Take a stand against racism: A unit of work for the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Years 5 and 6](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[The Globalising World: Changing policies and Australian identity: A unit of work for the Australian Curriculum: History, year 10](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission—[UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) film clip

- Australian Human Rights Commission—[What you say matters. Racism. It Stops with Me. Feat. Brothablack](#) film clip
- *beyondblue*—[The Invisible Discriminator: Create Change at Your School](#)
- Education Services Australia—[Racism and human rights](#)
- NSW Department of Education and Communities—[Racism. No Way: Anti-Racism Education for Australian Schools](#)
- Reconciliation Australia—[Let's Talk...Land Rights](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags

Flags are of interest to Geography given their frequent ties to nation-building, and to symbolically representing a people and that group of peoples' relationship with their country or place. Listed below are a number of useful resources around the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag.

- Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—[Australian Flags](#)
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies—[Aboriginal flag](#)
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies—[Torres Strait Islander flag](#)
- [Carroll & Richardson Flagworld Pty Ltd](#) (awarded the sole rights to the manufacture and marketing of the Aboriginal Flag by the Flag's designer, Harold Thomas, in 1997).
- Queensland Health—[Guidelines for flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags](#)
- Reconciliation Australia—[Anita Heiss talks reconciliation](#) (see final paragraph in particular)
- Reconciliation Australia—[Q and A – Flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags](#)
- [Torres Strait Regional Council](#) (copyright owner of the Torres Strait Islander flag)
- Sydney Morning Herald/Patrick Dodson—[Aboriginal Flag a Symbol of Reconciliation](#)

See the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags](#) RAP Action for more information and ideas.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Political Representative Groups

Listed below are examples of key bodies or groups which have played, or continue to play, a key role in the political representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens at the national scale. Some of these political representative groups may not be exclusively Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governed, but may indeed involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous collaborations.

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commission](#)
- [Aborigines Progressive Association](#)
- [Australian Aborigines' League](#)
- [Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation \(ANTaR\)](#)
- [Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation](#) (now [Reconciliation Australia](#))
- [National Congress of Australia's First Peoples](#)
- [National Indigenous Youth Parliament](#)
- [Referendum Council](#)

While the examples above include key representative bodies catering to broad-reaching political interests and needs, you may also be interested in researching industry-specific national representative bodies. To give just a couple of examples, the [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Alliance \(NACCHO\)](#) acts as a national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, while the [Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care \(SNAICC\)](#) serves as a national non-government peak body representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As well as considering national-scale political/representative bodies, you may further be interested in researching representative groups at the state, territory or local level. Examples may include Land Councils¹, Elders Councils, [Aboriginal Corporations](#) or Elected Bodies.

¹ See the [Geography Resource Guide](#) for an example list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Councils across Australia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Politicians/Members of Parliament

Listed below are names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been members of Australian Federal or State/Territory Parliaments.

Federal Parliament

- [Aden Ridgeway](#)
- [Jacqui Lambie](#)
- [Joanna Lindgren](#)
- [Ken Wyatt](#)
- [Linda Burney](#)
- [Malarndirri McCarthy](#)
- [Neville Bonner](#)
- [Nova Peris](#)
- [Patrick Dodson](#)

Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly

- [Chris Bourke](#)

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

- [Adam Giles](#)
- [Alison Anderson](#)
- [Bess Price](#)
- [Chansey Paech](#)
- [Elliot McAdam](#)
- [Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu](#)
- [Hyacinth Tungutalum](#)
- [John \("Jak"\) Ah Kit](#)
- [Karl Hampton](#)
- [Ken Vowles](#)
- [Larisa Lee](#)
- [Lawrence Costa](#)
- [Marion Scrymgour](#)
- [Malarndirri McCarthy](#)
- [Matthew Bonson](#)
- [Maurice Rioli](#)
- [Neville Perkins](#)
- [Ngaree Ah Kit](#)
- [Stanley Tipiloura](#)
- [Selena Uibo](#)

- [Wes Lanhupuy](#)
- [Yingiya Mark Guyula](#)

Parliament of New South Wales

- [Linda Burney](#)

Parliament of Tasmania

- [Kathryn Hay](#)

Parliament of Victoria

- [Cyril Kennedy](#)
- [David \(Andrew\) Kennedy](#)

Parliament of Western Australia

- [Ben Wyatt](#)
- [Carol Martin](#)
- [Ernie Bridge](#)
- [Josie Farrer](#)

Queensland Parliament

- [Eric Deeral](#)
- [Leanne Enoch](#)
- [William \(Billy\) Gordon](#)

For more information, you may also wish to consult the Parliament of Australia [Indigenous parliamentarians, federal and state: a quick guide](#) resource (last updated 2017).

To learn more about the history and continued significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Politicians/Members of Parliament more generally, you may also wish to consult Reconciliation Australia's [Indigenous participation in parliament](#) fact sheet.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Political Campaigns, Protests and Petitions

Listed below are examples of key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander political campaigns, protests and petitions, either past or present. These campaigns are, or have been, either driven by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, or have been driven by a positive push to improve the rights of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.

- [Barunga Statement](#)—two paintings and text calling for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the 1988 Barunga Festival, an annual community sporting and cultural event. Now known as the Barunga Statement, these paintings and text prompted Bob Hawke to indicate his support for a treaty in his speech.
- [Change the Date](#)—the campaign to change the date of Australia Day celebrations to one other than January 26. January 26, 1788, was the date on which Captain Arthur Phillip took formal possession of the colony of New South Wales and raised the British flag for the first time in Sydney Cove. For many, it isn't a day for celebration, but instead is a reminder of a day on which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of life were changed forever. For some, it is known as Survival Day and is a celebration of the survival of people and culture, and the continuing contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to Australia, however the Change the Date campaign argues that these celebrations could most appropriately take place on a different date.
- [Change the Record](#)—a campaign dedicated to investing in early intervention, prevention and diversion strategies pertaining to the justice system. This campaign pushes for smarter solutions that increase safety, address the root causes of violence against women, cut reoffending and imprisonment rates, and build stronger and safer communities.
- [Close the Gap](#)—driven by the Close the Gap Coalition—a grouping of non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and community organisations—together with approximately 200,000 Australians, this campaign is calling on governments to take real, measurable action to achieve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality by 2030.
- [Family Matters](#)—Family Matters: Strong Communities. Strong Culture. Stronger Children, is Australia's national campaign to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. Family Matters aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 2040.
- [Freedom Rides](#)—a 1965 movement involving University of Sydney students, including [Charlie Perkins](#), travelling around NSW by bus to draw attention to discrimination against Aboriginal people and to promote stronger recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civil rights.

- [Racism. It Stops with Me](#)—a national campaign to ensure more Australians recognise that racism is unacceptable in our community; give more Australians tools and resources to take practical action against racism; and empower individuals and organisations to prevent and respond effectively to racism.
- [RECOGNISE](#)—the movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution and ensure there's no place in it for racial discrimination. In 2017, the RECOGNISE campaign came to a close, following the release of the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#). Reconciliation Australia, RECOGNISE's parent organisation, will be taking responsibility for the work of the campaign into the future.
- [Redfern Statement](#)—launched on June 9, 2016, during the federal election campaign, the Redfern Statement comprehensively set out Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expectations and priorities for engagement and progress by Australian Governments. On 14 February, 2017, Co-Chair of National Congress for Australia's First Peoples, Jackie Huggins, handed Prime Minister Turnbull a coolamon holding the Redfern Statement, calling for Australian governments to listen and genuinely engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- [Tent Embassy](#)—first pitched outside Parliament House in 1972, the Aboriginal Tent Embassy was erected to campaign for the recognition of Aboriginal land rights.
- [Wave Hill Walk-Off](#)—lead by Gurindji Stockman, Vincent Lingiari, a protest movement which saw Aboriginal stockmen at the Wave Hill cattle station in the Northern Territory walk off the job on August 23 1966 as they were not paid equally to their non-Indigenous counterparts. While the walk-off was initially focused on working conditions and equal pay, it soon become about broader land rights and was the precursor to the first land rights legislation in Australia.
- [Yirrkala Bark Petitions](#)—presented by Yolgnu leaders to the Australian Parliament in 1963, the Yirrkala Bark Petitions protested against the seizure of more than 300 square kilometres of land in Arnhem Land for mining. These petitions represent the first traditional documents recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament and are thus documentary recognition of Aboriginal laws of the land, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australian law.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Civics and Citizenship Celebrations/Commemorations

Throughout the year, there are a number of dedicated days and weeks that are significant for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the field of civics and citizenship, and indeed all Australian citizens committed to the reconciliation movement. Listed below are some examples of such celebratory or commemorative events, both past and present.

- [Anniversary of the National Apology](#) (February 13)
- [Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum](#) (May 27)
- [ANZAC Day](#) (April 25)
- [Coming of the Light Festival](#) (July 1)
- (Former) Deadly Awards ('The Deadlys')— [Marcia Langton Lifetime Award for Leadership](#)
- [Harmony Day](#) (March 21)
- [Indigenous Governance Awards](#) (biennial)
- [International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#) (August 9)
- [January 26](#) (keeping in mind the current [Change the Date](#) campaign)
- [Mabo Day](#) (June 3)
- [NAIDOC Awards](#)
- [NAIDOC Week](#) (July)
- [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day](#) (August 4)
- [National Close the Gap Day](#) (March)
- [National Indigenous Human Rights Awards](#)
- [National Reconciliation Week](#) (May 27 - June 3)
- [National Sorry Day](#) (May 26)

Other Online Guides/Reference Materials

- Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (2017) *Indigenous Governance Toolkit*, <http://toolkit.aigi.com.au/>
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2017) *Governance and public policy*, <http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/research-themes/governance>
- Australian Institute of Family Studies (1995) *Customary Law and Family Law*, <https://aifs.gov.au/sites/default/files/fm42an.pdf>
- Conference of Education Systems Chief Executive Officers (2000) *Racism. No Way! A guide for Australian Schools*, <http://racismnoway.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/guide.pdf>
- Education Services Australia (2017) *Civics and Citizenship Education: Activity 3b: The Rights of Indigenous Australians*, http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/act_2_australias_indigenous_people,30082.html
- National Trust of Australia (2012) *'We're a Dreaming Country': Guidelines for Interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage*, <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/WereaDreamingCountryWEBOct13.pdf>
- NSW Department of Education—*Anti-racism education: Advice for Schools*, <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/anti-racism-education-advice-for-school.pdf>
- Reconciliation South Australia (2007) *Citizenship: Let's Talk Recognition: South Australian Education Pack*, http://www.reconciliationsa.org.au/assets/media/files/Education%20Packs/Citizenship_Lets_Talk_Recognition.pdf
- VicHealth (2013) *Localities Embracing and Accepting Diversity (LEAD)*, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/search/localities-embracing-and-accepting-diversity>
- VicHealth (2009) *Review of strategies and resources to address race-based discrimination and support diversity in schools*, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/addressing-race-based-discrimination-in-schools>
- Tasmanian Government (2018) *The Orb: Living Cultures*, <https://www.theorb.tas.gov.au/living-cultures>

Reflective Questions for Civics and Citizenship Staff and Students

- How have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories influenced Australian civics and citizenship, and what active role do these cultures and histories play today?
- Choose to research an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elder, community leader, Member of Parliament or inspiring everyday citizen. What is the importance of his or her contributions to civics and citizenship on either a local or (inter)national scale?
- What is the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civics and citizenship and other subject/learning areas? Why is this relationship important to appreciate?
- Research some of the key governance or legal principles, policies and practices since colonisation in Australia—either at the state/territory, Federal or international level. What is their relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customary laws, governance structures/systems and conceptualisations of 'leadership'? How could these relationships be strengthened?
- Where possible, organise an excursion to a public Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civics and citizenship-related organisation or event. What learnings and messages did you take away from your excursion? Were there any collaborations occurring between this Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation and non-Indigenous organisations, and/or can you think of any potential positive avenues for collaboration?
- How might your school or early learning centre contribute to the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens, and civics and citizenship?
- What is the relationship between the five dimensions of reconciliation—historical acceptance; race relations; equality and equity; institutional integrity; and unity—and civics and citizenship principles, policies and practices? How could these relationships be strengthened?
- How can embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories into the study and practice of Civics and Citizenship help to foster reconciliation?